

WELCOME!

It is with great pleasure that we present this streamed performance to you! It seems like forever ago that we were invited to be part of the National Arts Centre's Danceforth series early 2021. We are thankful to be included in this roster of Canadian artists. Calgarians might recognise Rosanna Terracciano—a flamenco artist who also works in film and video, now based in Montreal, Rosanna called Calgary her home for many years. Rosanna and DJD are both co-presented by Springboard Dance, a huge thank you to them as well as the NAC for including us in the festival and continuing to pursue this project through all of the challenges of the past many months. I hope you will enjoy the entire series; it is a wonderful glimpse into dance in Canada.

Creating this piece has been quite the journey, I am tempted to change the name of it to *the suspense is killing me...*

suspending disbelief started brewing in my head sometime during the early, wintery days of the pandemic. It started cooking in December 2020, it was nearly served a couple of times between March and May 2021, and finally it came together in August 2021 in the version that you will see here. Each piece has a long story about how it started, how it changed, how the music was composed, how the objects came into it, how it evolved as restrictions changed, and how it came to be what it is now; it has been an extremely convoluted process. From the beginning I've been thinking of *suspending disbelief* as a book of short stories, the creation process of each piece is a whole different book unto itself.

I hope you like this version of it. It continues to evolve, we are currently making a dance for the camera version, taking it off the stage and putting it in different landscapes, exploring ways to look at it like you can't in a theatre, so really, the journey continues, stay tuned for that version.

Suspend your disbelief with us. I hope these images, moves and sounds, capture your imagination and spirit.

In the spirit of jazz,



Kimberley Cooper
Artistic Director DJD



DECIDEDLY JAZZ DANCEWORKS

PRESENTS

suspending disbelief

*suspending disbelief** is a series of shifting and morphing dance pieces created in and about this time of instability, when it feels like tectonic plates beneath our feet are constantly shifting, emotions are running high, dreams are strange. With one foot firmly rooted in rhythm, Cooper feels compelled to dance forward with quirk, hope and bravery, asking her audience to join her in suspending their disbelief, as defined by Wikipedia "*the intentional avoidance of critical thinking or logic in examining something surreal... in order to believe it for the sake of enjoyment.*"

CREATOR AND CHOREOGRAPHER Kimberley Cooper

DANCERS Scott Augustine
Cassandra Bowerman
Sabrina Comanescu
Jason Owin F. Galeos
Catherine Hayward
Kaja Irwin
Shayne Johnson
Natasha Korney

COMPOSERS/MUSICIANS Rubim de Toledo
Nick Fraser
Karimah
Jonathan McCaslin
Makaya McCraven
William Parker

VIDEO CONCEPT/CREATION/PROJECTION Noel Bégin

LIGHTING DESIGN Brian MacNeil

COSTUME DESIGN Sarah Doucet

VISUAL ARTISTS Noel Bégin
Lisa Brawn
Juanita Dawn

PRODUCTION MANAGER Cameron Clowe

REHEARSAL DIRECTOR Laura Kleiner

STAGE MANAGER Marcia Liber

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR Lauren Acheson

HEAD OF SOUND Dan Frerichs

WARDROBE Teigan Blondin
Pat Irving

DRESSER Arielle Bergeron

**suspending disbelief* was created and recorded adhering to provincial COVID-19 restrictions.



DECIDEDLY JAZZ DANCEWORKS

PRESENTS

suspending disbelief

3 horsewomen

DANCED BY Cassandra Bowerman
Kaja Irwin
Natasha Korney

MUSIC BY Karimah (COMPOSER, VOCALS, ALL INSTRUMENTS)

HORSES BY Lisa Brawn

VIDEO BY Noel Bégin

second line for beautiful noise

DANCED BY Sabrina Comanescu
and the full company

MUSIC BY Rubim de Toledo (COMPOSER, BASS) with
Jonathan McCaslin (DRUMS)
Bob Tildesley (TRUMPET)
Carsten Rubeling (TROMBONE)
Raul Gomez Tabera (PERCUSSION)
Karimah (VOCALS)

