

OCT 30 - NOV 1 8:00PM

NOV 2 2:00PM

BETTY OLIPHANT THEATRE 404 Jarvis Street Toronto



Photo by Jeremy Mimnagh

## **ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE**

It's always a special moment when we present new creations, and this season feels particularly meaningful. I'm deeply grateful to have two extraordinary choreographers joining me in shaping this program - Kevin O'Day and Dominique Dumais.

Kevin has been a long-time supporter of ProArteDanza, and after his last hit with the company back in 2017 (Op Sha!), it felt only right to have him back in the studio with us. His creative energy and generosity continue to inspire me.

Dominique and I share a history that goes back to our early days as dancers at the National Ballet in the 90s. Having her return to create a new work for ProArteDanza is both a joy and an honour. Her artistry and friendship mean a great deal to me personally.

And of course, none of this would be possible without our incredible dancers - artists of the highest calibre and truly exceptional human beings. Their collaboration, dedication, curiosity, and heart are the beating core of ProArteDanza.

Thank you for being here to share in this moment of creation with us.

Roberto Campanella

Artistic Director, ProArteDanza







Photos by Jeremy Mimnagh

#### **FALL 2025 SEASON**

#### **An Unwinding**

Costume Designer:

Choreographer: Kevin O'Day

Performers: Demetri Apostolopoulos, Sarah Di Iorio, Sasha Ludavicius

Valerie Calam

Music: Neil Young
Sound Designer: Sylvain Senez

Rehearsal Director: Robert Glumbek Lighting Designer: Noah Feaver

Production/Stage Manager: Taylor Zalik-Young

"An Unwinding" explores the quiet strength that emerges from vulnerability without sentimentality — a space where fragility is not weakness, but resilience. Drawing inspiration from the music of Neil Young, the work embraces minimalism and restraint, allowing emotion to surface with clarity and depth. Silence becomes as expressive as sound.

The dancers inhabit this sonic landscape not to dominate, but to reflect it — moving with intention, sensitivity, and presence. In this space, there is no need for excess. Just truth, embodied softly, yet with undeniable weight.

#### **Memento Vitae**

'Where is the Life we have lost in living?..." - T.S. Eliot

Choreographer: Dominique Dumais

Performers: Griffen Grice, Connor Mitton, Willem Sadler, Petra Toop,

Carleen Zouboules, Eleanor van Veen

Music: Lullaby Dream-Balanescu Quartet; Before the Rain- Constantinople,

Ablaye Cissoko; Bær-Hildur Guðnadóttir; Darkness Falls-Kronos Quartet, Laurie Anderson; Wind Whistles Through the Dark City-Kronos Quartet, Laurie Anderson; Andante du Concerto en si mineur, BWV 979- Johann Sebastian Bach, Alexandre Tharaud; Melody Noir- Patrick Watson; Infra 5-Max Richter, Louisa Fuller,

Natalia Bonner, Nick Barr, Ian Burdge, Chris Worsey

Sound Designer: Davidson Jaconello
Rehearsal Director: Robert Glumbek
Lighting Designer: Noah Feaver

Costume Designer: Valerie Calam

Text: Jeanette Winterson, Gut Symmetries

Production/Stage Manager: Taylor Zalik-Young

#### **FALL 2025 SEASON**

#### **Un'Altra Vita: Inspired by True Events**

Choreographer: Roberto Campanella in collaboration with the ensemble

Performers: Demetri Apostolopoulos, Griffen Grice, Sarah Di Iorio,

Sasha Ludavicius, Connor Mitton, Willem Sadler, Petra Toop,

Carleen Zouboules, Aerin Cho (Apprentice)

Music: Partita: III. Courante-Caroline Shaw; Isis und Osiris (From The Magic

Flute, K. 620) [Arr. Rosemary Standley & Dom La Nena]-Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart; Nautilus -Anna Meredith; Non È L'amore Che Va Via-Vinicio Capossela; Sinner by Sinner Arca 6. Red Sex-Vessel;

