

# PERPECTIVE

AN EVENING OF DANCE AND DISCUSSION

PRESENTED BY



FEATURING WORKS-IN-PROGRESS BY:

JULIA CARR & SARA COFFIN

MARCIA DYSART

RAUL MARQUEZ-GAITAN & SYDNEY HALLETT

CHRIS VAN GREEN

KELLI WRAY

photo: Kevin MacCormack

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2024

7:30PM • BMO STUDIO THEATRE

112 PRINCESS STREET, SAINT JOHN

TICKETS: \$25 | \$22

CONNECTIONDANCEWORKS.COM





Artistic Director: Sarah Power

Executive Director: Joanna Bryson

Connection Dance Works is a non-profit professional contemporary dance company located in Saint John, New Brunswick. The company creates and presents work while also providing opportunities for artists to share knowledge and learn from each other through events such as: The PERSPECTIVE series, the annual *Saint John Contemporary Dance Festival* and the accompanying *Community Movement Project*. In 2024, CDW premiered the full length, multi-disciplinary work *Still Buffering* at the Imperial Theatre.

Thank You!

PERSPECTIVE Social Media Coordinator: Kate Beresford

Poster Design: Caitlin Lapena

Videographer: Michael Mohan

Saint John Theatre Company

CDW Board of Directors: Marcia Dysart, Sandra Donnelly,

Emily MacNeil, Amy Boudreau, Lynda Rogers.

Interested in volunteering or joining the Board? Contact us at  
[connectiondanceworks@gmail.com](mailto:connectiondanceworks@gmail.com)

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## What is PERSPECTIVE?

The PERSPECTIVE series is unique in New Brunswick. Audience members are treated to an intimate evening of dance works-in-progress. You hear directly from choreographers and musicians about the creation process, and are given an opportunity to share your thoughts on each work.

Artists receive valuable and immediate audience feedback. Seeing things from different perspectives helps to further develop the work for the artists.

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Connection Dance Works acknowledges that it carries out its work on the traditional unceded territory of the Wolastoqiyik, Mi'kmaq and Peskotomuhkati peoples. We pay respect to the elders, past and present, and descendants of this land. We honour the knowledge keepers and seek guidance as we strive to develop closer relationships with the Indigenous people of New Brunswick.



# PERSPECTIVE

## Airtime

Choreographer & Performer: Kelli Wray

Music: Dream Sweet in Sea Major, Miracle Musical

Video credit: Kelli Wray, thank you Tyson Ardo inspiration guidance

Chair credit: 1778 Trading Post

*“The body of work explores connections to my environment walking Saint John city limits. Energy and imagery play symbolic roles in how we navigate and experience our world, leaving interpretation up to the individual. This next piece in the series invites you to spectate a ride into emotional atmospheres.”*

## HOME (working title)

Choreographers & Performers:

Raul Marquez-Gaitan & Sydney Hallett

Music: Quantic & Nickodemus, Israel Fernandez

Thank you to Tania Breen and Black Box Productions, Artsnb

*“This piece meditates on the idea of “home” using the simple prompt of “What does home mean to you?” as a jumping point for creation. It pulls from our own memories and nostalgia conveyed through dance, movement, and story-telling.”*

## Gravity’s Pull

Choreographer & Performer: Chris Van Green

Music: Sigur Rós

*“This piece explores the relationship between the body and the earth, focusing on how gravity influences movement, emotion, and interaction.”*

## Artist Talk #1

~ Intermission ~

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## memory of the future

Choreographers & Performers: Julia Carr & Sara Coffin

Music: Andrew Reed Miller & Joel Miller

*“memory of the future is a dynamic performance collaboration between dancers Julia Carr and Sara Coffin, building on the memory of their pre-pandemic practice in contact improvisation and creating a new future together. This work intertwines live dance and music, using improvisation as a key element to explore the spontaneous interaction between these art forms.”*

## The Self in Shadow

Choreographer & Performer: Marcia Dysart

Filmmaker: Michael Mohan

Music: Richter, Davidson, Mogwai

Credit to Deanna Musgrave, Healing Arts Practitioner, for guiding me toward my shadow self.

Support from: New Brunswick Arts Board

*“The ‘shadow self’ refers to the unconscious parts of our personality that our conscious ego tends to ignore or repress. Through an interpretive lens, this project brings the ‘shadow self’ into focus, shedding light on the aspects of ourselves that we struggle to see and accept.”*

## Artist Talk #2



# ARTISTS



## **KELLI WRAY**

Finding inspiration in the natural rhythms and wonderment of the day to day, Interpretive dancer Kelli Wray composes stories through her body in motion. She is grateful for the teachings of an aging body and the imaginations of artists encouraging individuality in the field. For over 10 years Kelli facilitated Meditation In MOVEMENT workshops inviting other women to enjoy the freedom of barefoot dancing. It is spiritual her process of creation, the journey of discovery found in dance and the performing arts. She hopes her works offer insight, connection and reflection.



## **RAUL MARQUEZ GAITAN**

RAUL is a theatre artist, contemporary dancer and educator born in Seville, Spain. Raul studied theatre at School of Dramatic Arts in Seville (Bachelor's Degree) and has a Major in contemporary dance from SEAD (Salzburg Experimental Academy of Dance).