VIDEO BY Noel Bégin

distanced swing

DANCED BY (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)
Shayne Johnson
Catherine Hayward
Scott Augustine
Cassandra Bowerman
Jason Owin F. Galeos

MUSIC BY Nick Fraser (COMPOSER, DRUMS)
Lina Allemano (TRUMPET)
Dan Fortin (DOUBLE BASS)
Yunjin Claire Lee
(ELECTRIC PIANO AND SYNTHESIZER)
Patrick Smith (TENOR SAXOPHONE)

sprint

DANCED BY Jason Owin F. Galeos
Catherine Hayward with
Cassandra Bowerman and
Shayne Johnson

MUSIC BY Makaya McCraven* (COMPOSER, DRUMS) with
Shabaka Hutchings (TENOR SAXOPHONE)
Tomeka Reid (CELLO)
Junius Paul (DOUBLE BASS, PERCUSSION)

VIDEO BY Noel Bégin

sticks and bones

PERCUSSION BY full company featuring dance by
Kaja Irwin
Natasha Korney

KAJA'S SHOES BY Juanita Dawn

MUSIC BY Jonathan McCaslin (COMPOSER, PERCUSSION)
with Jeremy Gignoux (VIOLA, VIOLIN)

VIDEO BY Noel Bégin

William Parker

DANCED BY full company

MUSIC BY William Parker (COMPOSER, BASS)

VIDEO BY Zak Sherzad
William Parker
Noel Bégin

where you gonna run to, when you don't feel like going

DANCED BY Shayne Johnson

MUSIC BY Karimah (COMPOSER, VOCALS)

everyone got a pet during covid

DANCED BY Sabrina Comanescu
Kaja Irwin

MUSIC BY Makaya McCraven* (COMPOSER, DRUMS)
with Brandee Younger (HARP)
Joel Ross (VIBRAPHONE)
Tomeka Reid (CELLO)
Dezron Douglas (DOUBLE BASS)

SCULPTURE BY Noel Bégin

BIOS



Kimberley Cooper ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Kimberley Cooper is the Artistic Director of Decidedly Jazz Danceworks (DJD) in Calgary, Canada. She has been a part of DJD for more than three decades, first as a dancer (1989-2013),

then Resident Choreographer/Artistic Associate (2002-2013), and now as the Artistic Director (2013-present). In 2002, Kimberley was named Emerging Artist of the Year by Alberta Dance Alliance, and since 2002, she has created over 18 full-length works on DJD. She has also served as an Artist in Residence during Calgary as Cultural Capital of Canada in 2012 and was awarded Dance Victoria's Crystal Dance Prize in 2014 for her research in Brazil. Kimberley has contributed chapters to the books; *City of Animals*, for University of Calgary's Humanities Department about *New Universe*, a work she created with American jazz bassist and composer William Parker in 2017 and *Rooted Jazz Dance: Africanist Aesthetics and Equity in the Twenty First Century* (University Press of Florida, forthcoming). She is currently an Artist in Residence with Fall for Dance North.



Noel Bégin VIDEO CONCEPT/CREATION/ PROJECTION, VISUAL ARTIST

Noel Bégin is a practical observationalist within the field of contemporary art, working spatially between the modes of sculpture, digital and analogue

projection, cinema, drawing and performance. Noel has exhibited and/or curated installation, performance, and media art with the 2013 Alberta Biennial of Contemporary Art, Decidedly Jazz Danceworks, Particle + Wave Festival, Art Gallery of Calgary, the Glenbow Museum, Banff Centre, the Mountain Standard Time Performance Festival, the ArtCity Festival and Calgary area Artist-Run Centres including EMMEDIA. Recently, Noel has provided photography/cinematography, projection design, and/or technical assistance to artists Jin-me Yoon, Gary Burns, Kimberley Cooper, Nicole Kelly Westman, and Mark Clintberg, among others. He was proud to receive AMAAS's Spirit of Helen award in 2017; and has served on the board and committees of numerous artist-run centres in Calgary.