Un'altra vita- Paolo Conte

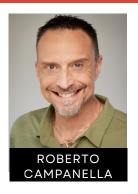
Lighting Designer: Noah Feaver
Costume Designer: Valerie Calam

Production/Stage Manager: Taylor Zalik-Young

Un'Altra Vita (Another Life) is what I call an "almost" autobiographical work—an exploration of self through four men who each carry a fragment of my "almost" story. Moments of innocence, desire, loss, and renewal unfold like memories caught between dream and reality. Through shifting encounters—birth, chaos, connection, and the quiet humour of resilience, the piece reflects on the ways we evolve, collide, and come undone. It's an attempt at a portrait of one life, but perhaps also of every life: fragile, absurd, and endlessly in motion... and just when you think you've figured it out, life throws you another curveball, sometimes quite literally.

Special thank you to Joanna Ivey and Lorne Babiuk.

## **CHOREOGRAPHER BIOS**



Born and raised in Rome, Roberto Campanella trained at the Scuola Italiana di Danza Contemporanea. In 1985, Roberto joined the Compagnia Italiana di Danza Contemporanea and later joined the prestigious Aterballetto. In 1993 he joined the National Ballet of Canada (NBoC) where he was soon promoted to soloist. Roberto made his choreographic debut at NBoC's 1995 Choreographic Workshop and, upon retiring from the company in 1996, trained at the National Ballet School's Teacher Training Program, graduating with distinction. He is now a sought-after guest teacher. Although Roberto choreographs predominantly for ProArteDanza, he also choreographs a wide variety of commissioned works for companies at

home and abroad. In 2001, Roberto was nominated for the Bonnie Bird Choreography Award in London. In 2007, he received the Fellowship Initiative Award from the New York Choreographic Institute, an affiliate of the New York City Ballet, and in 2008, he was awarded a Chalmers Professional Development Grant. Roberto's first full-length work "Alice in Wonderland" premiered at Ballet Augsburg in Germany (2008). He received the Dora Award for Outstanding Choreography with co-choreographer Robert Glumbek for "... in between ...". Today, Roberto is a highly sought-after choreographer/director for film/TV creating movement and dance choreography for The Strain, Pompeii, Mortal Instruments, Nikita, Silent Hill and four-time Oscar winner The Shape of Water.



Born in Lac St-Jean, Quebec, Dominique Dumais received her dance training at Canada's National Ballet School in Toronto. After graduating in 1986, she joined the National Ballet of Canada, and was promoted to soloist. From 2002-2016, she held the position of in-house choreographer and deputy director of the dance department at the National Theater Mannheim, where she worked closely with artistic director Kevin O'Day. Since 2018, Dominique has been the artistic director and house choreographer of the dance company at Mainfranken Theater Würzburg, Germany. Dominique has choreographed over 45 pieces, including 11 full-length works for the Nationaltheater Manheim, Germany. In 2013,

Dominique was awarded a grant by the German Cultural Heritage fund to create a work dedicated to American dance icon Isadora Duncan, entitled Tracing Isadora. Since taking up her post in Würzburg in 2018, she has choreographed works such as Mothertongue (2019), Alice in Wonderland (2022), Chaplin (2023), Four Seasons (2023), and Eros. Her most recent works have been a piece inspired by the music of Nina Simone, entitled Classic Soul (2024), as well a work exploring the well-known fairy tales, Cinderella, Hänsel and Gretel, and Rupunzel, interwoven into one story, entitled Grimm's Journey. Dominique has been commissioned by the National Ballet of Canada, Ballet British Columbia, Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal, Alberta Ballet, American Repertory Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Het National Ballet in Amsterdam, the Komische Oper in Berlin, Gauthier Dance in Stuttgart, Ballett Augsburg, and Tanzcompany Gießen, among others. Last year she created a full-length work, A Kiss to the World (2024) for the Ballett am Rhein in Düsseldorf.

