

A man in a black tank top is shown in profile, facing right. He has a tattoo on his left forearm. The background is a gradient of blue and purple light.

ABD  
presents

**DACO2026**

# Welcome to DACO2026!

We acknowledge that this is the traditional land of the Anishinaabe, The Wendat, The Haudenosaunee, The Mississaugas of the Credit in addition to other peoples both named and unnamed. We are grateful to live and work on this land.

DACO: Dance Collaboration Lab, is a choreographic platform that supports the presentation of new works by Canadian choreographers. Founded by Angela Blumberg, the Artistic Director of Angela Blumberg Dance in 2022, DACO is currently in its 4<sup>th</sup> year. This year's edition is supported by the Canada Council for the Arts and showcases the works of 11 choreographers, composers, and visual artists including Katie Adams-Gossage, Angela Blumberg, Domenic Clark, Taylor Collis, Nadia Dardano, Duo Cichorium, Ben King, Meghan McMartin, Simon Mazziotti, Chrystal Tam, Bennett Richardson and Shako.

Thank you for joining us tonight!



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Conseil des arts  
du Canada



# DACO2026

I founded DACO to play a more active role in Toronto's dance community. When I moved to Canada in 2009, performance opportunities such Dance Matters by Tanya Crowder, Series 8:08, and Dance-to-Dance Festival allowed me to develop my choreographic voice. I hope that DACO does the same for today's generation of dance artists.

Each year, DACO uses a different format, and this year's edition is modelled after Quinn Jacobs' immersive performance event *Museum for Quiet Sounds*, which I attended in April 2024.

Tonight, from 7:30PM – 10:00PM, dance, film, and music will take place throughout the building, including the Star Room, the Sunshine Room, the Main Space, and the Lower Level. The audience is free to move around and create their own path, thereby using this non-proscenium event as an opportunity to watch art, socialize, and pursue their own curiosity. A schedule is posted next to each room, and most pieces are performed twice, except for those that use open formats.

I hope you enjoy DACO2026! If you wish to support future editions, please send us your thoughts about tonight's show to [angelablumbergdance@gmail.com](mailto:angelablumbergdance@gmail.com). Audience feedback helps us demonstrate the value of events like this.

Angela Blumberg

# DACO2026 Performance Schedule

TIME	STAR ROOM	SUNSHINE ROOM	MAIN SPACE	LOWER LEVEL 5 & 6	LOWER LEVEL 3
7:30PM – 7:45PM	Shako	Simon Mazziotti: <i>softanimals</i>	Taylor Collis: <i>Save Our Pearls</i>		A-Space Films
7:50PM – 8:05PM	Shako	Ben King: <i>violent delight requiem</i>	Angela Blumberg: <i>Electric Phoenix</i>	Duo Cichorium, Meghan McMrtin, Chrystal Tam: <i>music and movers</i>	A-Space Films
8:10PM – 8:25PM	Shako	Simon Mazziotti: <i>softanimals</i>	Bennett Richardson: <i>BODY ALCHEMY</i>	Duo Cichorium, Meghan McMartin, Chrystal Tam: <i>music and movers</i>	A-Space Films
8:30PM – 8:45PM	Shako	Nadia Dardano: <i>when everyone listens</i>	Taylor Collis: <i>Save Our Pearls</i>		A-Space Films
8:50PM – 9:05PM	Shako	Ben King: <i>violent delight requiem</i>	Angela Blumberg: <i>Electric Phoenix</i>	Katie Adams-Gossage: <i>I'll clean out my bowl</i>	A-Space Films
9:10PM – 9:25PM	Shako	Nadia Dardano: <i>when everyone listens</i>	Bennett Richardson: <i>BODY ALCHEMY</i>	Katie Adams-Gossage: <i>I'll clean out my bowl</i>	A-Space Films
9:30PM – 10:00PM	Shako		Domenic Clark: <i>Grá-ve</i>		A-Space Films

# I'll clean out my bowl

**Choreographer:** Katie Adams-Gossage

**Performers:** Reece Caldwell, Rakeem Hardy



Katie Adams-Gossage's **I'll clean out my bowl** was originally presented in 2023 at the Museum of Contemporary Art amongst the work of Canadian visual artist Liz Magor. It is performed by Reece Caldwell and Rakeem Hardy, and created in collaboration with the dancers. Two soloists pull from a tenderly crafted movement vocabulary as choreographic instruction is fed to them through wireless headphones. They move through inexplicably unified impulses that span gradations of simplicity and complexity, stillness and rigour, freedom and constraint. **I'll clean out my bowl's** demand for specific and instantaneous creation puts on display the intricate intelligence of the human body as it engages with the immediacy of the present moment, for performer and viewer alike.

Katie Adams-Gossage (she/her) is an independent dance artist from Montreal, currently performing, creating, and teaching in Toronto. Katie conceptualizes her choreographies as visual art that employ physicality as their medium. Typically working with a singularly-focused, sustained image, she combines highly specific aesthetic and choreographic material with a performer's spontaneous felt sense in order to create worlds that elicit emotional metaphor and highlight the politics of the body. Katie's choreographic work has been presented by SummerWorks, Nuit Blanche, Fall for Dance North, and the Museum of Contemporary Art, and additionally supported by Lindy Green, Sam Chaiton, the School of Toronto Dance Theatre, Across Oceans Arts, Pride Toronto, and the Toronto Biennial of Art. Alongside her choreographic pursuits, Katie performs the work of many of Toronto's most notable choreographers. She hones her teaching practice as a faculty member at Dance Arts Institute and as a guest teacher at reputable institutions throughout the city.

**Reece Caldwell** (he/they) is a Tkaronto/Toronto based contemporary dance artist. Reece is a graduate of York University's BFA dance program specializing in performance and choreography. Currently, Reece's artistic interests and influences land in choreographic collaboration, functional movement practices, and mixed media performances. Following joy, ephemerality, and dancing with friends remains at the heart of Reece's practice and movement. Reece is honoured to share I'll clean out my bowl by Katie Adams Gossage.



