

Keep on MOVING, Alberta 2014

Calgary – January 3 & 4 | Edmonton – January 10 & 11

Centre for Movement Arts (4005 9 Street SE) | ATB Arts Barns (10330 84 Avenue)

Professional Development Guests

Lys Stevens

Lys Stevens is a dance researcher, writer, consultant and administrator, recently relocated to Gatineau from Montreal. She is a guest writer at the Dance Current and is working on Canada Council for the Art's groundbreaking Dance Mapping Study as a consultant. Between 1999 and 2013 she worked for the contemporary dance and interdisciplinary arts centre Studio 303 in various capacities, as curator, board member and Associate Director. Her Masters in dance studies from UQAM focused on bboying in its vernacular and performing arts contexts. She sits on the National Council of the Canadian Dance Assembly and on the board of the Canadian Society for Dance Studies. Lys was the writer for the 2013 edition of the CHRC's *The Art of Managing Your Career in Dance*.

Mélanie Demers – Dance Artist

Canadian choreographer established in Montreal where she founded her dance company **Mayday**, Mélanie Demers's experiences are testimonials of her determination to perfect her art and to put her talent at the service of the mind and soul. Her theatrical works with surrealistic resonances impress by the strong impact of a raw poetry which questions the state of the world we live in and our responsibility as individuals

Born in Montreal in 1974, Mélanie Demers studied dance, literature and theatre in Quebec City before returning to her birthplace to carry on her training as a dancer at LADMMI, the school of contemporary dance. She graduated in 1996 and started her career as a dancer for choreographers such as Danièle Desnoyers, Roger Sinha and Paula de Vasconcelos. Two years later, Mélanie is hired by Ginette Laurin and has remained with O Vertigo for nearly ten years. At the same time, she multiplied her collaborations with emerging choreographers, and has developed her budding career as a choreographer.

From the beginning, her work has charmed by its originality, intensity and its complexity. Even though her first works reflected some fantasy and playful qualities, they also explored the darker zones of the human condition. Light and refreshing in *Les Oubliettes*, *Failles* and *Le Même Ciel*, in *Mayday, Mayday*, created in 2006 for the collective Échine Dô, her theatricality is sharper and we can start sensing the strange like dimension so characteristic of her recent work. The explosive energy of the beginnings is then released in the sensuality of *Transistor* before being condensed in the dramatic intensity of her latest creations.

Socially engaged as an artist, Mélanie Demers travelled to teach dance in Kenya, Niger, Brazil and Haiti, her father's birth country, where she was also involved in the development of two arts centres. The harsh reality of the developing countries and the daily struggle of their impoverished populations strengthened her beliefs that

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the role of art is to address political issues and to stimulate a debate of ideas. *Les Angles Morts*(2006), *Sauver sa peau* (2008), *Junkyard/Paradis* (2010) and *Goodbye* (2012) have all been created from this point of view. Because she strongly believes that there always remains a reason for hope, even in the worst situation, she named her company **Mayday**, created in 2007.

Matt Schuurman – Arts Touring Alliance of Alberta

Matt Schuurman works for the Arts Touring Alliance of Alberta, responsible for producing Alberta's largest performing arts network and marketing conference – Alberta Showcase. Matt also sits on a number of boards for various arts and not-for-profit organizations. He finds the work he does with FTS to be some of the most exciting, inspiring and rewarding experiences in his life. Matt has a degree in Animation and works as an animator and graphic designer – he has worked in television and film, working on shows with audiences over 7 million viewers. Matt combines his loves of theatre and animation by working as a video designer for live theatre. He has designed video for many shows for Azimuth Theatre, Rapid Fire Theatre, Theatre Network, Northern Light Theatre, Catch the Keys Productions, The Arden Theatre, Send in the Girls, The Capitol Theatre, Surreal So Real Theatre & Catalyst Theatre.

Eva Cairns – Catalyst Theatre

Eva was originally trained in classical ballet and made a transition to arts administration as tour coordinator for Judith Marcuse Dance Company in Vancouver. Since then she has with O Vertigo Danse, Harbourfront Centre in Toronto, Shadow Theatre in Edmonton and The 2004 Magnetic North Theatre Festival. Since April 2006 she has been the Managing Producer for Catalyst Theatre where she has been responsible for the producing and touring of new works *Frankenstein* and *Nevermore* and *Hunchback*. Outside of Catalyst she has provided project development and tour market development assistance to independent theatre artists in Edmonton and served on the Executive of the Edmonton Arts Council. Eva is a recipient of the 2011 Canada Council's John Hobday Award for Arts Management, the 2011 Rozsa Award for Innovation (Calgary's Rosza Foundation) and the 2011 Margaret Mooney Award for Outstanding Achievement in Arts Administration at the Elizabeth Sterling Haynes Awards (Edmonton).

Brad Walker – Bottomline Productions

Bradley Walker, a graduate of the Arts and Cultural Management program at Grant MacEwan University, has been involved in the arts and entertainment industry for close to 15 years, as a performer, volunteer, advocate and professional arts manager. Prior to rejoining Bottom Line Productions in 2003 to open the company's Calgary office, Bradley was the Manager of Operations and Director of Resource Development for Alberta Ballet, one of Canada's largest ballet companies. During

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this time, Bradley oversaw the operations, philanthropic and marketing initiatives of the ballet's Edmonton office. Bradley has been nominated for the national "Pfizer Award for Emerging Arts Managers", was the recipient of Grant MacEwan University's Distinguished Alumni Award, and has been named one of Calgary's "Top 40 Under 40" by Avenue Calgary (Calgary Inc. Magazine). Bradley is also active in the community and has been involved as a volunteer with Alberta Opera, The National Ice Theatre of Canada, Victoria School Foundation for the Arts, Calgary Professional Arts Alliance and Calgary Opera. Bradley is currently a member of SAIT's Business Administration Marketing Major Program Advisory Committee.

Stephanie Enders – Bottomline Productions

Stephanie Enders is ecstatic about promoting the arts in Canada. She graduated from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and Canadian Studies (2002), then from Grant MacEwan College with a certificate in Arts and Cultural Management (2004). She has a strong skill set that includes media relations, arts based marketing communications and professional fundraising. She has held past positions with The British Museum and the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation. Stephanie is passionate about the arts and thrilled to be working in an industry where the main focus is on supporting creativity.