## **CHOREOGRAPHER BIOS**



Acclaimed choreographer Kevin O'Day was appointed artistic director of the Nationaltheater Mannheim Ballett in 2002, renamed Kevin O'Day Ballett NTM. From 2013 to 2016 he held the position of Ballett Intendant and Deputy Operating Manager. Beginning season 2018/2019 he holds the position of Artist in Residence of the Tanzcompanie Würzburg at Mainfranken Theater Würzburg. As a choreographer, O'Day has produced more than seventy original ballets. He has been commissioned to create works for the New York City Ballet, Ballet British Columbia, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Les Grands Ballet Canadiens, Stuttgarter Ballett, Les Ballets de Monte Carlo, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Pennsylvania Ballet,

Pittsburgh Ballet, Ballet, Argentino, The Royal Danish Ballet, ProArteDanza, BalletX, Ballett im Revier, Ballett Augsburg, Ballett Nordhausen and Visceral Dance Chicago, among others. O'Day received his early dance training at the Joffrey Ballet School in New York. After one year he joined the Joffrey II, and the following year, he became a member of the main company of the Joffrey Ballet. In the winter of 1984, O'Day began his long association with choreographer Twyla Tharp. From 1988 to 1991, he was a soloist with American Ballet Theatre, where he performed in a wide variety of featured roles both in the classical and contemporary repertoire. In 1991 he joined William Forsythe's Frankfurt Ballet, and from 1992 until 1995 he was a member of Mikhail Baryshnikov's White Oak Dance Project. During that time he appeared frequently as a guest with the New York City Ballet. In 1994 Mikhail Baryshnikov invited O'Day to choreograph a new work for the White Oak Dance Project, marking his choreographic debut. In 1998 O'Day formed his own company, O'Day Dances, in collaboration with composer John King. O'Day has been the recipient of numerous awards and nominations for his choreography. In 2000 he was nominated for an MTV video music award for best choreography in a video for So Pure by Alanis Morissette. Full Bloom, a piece choreographed by O'Day, Robert Glumbek and Luches Huddleston Jr., was nominated for the Canadian Dora Mavor Moore Award in 2010. In the same year O'Day was the first to be awarded the Koerner Award by the Canadian Banff Centre.

## **COMPANY BIOS**



Upon graduation from Bytom State Ballet School in Poland, Robert Glumbek joined The Great Theatre of Opera and Ballet in Warsaw as a soloist where he worked with choreographers including John Neumeier, Maurice Bejart, Hans Van Manen, John Butler, and Constantine Siergiejew. In 1987, Glumbek came to Canada and worked for a variety of companies including Theatre Ballet of Canada in Ottawa with Larry Gradus, the Judith Marcuse Company in Vancouver, and Myth Productions with Learie McNicolls – before dancing with Desrosiers Dance Theatre from 1990–2000 where he was instrumental in the creation of many roles. Robert worked with the Mannheim Ballett as dancer and ballet master from 2002 to 2004

and then returned to Canada in 2024 to work as an independent artist and choreographer. Glumbek has appeared in works independently, most notably: Greece's 1998 Gala des Etoiles festival with Karen Kain, directed by Dominique Dumais; Canadian Opera Company's 2001 production of Venus and Adonis, choreographed by Serge Bennathan; and 32 Silver Pieces, DanceMakers, choreographed by Marie Josee Cartier (Dora winner). Robert has worked with choreographers: Kevin O'Day, Bill James,

Peter Chin, Michael Downing (Dancefront), Dominique Dumais, Christopher House, Serge Bennathan, Holly Small, Learie McNicolls, and Tedd Robinson. Robert became Associate Director of ProArteDanza in 2004 where he has since created a number of acclaimed original works. Robert has also created works for Mannheim Ballett, princess productions, Toronto Dance Theatre, Hamilton Conservatory for the Arts, CCDT, Arts Umbrella, Ryerson University and York University. He was a finalist in the Hanover Choreographic Competition and in the Stuttgart Choreographic Competition, is a recipient of the Now Magazine award for Best Dancer of the Year (2006), and has been honoured with both the K.M. Hunter Artist Award and the Clifford E. Lee Choreography Award. Robert is a four-time Dora nominee, and was the co-recipient with Roberto Campanella for their choreography of ... in between ... in 2010.