**Rakeem Hardy** (they/them) is a black, queer, agender dance artist originally from Toronto, Canada. They received their BFA and the Thayer Fellowship Award from the State University of New York at Purchase College. They have performed works by Ohad Naharin, Doug Varone, Sidra Bell, Norbert De La Cruz III, and Roderick George. They received additional training at the Taipei National University of the Arts, as well as Springboard Danse Montreal where they performed pieces by Crystal Pite, Alejandro Cerrudo, and Aszure Barton. Rakeem has collaborated and performed with A.I.M by Kyle Abraham, Collectif LA TRESSE, Loni Landon Dance Projects, and Gallim Dance. Rakeem is a current member of the Vancouver-based company, Kidd Pivot.

# Electric Phoenix

**Choreographer:** Angela Blumberg

**Dancers:** Steph Harkness, Eilish 미정 Shin-Culhane



Electric Phoenix is choreographed to Gerald Shapiro's music Phoenix, which was written for the British mixed vocal quintet Electric Phoenix in 1987. I was attracted to the music and its chapter-like format: the music transitions from one clearly defined section to another with each section being very different. In the booklet that originally came with the CD, Shapiro says: "The Phoenix, a fabulous desert bird of great antiquity, lives for 700 years, then builds and ignites its own funeral pyre and is consumed in the flames. Out of the ashes and infant bird is born to repeat the cycle." He later continues: "Phoenix was finished shortly after the birth of my child, Emily, and is dedicated to her. It is about transitions, musical, and otherwise, the death of love, the birth of my daughter, a certain way of integrating, disparate harmonies into a single flow." I approached the music in a formal way, hoping it would lead to feeling and physical clarity as well as a sense of time. But I was also moved by the story and image of the desert bird and tried to weave it into the exploration. The creation of Electric Phoenix has been supported by the Canada Council for the Arts.

With my company, Angela Blumberg Dance, I have choreographed and produced over 20 works that have been presented at Fall for Dance North's International Presenters Program, Canada's National Arts Centre, Array Music, The COC's Free Concert Series, The University of Toronto's New Music Festival, The World Dance Alliance Americas, DanceWorks CoWorks, and TMU's Springworks. In 2016, I began collaborating closely with Canadian composers. Highlights include Composing for Dance, an accredited course at the University of Toronto's Composition Department. The course brought together graduate composition students and professional choreographers to engage in collaborative practices. Interdisciplinary collaborations with Julia Mermelstein, Domenic Clark, Duo Cichorium and Quinn Jacobs followed. In addition to my artistic work, I teach contemporary dance at Canada's National Ballet School.

**Steph Harkness** (they/them) is a teacher, choreographer, and Dora Award-winning performer based in so-called Toronto. Steph grew up in Mississauga and began their dance education at Cristina Pora's Classical Dance Academy, later training and performing with the Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre. Steph went on to receive a BFA in Dance and a BA in Anthropology from Purchase College, SUNY. Steph frequently performs with absurdist dance-theatre company, Rock Bottom Movement. Additionally, they have collaborated with and/or performed works by Norbert De La Cruz III, Roderick George, Rakeem Hardy, José Limón, Eilish Shin-Culhane, and Colleen Snell. Steph teaches modern dance across Ontario and is a certified Conditioning with Imagery instructor, both under the mentorship of Donna Krasnow and Natasha Poon Woo. Steph's choreography has been presented at the Toronto Fringe Festival (2024), the Guelph Dance Festival (2025), and at the Citadel as part of Citadel Dance Mix (2025).



**Eilish 미정 Shin-Culhane** is a Tkaronto-based queer mixed-Korean movement artist. Holding a BFA from Marymount Manhattan College in New York, Eilish feels equal parts mover and maker. Since returning home to Toronto in 2020, Eilish has furthered their artistic curiosities through various commissions, residencies and performances. Eilish has had the privilege to perform in works by Peter Chu, Bill T. Jones, Nicole von Arx, Nova Bhattacharya, Frog in Hand, Angela Blumberg, Katherine Semchuk, Vim Vigor, and Esie Mensah. Their choreography has been presented through Peggy Baker Dance Projects, George Brown, TO Live's Discover Dance, TDT's Pilot Episodes Program, the COC's Expanding the Canvas Program, the Citadel + Compagnie's Night Shift, and upcoming in DanceWorks' Sweet Ephemera. They center joy, discussion and catharsis through their collaborative process, prioritizing deep connections and continual growth. Eilish continues to be inquisitive in both her mover and maker selves - valuing community, play, and curiosity.

# Grá-ve

**Concept and Composition:** Domenic Clark

**Performers:** Louis Pino, Jasmine Tsui, Hee-Soo Yoon



## **Grá-ve**

**for solo viola, two percussionists, and electronics**

The heart of Grá-ve lies in this paradox: the coexistence of two temporalities on a single stage. One—a compression of a life into a concentrated act of musical expression, the other, the mundane passing of twenty minutes of labor in a person's day. One is emotionally charged and symbolic; the other, routine and indifferent. Yet both unfold simultaneously, side by side.

This duality is inspired by a moment Nabokov referred to as "the most remarkable" in Anna Karenina. In the novel, characters move at different paces and live in different temporal worlds, yet they share scenes and meet. One couple, living a year ahead of the other, intersects with them at the same table, illustrating how disparate temporalities can coexist in the same physical space.

**Youell Domenico** (Domenic Clark) is a composer and film-maker, specializing in writing and staging avant-garde theatrical productions with dance and new music. Her work integrates notation, improvisation, and multichannel electronics to explore how musical counterpoint and visual pacing shape the perception of form. Capturing serious artistic performances on film is central to her practice, with frequent collaborations with Angela Blumberg, Blcknbrwn Media Art Collective, Classical Context, the Canadian Composer's Orchestra, and DaCo. Domenico holds composition degrees from both the University of Toronto and the Koninklijk Conservatorium in The Hague. She has composed and staged new works of contemporary dance with emerging choreographers, weaving lighting and staging into the narrative as elements of visual illusion. Her musical and dance pieces have been presented at international festivals such as the Fringe Festival (Toronto) and the Spring Festival (The Hague), as well as in venues including The Four Seasons, Korzo Theatre, Randolph Theatre, Trinity St. Paul's Centre, Music Gallery, Array Space, and Theatre Het Spui (Netherlands).