Lisa Brawn ARTISTIC COLLABORATOR

For the past 20 years Lisa Brawn has devoted most of her time to developing her skills at carving woodcuts. Another major interest has been exploring the possibilities for

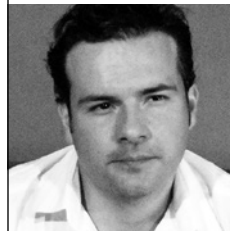
alternative arts venues, starting with a mobile gallery in a 1935 silver travel trailer in 2001. Since then, there have been nine other independent experiments: Sugar Gallery in the Grain Exchange, Sugar Estate Art Salon and The National Portrait Gallery (with Milo Dlouhy and Angie Inglis), Sugar Shack, and Sugar Cube (with Angie Inglis and Jane Grace), Museo Poco, La Fenetre, Bambi Media Machine, and the upcoming M.E.A.T.B.A.L.L. In 2013, Lisa purchased 30 vintage mechanical horses that were in a state of extreme disrepair, and spent a year bringing them back from the brink. She is extremely grateful that Kimberley Cooper also saw the potential and says it has been an honour to collaborate with DJD.



Juanita Dawn ARTISTIC COLLABORATOR

Juanita's journey into puppetry first began in the early 2000s and continues to evolve and develop with each project. Juanita was first a sculptor and now is a puppeteer and full-time

puppet and mask builder. Her creations embody a whimsical and playful quality—ensuring that each puppet and mask she makes has its own personality.



Rubim De Toledo COMPOSER, MUSICIAN

Bassist and composer, Rubim de Toledo, combines the influences of his Brazilian heritage and his dedication to the jazz tradition, to create an approach to music that is refreshing

and uplifting. Rubim began his professional career in Edmonton at the age of 17 performing with Albertan Jazz legends, Tommy Banks, PJ Perry and Clarence "Big" Miller. Since then, he has become a sought-after sideman and a productive bandleader. With his latest release, *The Gap*, Rubim distinguishes himself as a composer with a unique ability to explore jazz styles while maintaining a sound that is modern yet inviting. In 2018, Rubim won the Western Canadian Music Award for Artist of the Year and was nominated for an Edmonton Music Award in the Jazz category. Rubim is also a passionate music educator and is the head of the bass department at MacEwan University in Edmonton.



Sarah Doucet COSTUME DESIGNER

Originally from Halifax, Sarah has spent the majority of her life as a performer, choreographer, and rehearsal director for various Canadian contemporary dance companies, (The Holy Body

Tattoo, Vancouver; Animals Of Distinction, MTL; Corpus, TO; Lynda Gaudreau, Companie de Brune, MTL; Jenn Goodwin, TO) to name a few favourites. After leaving a contemporary dance career a few years ago, Sarah turned her focus to styling, costume and jewellery

design. Since then, Sarah has had the pleasure of creating costumes for, among others, *Juliet & Romeo* and *Lovestruck* (DJD, Calgary); *The Wolves* (The Howland Company and Crowe's Theatre, Toronto); Dora nominated *LULU V.7//* aspects of a femme fatale (Red Light District theatre Company, Toronto); Dora Winner ~ best ensemble ~ *Floor'd* (Holla Jazz, Toronto); *Heart as Arena* (Animals Of Distinction, MTL); *Tightrope* (2BoysTV, MTL); *If I Should Stumble* (Jenn Goodwin, Toronto); *Multiforms* (Amanda Acorn, Toronto); *Rosé Porn* (Zoja Smutny, Toronto/Greece), to name a few.

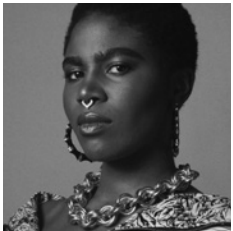


Nick Fraser

COMPOSER, MUSICIAN

Nick Fraser has been an active and engaging presence in the Toronto new jazz and improvised music community for over 20 years. He has performed with a veritable "who's who" of Canadian

jazz and improvised music and with such international artists as Tony Malaby, Kris Davis, William Parker, Roscoe Mitchell, Marilyn Crispell, and Anthony Braxton. A JUNO award winner, he was also awarded a 2017 Chalmers Arts Fellowship. In addition to his own projects, he is a member of Peripheral Vision, Eucalyptus, Titanium Riot, Ugly Beauties, and the Lina Allemano Four.