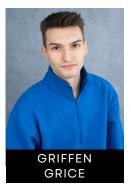
Demetri Apostolopoulos, born and raised in Winnipeg, is a dancer, choreographer, Mat Pilates trainee and intuitively driven artist. Since moving to Toronto, he has further developed his passion for creativity, which culminated in his graduation with a BFA in dance from Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly Ryerson). In his final year at school, Demetri became an apprentice with Côté Danse under Guillaume Côté, and quickly became a full company member after graduation. Since then, he has had the opportunity to perform as part of Fall for Dance North and the Colours International Dance Festival. He has worked as a performer with companies such as ProArteDanza, Transcendance Project, and Human

Body Expression, and in works by Alysa Pires, Daileidys Carrazana, and others. Demetri has furthered his training at intensives including Orsolina28, Arts Umbrella International Summer Intensive, b12 summer, Henny Jurriëns Studio Summer Intensive, Rutherford Movement Exchange, and Ballet BC's Winter Intensive, where he had the opportunity to study renowned repertoire of Alexander Anderson, Anne Plamondon, Crystal Pite, Ethan Colangelo, Emma Evelein, Jiří Kylián, Marcos Morau, Medhi Walerski, Sharon Eyal, and Roy Assef, among others.



Sarah Di Iorio is a movement artist with a BFA from Toronto Metropolitan University. Her career has taken her to national and international stages, with performances at renowned festivals such as Jacob's Pillow, Le Festival des Arts de Saint-Sauveur, and Fall for Dance North. She has toured North America with Red Sky Performance in Trace, the company's Dora Awardwinning production, and has performed locally with ProArteDanza, Kaeja d'Dance, Angela Blumberg, Hanna Kiel, Canadian Stage, Dusk Dances, and a wide range of independent choreographers. In addition to live performance, Sarah has worked extensively in dance-on-film as both performer and choreographer. Most recently, she performed the principal role of Ariadne

in Schafer's Labyrinth, directed by Barbara Willis-Sweete. As a choreographer, her work has been supported through residencies for both professional and pre-professional artists. Her latest creation, Meet You At The Surface, premiered at Night Shift 2024 (co-presented by Citadel + Compagnie and Fall for Dance North) and was later presented in the Four Seasons Centre Amphitheatre as part of DaCo 2025. Alongside her performance and choreographic work, Sarah is a returning guest choreographer and teacher at several performing arts high schools across the GTA, where she shares her knowledge and passion for dance with the next generation of artists.

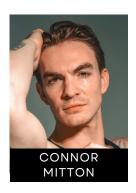


Griffen Grice is a Toronto-based dance artist whose passion for movement began at the age of 12 through competitive dance. He is a graduate of the Performance Dance program at Toronto Metropolitan University. During his training, he performed in numerous stage works working with choreographers such as Louis Laberge-Côté and Rock Bottom Movement led by Alyssa Martin. Shortly after graduating, Griffen was featured in LightPrint by Jesse Obremski (Gibney Company), presented in the 2023 Fall for Dance North Signature Program. In 2024, he joined Côté Danse as a company member, performing in Burn Baby, Burn choreographed by Guillaume Côté at the Festival des Arts de Saint-Sauveur, Fall for Dance

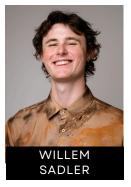
North, and even an international performance at the COLOURS International Dance Festival in Stuttgart, Germany. Griffen has also been a member of the Argos A-Team for 2 consecutive seasons, performing at CFL games at Toronto's BMO Field. In early 2025, Griffen toured Ontario with ProArteDanza, performing in their production of The 9th.



Sasha Ludavicius is a professional Contemporary dance artist and teacher in Toronto. In 2016, she graduated from the School of Toronto Dance Theatre and started working with ProArteDanza in 2015. She has danced with Peggy Baker Dance Projects, Red Sky Performance, The Chimera Project and Hit&Run Dance Productions. Sasha has been the Training Manager, Rehearsal Director and teacher during the ProArteDanza's Summer Intensive Program (SIP) since 2020. Additionally, she managed the ProArteDanza's Reading Week and Burlington Intensive Programs. Her passion for movement influenced her to become a Fitness and Pilates instructor, a Personal Trainer as well as a certified Yoga/Barre instructor. She is looking forward to dancing in both Kevin's and Roberto's new creations this season!