**Hee-Soo Yoon, violin**

BC native now based in Toronto, violinist Hee-Soo Yoon especially has a passion for new music. Some of the highlights of her career include working with composers Sofia Gubaidulina, Julian Anderson, and Andy Akiho. Some of her work includes the premieres of the late Roger Tapping's Reverberations and Nahre Sol's Interludes for Clarinet Quintet. She also performs frequently in contemporary music-focused concerts in Toronto, such as playing with The Happenstancers and at the West End Micro Music Festival. Outside of these concerts, you may spot her in the pit at the Canadian Opera Opera Company.

**Jasmine Tsui, percussionist**

Jaz Tsui is an interdisciplinary artist, specializing in percussion performance, contemporary improvisation, and visual art. Their artistic output usually incorporates bright colors, noise, theatrics, and electronic processing. As an art-maker, Jaz takes great joy in blending art forms – drawing from their background of drawing, musical performance, and dance – and exploring the multitude of ways these practises can influence, inspire, and interact with each other. Having a colourful and versatile musical background, Jaz has had various performance opportunities, spanning orchestral and chamber music to noise-based free improvisation. In their free time, Jaz likes to bake focaccia and take care of isopods.

**Louis Pino, percussion**

Louis Pino is a percussionist, electronicist, and software engineer, working in a wide range of musical genre and other media. His performative and compositional practices are mostly influenced by cyclical time, neural entertainment, and the sound of his cat's purr. Pino prefers to work on music incorporating multiple forms of media and technology, regularly creating works and producing concerts to reflect these interests. More recently, Pino has been applying these ideas to his ensemble, Duo Cichorium, along with fellow percussionist and interdisciplinary artist Jasmin. Tsui. Pino is an active chamber musician, acting as both percussionist and Technical Director of Toronto based chamber ensemble, The Happenstancers. Pino is also a founding member of the Black Fish Ensemble, and is featured on their Juno nominated album, The Black Fish. As an orchestra player, Pino maintains an active performance schedule with The Canadian National Arts Center Orchestra, Thunder Bay Symphony, and Kingston Symphony among others.

# Save Our Pearls

**Choreography:** Taylor Collis

**Dancers:** Lacey Adud, Taylor Collis, Katherine Ledvinka, Jackson Lee, Gia Mavrogiannis, Avery Villamere

Set in the aftermath of the war, a woman struggles to find her footing in an age of fringe and pearls. The familiar weight at her side is gone now, leaving an absence she carries quietly beneath silk and sequins. In the low hum of a crowded room, she finds an unexpected steadiness in another soul. The true test is whether her heart will follow the pulse of the music or the fragile comfort she dares not name.



Taylor Collis (she/her) is a freelance dance artist and choreographer. She is a graduate of Toronto Metropolitan University, where she earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Performance Dance with distinction in 2022. As a professional performer, she has appeared in full-length works including *Come On, Dreamer* (2022), directed by Brooke Gilmour; *WHOLE NEW WORLD* (2023), directed by Tyler Hutchings; *The Great Dream* (2024), directed by Angela Blumberg; and *Rise & Fall* (2024), directed by Michael Prince. Her choreographic repertoire includes multiple works presented in *Fever After Dark*, as well as dance films such as *Metanoia* (2020), *Baby Steps* (2023), and *Half Lives* (2024), which premiered in the inaugural SEEN TO Showcase. In August 2024, she co-produced *SOLAR FUSION* alongside Tyler Hutchings, a choreographic dance showcase spotlighting emerging artists from across the GTA. She will be premiering her first full-length work this coming September, entitled *Save Our Pearls*. Grounded in gratitude and driven by a passion for meaningful artistic exchange, Taylor continues to deepen her career as a performer, collaborator, choreographer, and educator. She is committed to empowering others while continually evolving her own artistry.

**Lacey Adud** is a talented dancer and artist with a passion for performance. Dancing since age 3, she has trained in multiple styles, learning from choreographers from around the world. Some highlights include the World Series Opening Ceremony, Air Canada Vacations' 50th anniversary, and contemporary showcases like "Rise and Fall". Lacey has also appeared in music videos, including DJ Karaba's "Sinking". In addition to performing, she is a dance teacher, who shares her love for contemporary, jazz and hip-hop. She also holds an assistant role in the Ignite Dance Convention, aiming to expand her presence in the professional dance community.

**Katherine Ledvinka** is a Toronto based dancer, teacher, and choreographer. She is a graduate of Toronto Metropolitan University, where she earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts in performance dance, graduating with distinction. Katherine has performed in various productions across Toronto, including the Terra Firma Festival and Whole New World, directed by Tyler Hutchings. She is currently a company dancer of the 306 Toronto Dance company under the direction of Kennedy Elder. In addition to performing, Katherine is an instructor at For The Love Of It Dance Studio, where she teaches a range of styles to dancers of all ages.

**Jackson Lee** is a passionate young Toronto-based dancer and aspiring choreographer. He has been dancing since the age of four, and during this time, he has trained in a wide variety of styles, including jazz, acrobatics, contemporary, ballet, and hip-hop. Since then, Jackson has become an extremely well-rounded and sought-after dancer, teacher and choreographer. Currently, Jackson is a company member with Conteur Dance, under the direction of Eryn Waldman, a professional contemporary company based in Toronto. He works in the city as a multifaceted artist with multiple credits in both the commercial and contemporary worlds.