Karimah

COMPOSER, MUSICIAN

Karimah is a French/English speaking Pop/R&B singer/songwriter with grand prizes at Western Canadian competitions Polyfonik, Chant'Ouest, and the Memphis Bound blues

Challenge in the modern blues project Two Blue. Her original music is heartfelt and heart wrenching, with soaring melodies and raw lyrics about love, loss and social dynamics. Karimah reached the top 24 on *The Voice Canada* season 5, a.k.a. *La Voix* in 2017. Her music is available on Spotify, iTunes and her online store.



Brian MacNeil

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Brian has served as a lighting designer and technical director for dance and theatre productions including festivals and touring. The Brian Webb Dance Company introduced him to

Elaine Bowman evolving an association with Dancers' Studio West exposing him to many local and abroad performance artists. Favourite productions include Theatre Encounter's *Caligula*, *Waiting for Godot*, and *Medea*. Brian was in residency at the Banff Centre for the creation of *Making Treaty 7*, which played at Weesageechak 31 in Toronto. Past productions for DJD include *New Universe*, *Juliet & Romeo*, *Modern Vaudevillians*, *MIMIC*, and *Better Get Hit in Your Soul*.

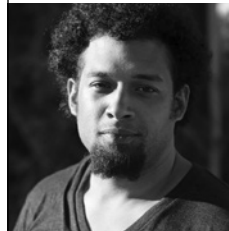


Jonathan McCaslin

COMPOSER, MUSICIAN

Recognized as one of Western Canada's leading jazz drummers and educators, Jon brings excitement, his passion for the jazz tradition and its future to the stage and to the

classroom. Raised in Regina and a graduate of McGill University he has also attended the Banff Centre as a resident artist. In 2012 he released his sophomore album *Sunalta* on the Cellar Live label and was nominated in 2013 for a Western Canadian Music Award. As a busy sideman he has also performed with such internationally recognized artists as Mulgrew Miller, Sheila Jordan, Brian Lynch, Jason Marsalis, Peter Bernstein, Sean Jones, PJ Perry and many others. Jon completed his Doctorate through the University of Toronto in 2015, researching the conceptualization of contemporary melodic jazz drumming. He is the author of *Four on the Floor* one of the world's most recognized on-line jazz drumming blogs.



Makaya McCraven

COMPOSER, MUSICIAN

Makaya McCraven is a beat scientist. The cutting edge drummer, producer, and sonic collagist is a multi-talented force whose inventive process and intuitive style of

performance defy categorization. Born in Paris, France in 1983 to jazz drummer Stephen McCraven (Sam Rivers, Archie Shepp) and Hungarian singer Agnes Zsigmondi, Makaya was exposed to broad ranges of influences from a young age. At age three, in 1986 his family moved to the Pioneer Valley of Western Massachusetts, a time and place that afforded him the mentorship of his parents' community of friends and collaborators, including jazz luminaries Marion Brown, Archie Shepp and Yusef Lateef. In 2007 he made a move to Chicago, where he immersed himself in the city's gigging and creative music scenes. He took on as many gigs as he could, whether small, big, or bizarre, and gave music workshops to students from elementary to university level. While music has been in his blood from a young age, he's been steadily humble and hungry, sure to always be distilling his various learnings and influences into an identity and groove of his own. Makaya has toured nationally and internationally and produced four critically acclaimed releases as a lead artist in the last four years. Yet despite the performances and accolades, Makaya's focus remains on both creating music and moving the culture forward.



