OTM ONTARIO
PANEL & WORKSHOP
PRESENTERS

THRIVING IN TIMES OF ADVERSITY: BUILDING RESILIENCE INTO YOUR DANCE CAREER

KEVIN ORMSBY: Program Manager at Cultural Pluralism in the Arts Movement Ontario (CPAMO) and Artistic Director of KasheDance, Kevin A. Ormsby has performed with companies in Canada, USA and the Caribbean. The Canada Council for the Arts’ Victor Martyn Lynch – Staunton Award recipient and TAC Cultural Leaders Fellow, has been a Guest Artist at the University of the West Indies (Mona), Philip Sherlock Centre for the Creative Arts, University of Wisconsin – Madison and Northwestern University. Kevin’s research and creative practice through his company’s technical approach to dance exists in a space of constant interrogation and navigation of Caribbean cultural nuances towards, a methodology of understanding space in creation, research, and presentation. He is on the Boards of Dance Collection Danse, Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts and has served on the Boards of Canadian Dance Assembly, Prologue to the Performing Arts and Nia Centre for the Arts.

PROFESSOR GENE MOYLE is an ex-ballet dancer who retrained as a sport and exercise psychologist. Working across the performing arts, elite sports and the corporate sector over the past 20 years, Gene has focused upon the application of performance psychology and performance enhancement within these domains. As a sports and exercise psychologist, Gene has supported a number of Australian Olympic Winter sports programs across three Olympic cycles whilst her involvement in the performing arts has included Lecturing in Performance Psychology within University performing arts programs, a Career Development Advisor for the SCOPE for Artists Programs, the Head of Student Health & Welfare at the Australian Ballet School, Head of Discipline – Dance and Head of School of Creative Practice at QUT Creative Industries, in addition to consulting to various performing arts schools, associations, companies and individual students and professionals. Gene holds multiple positions on Boards and Advisory Committees including the Queensland Ballet and Queensland Board of the Psychology Board of Australia – www.linkedin.com/in/genemoyle

CLAIRE CARVER-DIAS’s professional life has straddled the worlds of sport, business and academia. A PhD specializing in English and Communications, Claire has also won medals in synchronized swimming at the Olympic, Pan American, World Championship and Commonwealth Games. In 2003, she launched Clearday, her own communications coaching consultancy, combining her appreciation of effective business coaching techniques, and keen understanding of teaming, goal-setting, performance management, and communications, to help corporate leaders achieve their full potential. Her corporate clients include KPMG Global, KPMG US, Johnson Controls, University of Toronto, and Goodmans LLP. Claire is also a lecturer in the ICCIT (Communications) and Management departments at the University of Toronto. Since 2002, Claire has run presentation skills group coaching sessions for Olympians and corporate teams. Formerly, Claire was a Director on the board of the Coaching Association of Canada, and President of AthletesCAN. Currently, she is a Director on the board of Commonwealth Games Canada, sits on the Advisory Board for the Journal for Women in Coaching, and served as Chef de Mission for Team Canada at the 2018 Commonwealth Games, leading a 500-person team to match its best medal tally. Claire holds a coaching certification from the International Coaching Federation, and is certified in administering several psychometric assessments. She earned a MARTY award for her 2012 novel The Games. She is completing an Executive MBA with Cornell and Queens Universities. She is a mother of 4 and lives in the Greater Toronto Area.
MICHAEL DU MARESQ is Managing Director of a collaborative project with DTRC, AFC (Actors’ Fund of Canada) and ACTRA Fraternal Benefit Society that is presenting professional development workshops and a mentoring program. Previously, he managed Leading Edge After Performance (LEAP), a collaborative initiative between the DTRC and Canadian Sport Institute Ontario that explored career transitions for professional dancers and elite athletes. Michael founded mDm Consulting which has completed strategic planning work for over 30 arts organizations. Michael also served as Grants Officer - Dance and Theatre, at Toronto Arts Council. Michael was an independent dance artist and choreographer for over 20 years. He co-founded Series 8:08 and also served as Board Chair of Dance Umbrella of Ontario for over 10 years. He was a founding artist and past Chair of the Artists’ Health Centre at Toronto Western Hospital. He also volunteered for the Pan Am and Invictus Games in Toronto.

MODERATOR:

CHARLES C. SMITH is a poet, playwright and essayist who has written and edited fourteen books. He studied poetry and drama with William Packard at New York University and Herbert Berghof Studios, drama at the Frank Silvera’s Writers’ Workshop in Harlem. He won second prize for his play Last Days for the Desperate from Black Theatre Canada, edited three collections of poetry and his poetry has appeared in numerous journals and magazines, including Poetry Canada Review, the Quille and Quire, Descant, Dandelion, Fiddlehead and others. Charles is the Executive Director of Cultural Pluralism in the Arts Movement Ontario and Artistic Director of the wind in the leaves collective. His recent books include: travelogue of the bereaved, The Dirty War: The Making of the Myth of Black Dangerousness, and, whispers (2014) and destination out (2018). His next book of poems, Searching for Eastman, will be released at the end of 2021/early 2022 by Mawanzi Publishing House.

COMMUNITY FAIR

The Canadian Dance Assembly (CDA) exists to facilitate the dynamic exchange of information relevant to Canadian professional dance of all forms and aesthetics. It strives to cultivate a strong national voice for Canadian professional dance and to support the development of resources for this field of artistic expression. It is the members of the Canadian Dance Assembly, through their activities, experience and participation, who provide the dynamism and synergy that make the organization vital in the Canadian arts milieu.

Cultural Pluralism in the Arts Movement Ontario (CPAMO) is a movement of Indigenous and racialized artists engaged in empowering the arts communities of Ontario. CPAMO seeks to open opportunities for Indigenous and racialized professionals and organizations to build capacity through access and working relationships with cultural institutions across Ontario that will result in constructive relationships with Indigenous and racialized professionals and organizations.
New Blue Emerging Dance is an organization that aims to help catalyze the careers of emerging dance artists within the dance community. Our mission is to help dance artists build and maintain multigenerational relationships with other artists, arts businesses and organizations while also providing a platform for artists to share their ideas, engage communities and push creative boundaries. New Blue is here to foster a sense of community by providing space, exposure and carefully-conceived workshop, networking and performance series. As an organization we are pushing and advocating for more peer mentoring, networking and open/safe/inclusive atmospheres for all artists.

Unity is a national charity that uses Hip Hop art forms to promote resilience and well-being among underserved youth, creating healthier communities. Founded in 2007, Unity has spent over 13 years introducing youth to Hip Hop art forms and empowering them with the confidence and skills for success so they may achieve their full potential. Unity’s programs are completely free and are offered in various communities across Ontario, British Columbia, Nova Scotia, Winnipeg and Alberta. These programs include performances, workshops, events, mentorship, volunteering, and various professional development opportunities year-round.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more, please feel free to send us a message at the email below and someone from our team will get back to you. Peace, love and Unity!

The scoop, the action, the issues, the artists! Inclusive of all genres, The Dance Current is a magazine that takes the reader inside the art and culture of dance in Canada.

Regular print issues include artist profiles, interviews, feature articles, opinions and critical commentary from people in the profession, plus event highlights to keep readers informed about upcoming performances.

Digital platforms highlight performance reviews from across the country and providing online resources for dancers and audiences.

The Dance Current is also an indispensable resource and communication tool for the dance professional. The magazine offers free performance listings and a wide range of advertising options for the promotion of performances, events, products and services.