**Gia Mavrogiannis** grew up training competitively in all styles of dance, first at Ontario School of Ballet, and later on at Canadian Dance Company. She is Assistant Captain of the Wilfrid Laurier Competitive Dance Team, where she continues to challenge herself as both a performer and choreographer. In addition to performing in a competitive setting, she has also performed in the ProArteDanza summer intensive program in 2018 and 2019. Gia is absolutely thrilled for this next performance experience and hopes to be part of more in the future.

**Avery Villamere** is a dedicated dancer and choreographer from Brantford, Ontario. She completed two years at Intrepid Dance Company under the mentorship of some of the top names in the industry. Avery is a backup dancer for Canadian artist, Rêve, joining her on tour and appearing in her music, videos, "Tongue", and "Whitney". Avery's passion for performing has also been showcased in contemporary shows like Rise and Fall. Through teaching multiple styles in a studio setting, as well as being a faculty member with Ignite Dance Convention, she continues to explore her creativity and love for dance.



# when everyone listens

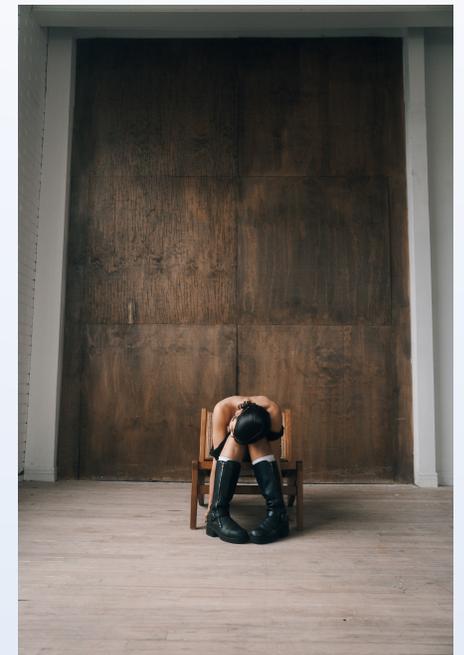
**Choreography:** Nadia Dardano

**Dance:** Nadia Dardano

It's the moment when you're talking to yourself about something super deep and very insightful. You start to imagine yourself on a really famous platform like the Grammys, and someone really important, like Oprah Winfrey, is asking you, "How did you do it?" Not only is there an audience beaming with excitement to hear what you have to say, but cameras are streaming to millions of viewers, all in suspense. You're in the middle of delivering the world's most unique and intellectual monologue, blooming with all your authentic feelings.

Then you almost run into a pedestrian on the street and snap back into the reality of the quiet loneliness you exist in. It's not sad, it just creates this hunger for a platform. This solo is that feeling: when you have so much to say, but no one is listening. The work incorporates a short narrative written by Nadia Dardano.

Nadia Dardano began her career as a young dancer, from a small town in Ontario, CA. She later received dance training at Toronto Metropolitan University, graduating with Honors. As a dancer she has performed the works of Brandon Ally and Rachel Prince under Dance Novella, Adam Barruch, Majella Bess, Alysa Pires, Alyssa Martin, Vicki St-Denys, Susee Burpee, Esie Mensah, Raoul Piley and other established choreographers. Nadia has expanded her practice internationally through esteemed programs such as Springboard Danse hosted in Pittsburgh, PA, B12 Research or Die hosted in Berlin, DEU, and Henu Jurgens Summer Intensive hosted in Amsterdam, NE. As a Choreographer, Nadia's work has received notable recognition. Upon graduation, she was awarded the Lipton Family Endowment, given annually to one Toronto Metropolitan University graduate in recognition of outstanding choreography. Her works have been presented on local stages. She has also served as Artistic Producer to Chapters, where she curated a cohesive mixed-bill performance to 16 choreographers. Nadia's performance credits extend to Fall For Dance North Night Shift Program, Saint Sauveur Festival Des Arts, Arts Orillia Jazz Festival, Guelph Dance festival, and Dance Ontario Festival.



# music and movers

**Music:** Duo Cichorium

**Dancers:** Meghan McMartin, Chrystal Tam



Duo Cichorium is comprised of interdisciplinary artists Jasmine Tsui and Louis Pino. Like the Chicory plant, the two performers are not native to Ontario, but have taken root in the environment of Toronto. Together, they strive to synthesize their aesthetic values with their artistic practices: playfulness, absurdity, and abstraction in conjunction with music performance, improvisation, integrated custom electronics, and visual art. The versatility of their practice spans from intimate chamber pieces to eye and ear straining multimedia works. Jaz and Pino have both received Masters degrees from the University of Toronto studying under Aiyun Huang, Beverley Johnston, and Charles Settle.

“This collaboration brings together two live musicians, and two dancers in an improvised performance grounded in deep listening, and shared presence. As a dancer, it is a gift to move to live music, there is a liveliness and unpredictability that demands full attention, as you never know what will unfold. Through this process, the work becomes a living exchange, a constant shift in who is leading: the music or the movement. I’m drawn to the possibility of entering a flow state – a quiet, meditative space where instinct takes over, and I become fully immersed, allowing body and sound to move this one.”

Meghan McMartin





**Meghan McMartin** (she/her) is a Toronto-based freelance dancer and educator. She received her BFA in Performance Dance from Toronto Metropolitan University in 2022. Meghan performs with Angela Blumberg Dance and has appeared in “Strange Flesh” for *Din of Shadows Company* (2022), “The Great Dream”—a full-length work presented at the *COC Free Concert Series*, Pia Bouman School, and Array Music with *Of Dances and Dreams* (2024)—and most recently performed “In a Landscape” at *Ripe Fruit Dance Fest* (2026). Additional performance credits include “JUXTAPOSE” by Christina Digiuseppe (Toronto Fringe Festival, 2023), “Colony Collapse” by Marisa Ricci (DaCo: Dance Collaboration Lab, 2022), “Spectrum of Connection” by Little Pear Dance Company (Dances by the Bay, 2024), “I’m Q” by Jaelyn Jones (The Garage, 2025), and “A Subject” by Alli Carry, presented by *DaCo*, *FFDN’s IPP*, and *Ripe Fruit Dance Fest* (2023–2026). Beyond stage work, Meghan has participated in research projects, performed in the music video “Ultraviolet” by Spiritbox (choreography by Shawn Bracke), worked as a stage manager for a full-length contemporary production, and teaches and choreographs contemporary dance at Canada’s National Ballet School.