He has performed as an actor and dancer in numerous companies and projects along Europe (Spain, Austria, UK...). Raul has over 12 years of experience working as a contemporary dance teacher in Danza Mobile, an art centre for people with intellectual disabilities in Seville. He has also developed a collection of workshops for elderly and youth at educational centres. Raul now makes New Brunswick his home and has already made inroads into contemporary dance performance and instruction and performance, with a focus on inclusivity and accessibility.



## **SYDNEY HALLETT**

Sydney (she/her) is an energetic, enthusiastic dance and theatre artist based in Fredericton, NB. She currently works as a musical theatre Choreographer at St. Thomas University and Theatre New Brunswick's Theatre School, as well as working as an independent actor and dancer. She has been working and training with Solo Chicken Productions since 2017, recently acting in their production of Fruit Machine, and is excited to now be a MERGE artist! She likes adventure, warm sunny patios, and has been known to enjoy some space fantasy.

## **CHRIS VAN GREEN**

Chris Van Green is a Canadian-based dancer who excels in performing, choreographing, and teaching.

He collaborates with peers and aims to inspire the next generation of artists. Chris holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre and Dance Performance from Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU). Throughout his studies, he received recognition for his remarkable growth and passion for dance, which ultimately earned him the prestigious Kenny Pearl Award. Since graduating, Chris has had the privilege of collaborating with a diverse range of dancers, choreographers, dance companies. Notable collaborations include Connection Dance Works, David Earle, Hannah Kiel, James Kudelka, Ballet Jorgen, and Fernando Melo.



## **JULIA CARR**

Julia has been a professional dancer since 2005, performing in contemporary and vertical dance works by diverse choreographers. A collaborative creator and improviser, she crafts spontaneous moments with musicians and fellow dancers both on stage and in unique settings. Recently relocating from her birthplace in BC, on the unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples, to St. John's, NL, Julia has held various leadership roles, including Dancestreams Artistic Director, EDAM General Manager, and Aeriosa Assistant Artistic Director. She is now the Artistic Director of Neighbourhood Dance Works.



## **SARA COFFIN**

Sara is an independent dance artist, dance educator and Co-Artistic Director of Mocean Dance. Sara received the Creative Nova Scotia Established Artist Award in 2018. She holds a MFA in Choreography from Smith College (USA), BFA in Dance from Simon Fraser University and Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology from Dalhousie University. Her choreographic work has been presented in many prominent Canadian dance festivals and in the United States. Coffin's research interests include interdisciplinary collaboration, technology as an extension of the body, contact improvisation, and the poetic junction between vulnerability, resiliency and courage.







## **ANDREW REED MILLER**

Andrew has been principal bass of Symphony NB for over 25 years. Originally from New York, Andrew studied in Ottawa and Toronto and eventually toured with The Canadian Opera Company, the National Arts Centre Orchestra and the Royal Winnipeg Ballet. Andrew has performed experimental and new music at many venues, including Open Ears Festival (Kitchener), New Music Calgary, Sound Symposium (Newfoundland), the Scotia Festival of Music, Ensemble Kore (Montreal) The Music Gallery (Toronto), Western Front (Vancouver), and Tonic (New York).



## **JOEL MILLER**

Joel is a Juno award-winning Jazz saxophonist and arranger who has played at the Montreal Jazz festival and toured with Jazz greats like Brian Blade (Daniel Lanois and Emmylou Harris). His most recent album, UNSTOPPABLE, is the result of Miller's studies with contemporary composer and professor John Rea and conductor Guillaume Bourgogne, and features an 18-piece orchestra made up of Montreal's most in-demand freelancers in the jazz, classical and Latin music. Joel's compositions, improvisations, albums, and shows continue to be recognized with awards (Juno win 2012, ECMA 2012, 2016, 2021). Most importantly, his music communicates joy, celebration, humour, and curiosity about our amazing planet.



## **MICHAEL MOHAN**

Michael Mohan is a Saint John-based filmmaker and photographer with a BFA from NSCAD and a certificate from NBCCD. He has worked on grant-funded projects across Canada, including the short films "A Ways Away" (2016), "krotoplaxx diary disc 1.1" (2017), "Cicerone" (2022), and the Telefilm-supported feature "Further Than The Eye Can See" (2022). His latest cinematography work, "Gravity Assist" (2024), is an experimental short funded by ArtsNB. With his technical expertise and creative eye, Michael continues to pursue exciting projects in the Canadian arts scene.

## MARCIA DYSART

Marcia Dysart is an accomplished dancer, choreographer, collaborator, and educator based in Saint John, New Brunswick. With a deep passion for creation, Marcia actively engages in collaborative projects with musicians, visual artists, filmmakers, and fellow dancers. Her work has garnered recognition from the New Brunswick Arts Board and the Saint John Community Arts Funding Program. Marcia's artistic endeavors have been showcased across Atlantic Canada, including performances at the Imperial Theatre in Saint John, Contact East in Charlottetown, IMPACTfest by Atlantic Ballet Theatre, Saint John Contemporary Dance Festival, and Connection Dance Work's PERSPECTIVE.



## The Self in Shadow Short Film

Scan to view



MARCIA DYSART

MICHAEL MOHAN

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**2025**

**15 years of Connection Dance Works!**

**15 years of creativity, collaboration, and connection through dance. Thank you for being a part of our journey. We couldn't have done it without your support, and we can't wait for what's to come.**

**Stay tuned for events and workshops, including the \*Saint John Contemporary Dance Festival\* and our \*PERSPECTIVE Series\*!**