William Parker

COMPOSER/MUSICIAN

William Parker was born and raised in the Bronx and has resided in the Lower East Side since 1975. Renowned as a composer, improviser, and bassist, William is also an educator

and author. During his prolific career, William has recorded over 150 albums; had countless celebrated stage appearances and helped shape the jazz scene for both his peers and youth. In 2013, he received the Doris Duke Performing Artist Award, recognizing his influence and impact on the creative jazz scene over the last 40 years. William entered the music scene in 1971, playing at Studio We, Studio Rivbea, Hilly's on The Bowery, the Salt and Pepper club and The Baby Grand, and quickly became a sought-after bass player in the New York music scene. He has played with many musicians from the avant-garde such as, Bill Dixon, Sunny Murray, Charles Tyler, Billy Higgins, Charles Brackeen, Alan Silva, Frank Wright, Frank Lowe, Rashid Ali, Donald Ayler, Sonny Simmons, Jeanne Lee, Gunter Hampel, Karl Berger, Dave Burrell, Don Cherry, Cecil Taylor, Jimmy Lyons, and Milford Graves, and with traditionalists like Walter Bishop Sr. and Maxine Sullivan.

DANCERS



Scott Augustine

Scott is a native of Vancouver B.C. and this is his third season with DJD. He has danced extensively with the Vancouver based contemporary company Wen Wei Dance as well with other companies such as The

Company 605, Radical System Arts and Move. He was Principle Dancer in Tokyo, Japan for the show *Encore!* as well as a Principle Tapper for the 2010 Opening Ceremonies for the Vancouver Olympics. Scott has played major roles in musical theatre including Riff in *West Side Story* for the Vancouver Opera and Rainbow Stage, Tulsa in *Gypsy* and Neleus in *Mary Poppins* for the Arts Club Theatre Company.



Cassandra Bowerman

A dance artist, educator and choreographer formally trained at Ryerson University (BFA) in Toronto, Cassandra's love of jazz and rhythm brought her across the country to participate in Decidedly Jazz

Danceworks' Professional Training Program. She graduated from the program in 2016 and is thrilled to now be dancing in her second season with the

company. Prior to joining DJD, Cassandra danced and choreographed performances throughout the Greater Toronto Area, honing her unique style of dance. In 2019, she choreographed *Instinct A* for Dusk Dances Hamilton before relocating to Alberta. Cassandra is excited to continue exploring the history and art of jazz.



Sabrina Comanescu

Sabrina "Naz" Comanescu is a dynamic talent and an energetic supporter of the Calgary dance and Caribbean Community through her work as a dance instructor, performer, and choreographer. Training in

urban/funk and Afro-Caribbean dance styles since the age of six, Sabrina dove into her studies of jazz dance at the School of Decidedly Jazz in 2013, in DJD's Professional Training Program. Sabrina has performed with such companies and artists as Machel Montano, Headly, The Mighty Sparrow, House of Dangerkat, The Bad Girls Club YYC and ILLFX Entertainment. Sabrina is thrilled to be performing for a seventh season in the DJD company.



Jason Owin F. Galeos

Jason Owin F. Galeos was born in 1986 in Bergen, Hordaland, of the West Coast of Norway. He was raised in multiple international countries by two Filipino parents and is an independent dance artist based in

Calgary. He started dancing at the age of sixteen and joined a dance group known as BattLeZone. His dance studies are based on Hip Hop, House, and Funk Styles. He earned a BA at the University of Calgary (2012), majoring in Contemporary Dance and is the founder of J-SIK Movements (2015). Jason has trained at ImPuls Tanz (Austria), Urban Dance Camp (Germany) and RUBBERBANDance (Montreal). He has also worked for Movement with a Message, 49th Parallel Dance, Corps Bara Dance Theatre & Dancing Monkey Laboratories. Jason is recognized by the Alberta dance community for his unique movement voice and cross-genre approach. Jason's major influences are Niels Robitzky, Bruno Caverna, David Zambrano, & Art-Move-Concept. He has presented work at the University of Calgary, Springboard Performance, Dancers' Studio West, NextFest, co-produced with Purposely Soulful (Chelsea Josue) and most recently with To THE AWE. Jason will be entering his fourth season with DJD.