**Chrystal Tam** (she/her) is a performer and creator from Ottawa, Ontario, whose work explores the intersections of her Canadian upbringing and Chinese heritage. With deep ties to Hong Kong, she draws inspiration from both cultural landscapes to inform a multifaceted artistic practice. She earned her BFA in Performance Dance from Toronto Metropolitan University, where she collaborated with choreographers including Andrea Nann, Alyssa Martin, and Natasha Powell. Chrystal has performed with CORPUS Dance Projects in *Transhumance*, participated in the 2023 DaCo residency curated by Angela Blumberg, and appeared in music videos and concerts for Hong Kong artists such as Andy Lau, Sammi Cheng, and Hins Cheung. Since 2022, she has performed in *Anxiety* by Simik Komaksiutiksak, which premiered at Montréal, arts interculturels and toured with FUTUR



# violent delight requiem

**Choreography:** Ben King

**Dancers:** Emmett Bradshaw, Maya Santos O'Keefe



Choreographed and rehearsed exclusively under harsh red LED lights, *violent delight requiem* is a work of queer contemporary dance theatre exploring self-expression, self-possession, and The Need for More. Drawing equal inspiration from horror films and rom-coms, two charming ghouls cross paths in the void between the 2nd and 3rd circles of Hell to confess their sins. Each armed with a set of severed limbs, our favourite sinners use highly physical dance theatre to slowly and nonchalantly come to terms with the prospect of wading for the rest of eternity through a haze of their own lust, greed, and gluttony. This brief odyssey revels in sharing sorrow, finding comfort in debauchery, and the importance of having a friend to help us through the worst of times (until the end of time).

Ben is a dance artist based in Tkaronto/Toronto who has had the privilege to collaborate with established artists such as Alyssa Martin, B. Solomon, Michael Caldwell, Heidi Strauss, and Riley Sims. Ben's work has been presented by Fall for Dance North, Citadel + Compagnie, and Toronto Dance Theatre. Choreographically, they are interested in the navigation of contemporary life and the exploration of the human psyche. Revelling in the whimsy of the human condition, Ben's worldview is refracted through impulsive, hedonistic movement that pokes fun at classical modern dance and embraces uncanny theatricality. Ben strongly believes that dance should be a pleasurable experience for both the performer and audience, striving to use their skills as a choreographer and composer to create vibrant, engaging pieces of dance theatre that are both touching and thought-provoking.

**Emmett Bradshaw** (they/she/he) is a dancer and choreographer currently working in Toronto and Guelph. They graduated from Dance Arts Institute in 2024, receiving the Leslie Wood Leadership Award. Their professional partnerships include Dance Theatre David Earle, Danceworks, The GarageTO, Toronto Dance Theatre, The Dietrich Group, Guelph Dance and Guelph Youth Dance. Their current choreographic endeavours centre around physical and emotional indulgence. Through queered perspectives on relation, the cultivation of sensuality, and physical demands on the body, they ask: How can the human body be used to relay pleasure in its variety of manifestations? Emmett is currently developing their work, *Indulge//Invest*, through Anandam Dancetheatre's Choreographic Training Program.



**Maya Santos O'Keefe** (she/her) is a contemporary dance artist and choreographer of Filipino and settler heritage based in Tkaronto/Toronto. She graduated from Dance Arts Institute (formally known as The School of Toronto Dance Theatre) (2023).

Following graduation, she performed in work by artists such as Ben King, Sadie Cahill and Xuan Ye. Her work has been supported by Canada Council for the Arts, The National Ballet's Open Space Programme, Toronto Dance Theatre's Plug-N-Play, The Garage and Woodland Farm Artist Residency.

# softanimals

**Choreography:** Simon Mazziotti

**Dancers:** Reece Caldwell, Simon Mazziotti

*softanimals* lives within a universe of bound patterns and cycles. The performers confront independence and attachment - how to gain control or freedom from it. Straddling these shifts with decentralized-nervous systems, the body as a vessel to sense. *softanimals* is traversing vastness to gain independence, tethered to the environment, tethered to each other.



**Simon Mazziotti** (he/him) is a queer movement artist and functional movement facilitator located in Tkaronto/Toronto. Graduated from Toronto Metropolitan University's Performance Dance program in 2021 (formerly Ryerson University), he most recently performed *Ojalá* a work by Sofia Ontiveros for Vanguardia Dance Festival (2025), as well as *Nine Bronze Pieces*, a work by Maxine Hepner (2024). Currently, Simon is interested in testing the physical and mental limits of the body through various tasks and exploring new ways of approaching creation.

**Reece Caldwell** (he/they) is a Tkaronto/Toronto based contemporary dance artist. Reece is a graduate of York University's BFA dance program, specializing in performance and choreography. Currently, Reece's artistic interests and influences land in choreographic collaboration, functional movement practices, and mixed media performances. Following joy, ephemerality, and dancing with friends remains at the heart of Reece's movement practice. Reece is honoured to perform *softanimals* choreographed by Simon.