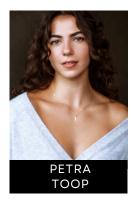


Connor Mitton graduated from Toronto Metropolitan University's Dance Program in 2017. He is a three time nominee and recipient of the 2024 Dora Mavor Moore Award for outstanding performance by an ensemble in James Kudelka's "The Man in Black". In 2024 he started working in film and television as an assistant choreographer. Connor has toured with several companies including: Côté Dansé, Red Sky Performance, ProArteDanza, and Citadel et Compangnie. Recognized by Now Magazine as one of 2017's breakthrough Toronto stage artists. He has performed many pieces by Canadian choreographic icon James Kudelka, including: Fifteen Heterosexual Duets, The Man in Black, Romeo and Juliet before Parting, Soudain L'hiver Denier and Heros. He has also had the privilege of working with many other renowned choreographers and artists in Toronto.



Willem Sadler is a Hip Hop and contemporary creator based in Toronto. Willem has had the opportunity to perform and show his work internationally. As a young dancer and performer, his drive has always come from his love for movement performance and his connection to music. Willem defines himself as a versatile dancer/creator and strives to squash the separation of 'styles' and present dance as movement without restrictions. Throughout his career Willem has performed and collaborated with the TSO, Mirvish, Little Pear Garden, Dusk Dances, Dance Collection Danse, Zata OMM, CCDT, ProArteDanza and Côté Danse. Willem has had the opportunity to perform as part of some of North America's most

recognized dance festivals: Fall For Dance, Festival des Art de Saint-Sauveur and Fall For Dance North. Willem is deeply grateful for the opportunity to express freely as an artist and is committed to enhancing the vibrancy of the Toronto dance community. @willemsadler



Petra Toop is a Palestinian-Canadian dance artist whose practice encompasses professional performance and work in TV and film. She has collaborated and toured with Toronto-based contemporary company, ProArteDanza, and continues to perform with them as a company member. Her repertoire spans projects with Tara Butler's Dust and Soul Dance Company and Emily Cheung's Little Pear Garden Dance Company. Internationally, she appeared in A Midsummer Night's Dream at the Danzarts Festival in Sicily, Italy, under the direction of Ermanno Sbezzo, and has also had the privilege of working with internationally recognized choreographers such as Dominique Dumais and Giovanni Insaudo. Her film and television credits include the Peacock original series Copenhagen,

Hallmark's A Nutcracker Christmas, The Next Step Live tour, and Season 2 of Backstage on Family Channel. Alongside her artistic career, Petra is completing a degree in Biomedical Science at the University of Guelph, where her studies in biomechanics and kinesthetics enrich her understanding of the body in motion and the creative process. She is equally passionate about sharing her knowledge with others as a dedicated teacher, while continuing to train and evolve within her own artistry.



Eleanor van Veen is a dance artist from Cape Breton Island, now based in Toronto, where she performs, choreographs, collaborates, and teaches dance and Pilates. Rooted in a desire for intuitive movement, her practice is an ever-evolving exploration of flow and feeling. She has performed works by Alysa Pires, Hanna Kiel, Jera Wolfe, Lesley Telford, Meghann Michalsky, Naishi Wang, Nicole von Arx, Roberto Campanella, Robert Glumbek, Syreeta Hector, and others, and has worked with Edmonton Opera, Human Body Expression, Metamorphosis Dance, Near & Far Projects, Nostos Collectives, ProArteDanza, and Project InTandem. As a creator, Eleanor has developed and shared her work in diverse settings,

including Woodland Farm's Artist Residency, Kinetic's Open Studio Series, Art & Water's Dockside Dance, St. Elizabeth's Regional Arts Program, and ProArteDanza's Summer Intensive Program.