Catherine Hayward

Originally from Winnipeg, Catherine's studies led her to Toronto's Ryerson University where she graduated from the dance program, earning her B.F.A. with Honours. Catherine has been with the DJD company since

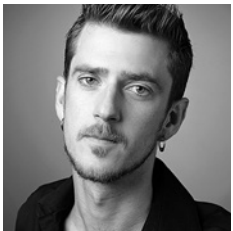
2007. She was Artistic Director of DJD's most recent dancer-choreographed shows, *Velocity* in 2017, and *Borderland* in 2015. She was a founding member of Dancers' Studio West (DSW) Dance Action Group (DAG), a small ensemble of aesthetically diverse performer/choreographers who co-operated to fulfill opportunities for community animation and invest in new opportunities for artistic development. Catherine and former DJD dancer Shayne Johnson presented their first full evening of work *Bodied Indivisible* at the DJD Dance Centre in February 2020. Catherine continues to mentor teen dancers training in Jazz as part of DJD's Teen Jazz Advanced program and is once again on the faculty of DJD's Youth Training Program this year.



Kaja Irwin

Kaja is a Winnipeg born dancer, choreographer, and dance educator. After deciding to pursue a career in dance after completing her B.A. in Political Science, Irwin studied in the Professional Training Program offered

at DJD, developing her love of both jazz and the Calgary dance community. Kaja has been fortunate to share her choreography across Canada as well as Amsterdam. Irwin is passionate about jazz and loves to explore movement and collaborations across art forms. Her latest collaboration was with jewellery designer Corey Moranis in a short art film released in Spring 2020. Irwin is excited and dedicated to continue learning and exploring the jazz art form and is thrilled to be back for her seventh season performing with *Decidedly Jazz Danceworks*.



Shayne Johnson

Shayne began his dance training at age 5 and at the age of 12, launched his professional career as a guest tap dancer on the "Super Dave Osborne" TV show. Shayne went on to join the Canadian National Tap

Team, became a member of the Grizzlies Extreme

Dance Team for the NBA and was hired as a dancer and choreographer for Norwegian Cruise Lines. Since moving to Calgary in 2008, Shayne has been an active member of the Arts community. Shayne was a member of Dancers' Studio West's (DSW) Dance Action Group (DAG), a small ensemble who co-operate to fulfill opportunities for community development and offer organizational support for DSW. Shayne presented a new work in DSW's Dance Action Lab in July 2016 and a solo in their Alberta Dance Festival in September 2017. In addition to focusing on choreography, Shayne is an established tap teacher in the community. Shayne has been with the DJD Company since the spring of 2009.



Natasha Korney

Natasha began pursuing dance at the age of 13, specifically in the styles of Hip-Hop, Jazz, Modern, Contemporary, African and Caribbean Dance. As part of her training she spent two years

in DJD's Professional Training Program where she choreographed and performed in the programs 1st annual show, *Footprints* in 2006 and again in 2007. In 2010, she commenced a Bachelor of Arts degree in the Contemporary Dance Program at the University of Calgary performing in the annual show *Mainstage, Why Dance 3D* and other productions. While deepening her understanding and experience in Jazz dance and performance, she also continued to train and perform with *Electra Dance Company*, *ILLFX Entertainment*, *Groove Academy*, and as a contracted solo artist. She has appeared in many shows and productions such as, *Slammin Berry Jam 2008/2009*; *St. Kitts 2009*; *Sun and Salsa Festival 2013*; *Sunfest 2012*; and *Unganisha 2019*. In the spring of 2019, Natasha was offered the role of narrator for DJD's remounted production of *Juliet & Romeo*. To prepare for this she received one on one coaching from *One Yellow Rabbits*, *Denise Clarke*, and was given a steppingstone to broaden her artistic abilities as actor and dancer. This is Natasha's ninth season with DJD, and she looks forward to performing in many more productions with the company.



DECIDEDLY JAZZ DANCEWORKS

To learn more about DJD,
please visit decidedlyjazz.com