# BODY ALCHEMY

**Choreography:** Bennett Richardson

**Dancers:** Aerin Cho, Madison Costa, Malia Dela Cruz, Sarah Dewdney, Katelyn Elia, Cait Feanny, Isabella Gerosa, Alexis Goossens, Hannah Gordon, Estella Haensel, Denise Igama, Ainsley Inkpen, Marisa Khoo, Hannah Minor, Sage, Salma Victoria



*BODY ALCHEMY* respirates with the intention of desire. This immersive new work by Bennett Richardson explores sentiments of impulse, hunger, ambition, and satisfaction through its analysis and interpretation of human cravings. We desire many things: to love, to possess, to mourn, to transform, yet the act of acquiring this fulfillment is often overlooked. The piece focuses on the act of executing what it is you intend to achieve, and processing the consequences, inclinations, and repercussions that follow in its wake. Through the work, the bodies in the space explore their drives, their passions, their boundaries with one another, all in service to their everpresent desire. It begins with a process of catching onto a scent of something holier than lusciousness. The dancers then play with repetition of call and response, drawn from, and echoing mating dances of female Sandhill Cranes. This exploration culminates in hunger or craving for a substance, an achievement, or a soul, which is then secured and cherished through a ceremony of acceptance and engagement between the audience and the performer. *BODY ALCHEMY* examines this primal instinct to obtain, and explores how it can shift our mentality, and alter our surroundings as a result of that performance.

Bennett Richardson is a Canadian American choreographer and dance artist currently based in Toronto, Ontario. He finds value and exploring reflection and transformation through his choreography, channelling evocative concepts through intimate movement as a byproduct of the sexual body. As an emerging creator in Toronto, he presented work at DACO 2025, and Fever After Dark in 2024. Bennett also holds a practice for production and composition, serving as Artistic Producer and choreographer for *PRIMORDIA* in Spring of 2026. He holds a BFA in dance from Toronto Metropolitan University, where he received a nomination for the Hynatyshyn Developing Artist Grant in 2025. Then it also explores performance in addition to his choreographic endeavors. He has performed and works by Sekou McMiller with Fall for Dance North, slowdanger, Justin Peck, excerpts by Sharon Eyal, Susie, Burpee, Pulga Muchochoma, Louis Laberge-Côté, and Raoul Pillay.

**Aerin Cho** is a Korean-Canadian movement artist and interpreter based in Toronto. She has collaborated with companies including ProArteDanza and Adelheid, as well as performed in the Toronto Outdoor Art Fair and Fall for Dance North. Aerin has participated in the Conteur Summer Intensive, The Ballet Lab, The Fifth Summer Dance Intensive, Adelheid's TuneIn, ProArteDanza's SIP, and Arts Umbrella's ISD. Aerin holds a BFA from Toronto Metropolitan University. She is a recipient of the Orly Watkins Dance Award and was nominated for a Hnatyshyn Developing Artist Grant. Arun roots her practice and physical expression, cultural identity, and vulnerability.

**Malia Dela Cruz** is an emerging Filipino-Canadian dance artist based in Toronto, ON and Vancouver, BC. She cultivated her passion for the arts from a very early age, beginning her training at four years old. Malia is committed to continuously expanding her movement vocabulary, deepening her artistry, and fostering meaningful collaborations while continuing to grow as both an artist and performer. She has had the privilege of performing works by Lauren Cook, Bennett Richardson, Meisha Lee, and Melena Rounis. Malia is currently in her second year at Toronto Metropolitan University, where she is working towards a BFA in Performance: Dance.

**Madison Costa** is a Toronto-based contemporary dancer. She is currently in her third year at Toronto Metropolitan University's Performance Dance Program performing original works by Lucas Malkowski (2024), Sekou McMiller (2025), Louis Labèrge-Côte (2025), Bennett Richardson (2025) and Julia Cratchley (2026). Madison is an alumni at Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre (CCDT) touring company (2021-2023) performing original works by Jennifer Archibald, Colin Connor, Rodney Diverlus, and Olivier Coëffard. Madison also assists in rehearsal directing mounts at CCDT. She has been fortunate to perform in Bayview Ballet Showcase (2024), DACO (2025) and FFDN (2025).

**Sarah Dewdney** is an emerging dance artist, performer, and choreographer, based in Toronto, Ontario. Through a highly impressionistic approach, her practice as an artist aims to reflect the human experience, and embody vulnerability. Sarah has danced for choreographers such as Raoul Pillay, Pulga Muchochoma and most recently Kevin O'Day. She has trained in an array of styles, and graduated from Toronto Metropolitan University with a BFA in Performance Dance. Sarah has a passion for teaching and prioritizes dance history education alongside the artistic development for her students.

**Katelyn Elia** is a passionate dancer, teacher, and choreographer whose work is grounded in technical precision and emotional depth. Her movement practice explores the inner complexity of her lived experiences, using dance as a powerful form of expression and storytelling. Katelyn is a Performance: Dance student with extensive training across a wide range of genres, including Ballet, Jazz, Contemporary, Modern, Street Styles, and Afro-Cuban dance. She actively performs, choreographs, and collaborates with Toronto-based dancers in both studio and performance settings, and is deeply committed to teaching and mentoring young artists. She holds an Advanced 2 Standing in Cecchetti Ballet and will receive her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Performance: Dance from Toronto Metropolitan University.

**Hannah Gordon** is a Toronto based dance artist currently pursuing a BFA in Performance Dance at Toronto Metropolitan University. Hannah has performed works by Lucas Malkowski (2024,) Kevin O'Day (2025), and Julia Cratchley (2026). She performed at The Four Seasons Centre for DACO in 2025. Hannah is captivated by the physical capacity of the body and energetic expression and exchange to movement.

**Isabella Gerosa** is a Toronto based dancer, choreographer, and educator who sees movement as a powerful physical, spiritual, and musical expression. She has choreographed for the Young Creators Challenge (2019), International Women's Conference Gala (2024), Fever after dark (2025), the Starry Nights Arts Festival (2025), and the Arts Orillia Dance and Design Residency (2026). She has performed in DACO at the Four Seasons Centre (2025), and in Works by Pulga Muchochoma, Roberto Campanella, and Kevin O'Day. She is pursuing a BFA in Performance Dance at Toronto Metropolitan University. Isabella brings vibrancy and sensitivity to every creative endeavor.