Carleen Zouboules is a dance artist, choreographer, and actor with a BFA from Toronto Metropolitan University. Known for her versatility and dynamic stage presence, she has performed with companies including ProArteDanza, Côté Dansé, Red Sky Performance, The Citadel + Compagnie, Zata Omm. She originated the role of Ophelia in Hamlet, created by Guillaume Côté and Robert Lepage, which premiered at The Elgin Theatre in 2024 and has since toured internationally. Carleen has performed at Fall for Dance North in works by Jera Wolfe, Anne Plamondon, and Guillaume Côté; she has danced pieces by James Kudelka, Lesley Telford, Chantelle Good, Roberto Campanella, Robert Glumbek, et al.

Selected on screen credits include Christmas in the Ballroom, MTV's VMA's (Tate McRae), Alessia Cara's short film "Love & Hyperbole". Carleen co-choreographed a piece for Toronto Metropolitan University with Vania Dodoo-Beals, and the two are currently developing a new work for Dance Made in Canada. Her work has also been presented at Night Shift (Citadel + Compagnie/FFDN) and she assisted William Yong in setting Utopiverse at the National Ballet of Canada.



Aerin Cho is a Korean-Canadian movement artist and interpreter based in Toronto. With a strong foundation in ballet, modern, jazz, and contemporary techniques, Aerin has cultivated a diverse movement vocabulary through her training in the Performance Dance program at Toronto Metropolitan University. Aerin has collaborated with Adelheid to present tender at the Toronto Outdoor Art Fair, as well performed in Kate Hilliard's work Story Creatures at Fall for Dance North. Deeply committed to creative research, process, and sharing, Aerin has participated in the Conteur Summer Intensive, The Ballet Lab, The Fifth Summer Dance Intensive, Adelheid TuneIn, ProArteDanza SIP, and Arts Umbrella's ISDI.

Aerin is a recipient of the Orly Watkin Dance Award, and was recently nominated for the Hnatyshyn Developing Artist Grant for Contemporary Dance. As an emerging contemporary artist, Aerin roots her practice in physical expression, cultural identity, and vulnerability.



Valerie Calam is a dance artist interested in finding pathways to refresh and support herself. She works with movement, fabric, patterns, sound, numbers, the nervous system, the body, and likes to edit/adapt/repurpose things. Val enjoys working alongside dancers, artists & queer creatives and has a long history as a performer, teacher and choreographer in Toronto. She is the Membership Coordinator & Operations Manager for CADA/East (Canadian Alliance of Dance Artists-East Chapter). She completed a Master of Fine Arts Degree in Choreography in 2014 at York U and is the recipient of the KM Hunter Award for dance.



Noah Feaver is a Dora Award winning lighting designer. He works frequently in Dance and Opera and has designed for companies such as: The National Ballet of Canada, Edmonton Opera, Toronto Dance Theatre, Tapestry Opera, Soulpepper Theatre Company, Holla Jazz, Citadel + Compagnie, The Royal Conservatory of Music, Against the Grain Theatre, and Rock Bottom Movement. Noah holds a BFA from Toronto Metropolitan University's Performance Production program and spent two summers as a lighting design practicum at The Banff Centre. He has worked as a Lighting Design Coach at The National Theatre School of Canada, University of Waterloo, and Humber College. Noah is a member of the Associated Designers of Canada.



Taylor Zalik-Young is a Toronto-based Stage Manager, originally from Calgary, AB. He holds a BFA from TMU in Performance Production. He is currently the Arts Encounters Producer at dance: made in canada, Some of his recent credits include: Stage/Tour Manager, les Moutons, BoucharDanse at DIG Festivaler, 2025; Stage Manager, Firehorse & Shadow, Dreamwalker Dance Company & Citadel + Compagnie, 2025; Stage Manager, Reina, Buddies in Bad Times & Pencil Kit Productions, 2025; Stage Manager, Adizokan, Red Sky Performance & Toronto Symphony Orchestra, 2025; Production Stage Manager, I Love the Smell of Gasoline, Pencil Kit Productions presented at the Expanse Festival, 2025; Production Stage Manager, The 9th!, ProArteDanza, Ontario Tour 2025.

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