**Cait Feanny** is a Caribbean-born contemporary dancer and choreographer living in Toronto. She is a third-year student at Toronto Metropolitan University's Performance Dance program, having performed work by Lukas Malkowski (2024), Kevin O'Day (2025), Bennett Richardson (2025), and most recently Julia Cratchley (2026). Cait is an alumni from the Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre (2022-2023), where she shared the stage in remounted works and new creations by Olivier Coëffard, Jennifer Archibald, Alyssa Martin, Hanna Kiel, and others. She has had the pleasure of assisting in remount processes through a rehearsal director position with CCDT. Cait is also the social media manager for Toronto's ProArteDanza

**Alexis Goossens** is a Canadian dance artist curious about pushing the boundaries between the physical body and the mind. Her practice is rooted in themes of collaboration and self-discovery. Alexis traverses between studio, stage, forest and everyday spaces to deepen her physical expression. Alexis seeks to fully embody each choreographic world, adapting, and offering herself as a vessel for the choreographer's vision. She has additionally trained at Arts Umbrella, Proarte Danza, and Ballets Jazz Montréal intensives. Alexis holds a BFA in Performance Dance from Toronto Metropolitan University as of spring 2026. Outside of dance, Alexis finds inspiration through simple acts of walking reading, writing and spending time with loved ones.

**Estella Haensel** is a Canadian dance artist approaching performance as both discovery and offering. Her practice pushes movement boundaries to reveal emotional underpinnings. Within the intense physicality of dance, Estella works with vulnerability and curiosity. She has trained with the Limon Dance Company, Arts Umbrella, MoveNYC, Decidedly Jazz Danceworks, ProArte Danza and Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre. Estella has acted as a vessel in works by Kevin O'Day, Jera Wolfe, Robert Glumbek, Roberto Campanella, Pulga Muchochoma, Jennifer Archibald and Alyssa Martin. She will graduate with a BFA in performance stands from Toronto Metropolitan university in the spring of 2026. Estella thrives in collaborative environments and is eager to share stories that resonate with communities beyond the stage.

**Denise Igama** is a Filipino Canadian movement artist and interpreter based in Toronto. Her practice is introspective and rooted in improvisation and collaboration. She works in relation with her peers in studio settings using experimentation and creative dialogue to expand her choreographic voice. Denise has worked under the guidance of Pulga Muchochoma, Raoul Pillay, and Sekou McMiller in partnership with Fall for Dance North. She has received further training from Decidedly Jazz Danceworks, ProArte Danza, and Adelheid's TuneIn intensive. Over the summer of 2025, she furthered her artistic development through work with *Frog in Hand*. Denise is a graduate of Toronto Metropolitan University's Performance Dance Program with a BFA as of 2026. Outside of her practice, Denise finds joy being with her loved ones and reading, expanding her artistic expression.

**Ainsley Inkpen** is a Toronto-based artist, performer, choreographer, and educator. She views dance as a vessel for expression, discovery, and connection, where profound insights into the human experience can emerge. She has performed works by Sekou McMiller, Pulga Muchochoma, Louis Laberge-Cote, and Raoul Pillay. On the stages of Fall for Dance North, Fever Afterdark, Toronto Fringe Festival, Next Stage Theatre Festival, and DaCo. Her choreography fosters creativity and introspection, featured in the Choreographic Works Student Showcase 2025, Women's Conference Gala 2024, and upcoming PRIMORDIA. She is currently pursuing a BFA in Performance Dance at Toronto Metropolitan University.

**Marisa Khoo** is an emerging Canadian dance artist based in Toronto. She is currently in her third year at Toronto Metropolitan University, pursuing a BFA in the Performance Dance program. Most recently, she performed with DACO as part of the Canadian Opera Company's free concert series and the Fall for Dance North Festival. During her time at Toronto Metropolitan university she has performed works by Sekou McMiller, Louis Laberge-Côté, Lukas Malkowski, Bennett Richardson and Julia Cratchley.

**Hannah Minor** Is a multidisciplinary dance artist based in Toronto. She is presently pursuing a passion for dance at Toronto Metropolitan University. Hannah is driven by performance, drawn to the energy on stage and the connection shared with an audience. She has performed works by Lucas Malkowski, Kevin O'Day, currently working with Dawson Lloyd / Impetus Movement and Julia Cratchley among others. She thrives in both rehearsal and performance environments that invite bold choices and creative risk, embracing uncertainty as a space for growth and discovery.

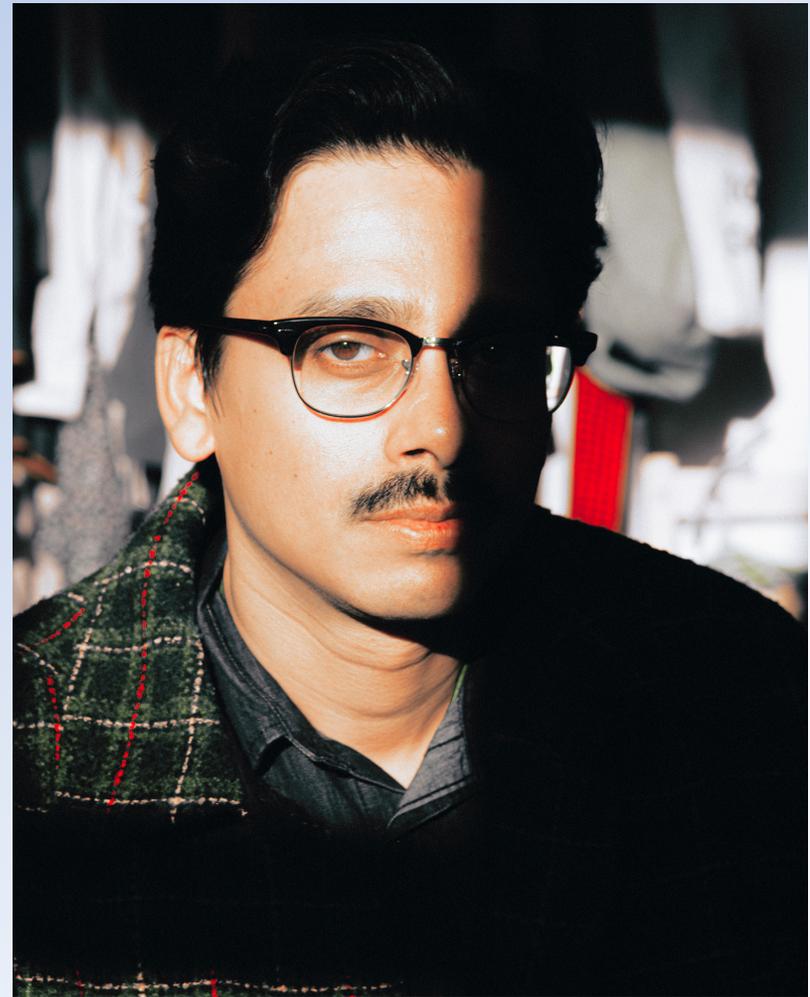
**Salma Victoria** is an emerging Hispanic Toronto-based dance artist with a strong vision and dedication to the performing arts. She has trained and collaborated with industry professionals, including Ermanno Sbezzo, Jera Wolfe, Alexandra Damiani, Robert Glumbeck, Johanna Bergfelt, and many more. Selma is the recipient of numerous scholarships and awards, notably, being named a Top 12 Senior Female Contemporary Soloist at the Youth American Grand Prix Toronto (2024). Her development has been further enriched through intensives with Ballets Jazz de Montréal, RUBBERBAND, and the National Ballet of Canada. Salma is currently pursuing a BFA in Performance Dance at Toronto Metropolitan University.

**Sage** is an emerging dance artist, choreographer, and teacher. She values the catharsis of physical movement, a soulful connection to music, and the communities fostered through social dance. Her practice spans multiple forms, including jazz, contemporary, street styles, West African, ballet, and modern. She has performed in contemporary work by Susie Burpee, Pulga Muchochoma, and Kevin O'Day, and in Toronto based pieces by Kylie Thompson, Jac Valiquette, Kennedy Elder, and Christopher Knowles. Sage holds a BFA from the Performance Dance Program at Toronto Metropolitan University.

# Smarginatura: Dissolving margins

Filmmaker / Visual Artist: Shako

Shako is a Toronto-based multidisciplinary artist whose practice moves between dance, film, photography and animation. He creates fragile, deliberately constructed worlds—reduced to a near childlike simplicity—where reality feels perpetually on the verge of collapse into magic. His work explores loneliness, love, and the quiet estrangement of urban life.

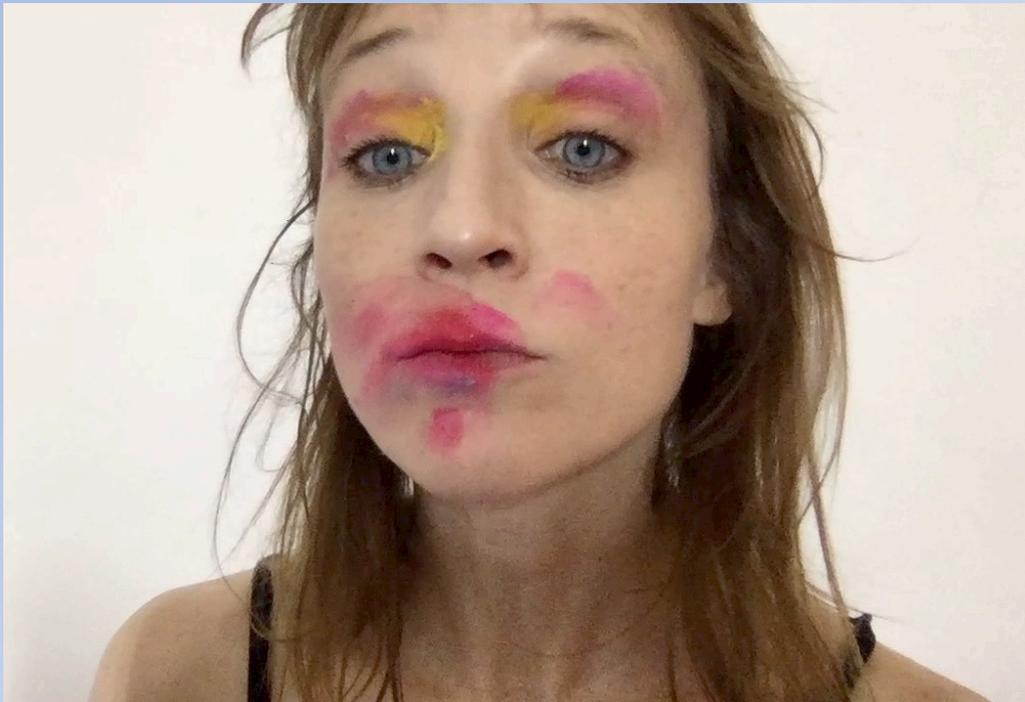


# A-SPACE

**Filmmaker:** Angela Blumberg

**Performers:** Angela Blumberg

**Content Warning:** The films contain nudity and sexual themes



A-SPACE was created during the pandemic. Between 2020 and 2022, I made 20 short films, all of them filmed at home with my iPhone, that now constitute A-SPACE. Many of the films are choreographed to famous pieces of classical music and explore visual-emotional narratives, subjectivism, sexual themes and my own responses to these musical offerings. Some of the films were later presented at film festivals: *Requiem for 2020*: Michigan's International Screen Dance Festival (2021); *Eternity*: CAPSULE by the National Arts Centre (2021); *The Lake*: World Dance Alliance Americas (2021).

## A-SPACE Films

Requiem for 2020

Eternity

The Firebird

The Lake

Mime

Diana

Anastasia

Mondestrunken

Sacrifice

L'Après-Midi

Art? Life?

Sommeil Noir

Psalms

Symbolism

Carmina Catulli

Gaze

Fugue

David, Diana and I

Portrait 2020

One more dance