

ALSO THIS SEASON:

# lucas is lonely

**APRIL 11 - 13, 2019 | 8PM**

THE RACHEL BROWNE THEATRE: 204 - 211 BANNATYNE AVE.

The World Premier of WCD's visiting Artist-in-Residence Munich based, Canadian choreographer Jasmine Ellis' full evening work will feature a cast of both Winnipeg dancers and international artists.

"Lucas is lonely" is a dance piece that explores the loneliest moments of life, narrated by a man, inside a dance performance, who isn't a dancer.



WCD

Winnipeg's  
Contemporary  
Dancers



# verge

**REMEMBERING RACHEL BROWNE**

**SIGNATURE WORKS CHOREOGRAPHED BY Rachel Browne**

**DIRECTED BY Stephanie Ballard**

**JANUARY 18<sup>TH</sup> - 20<sup>TH</sup>, 2019 - 8PM**

THE RACHEL BROWNE THEATRE | 204 - 211 Bannatyne Ave.

# VERGE

## REMEMBERING RACHEL BROWNE, C.M.

### The COMPANY

Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers is Canada's first and longest running contemporary dance company, now in it's 55th season. WCD enables vital intersections, linkages and exchange among dance creators, dance interpreters, spectators and communities. Our values, programs, and activities are based on the ongoing development of artists, our place in the community, and respect for our history.

### WCD STAFF

FOUNDING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: Rachel Browne, C.M., 1934-2012

ADMINISTRATOR: Iryna Kravchenko

PRODUCTION MANGER/TECHNICAL DIRECTOR: Colin Wiens

GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Rylee Cizik

VERGE HOUSE MANAGER: Rebecca Sawdon

VERGE STAGE MANAGER: Paige Lewis

### WCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIR: Randal Newman

Lisa Stiver

Andrew Yankiwski

Lindsay Stewart Glor

Angela Chalmers

ARTISTIC ADVISOR TO THE BOARD: Stephanie Ballard

### WCD FUNDERS

WCD gratefully acknowledges the support of the Canada Council for the Arts, Manitoba Arts Council, Winnipeg Arts Council and School of Contemporary Dancers, and the O'Neill Family Trust



O'NEILL FAMILY TRUST

### RACHEL BROWNE, C.M.

FOUNDER, WINNIPEG'S CONTEMPORARY DANCERS

1 9 3 4 - 2 0 1 2

Rachel founded Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers in 1964, Canada's first professional modern dance company. Rachel served as the company's Artistic Director, teacher and resident choreographer, for over 20 years. She was instrumental in the development of modern dance in Canada and by 1970 she had brought WCD to national recognition. During her tenure as Artistic Director, Rachel commissioned and performed works by well-known American choreographers as well as commissioning works from new Canadian choreographers.

Rachel resigned from WCD as the Artistic Director in 1983, but remained closely tied to the company for the remainder of her life, while setting works on other companies and dance artists throughout Canada. Focusing primarily on her choreographic development from the early 1980s onward, Rachel created a long series of challenging, episodic works. Rachel's final piece, Momentum, a trio for the School of Contemporary Dancers' graduating students, premiered in May 2012.

Rachel became a Member of the Order of Canada in 1997 in recognition of the significance of her leadership in establishing and developing modern dance across Canada. She was awarded the 1995 Jean A. Chalmers National Dance Award for Creativity in Dance, the 2000 Canada Council Jacqueline Lemieux Prize, and the 2001 Manitoba Arts Council Great-West Life Lifetime Achievement Award. In her honour, Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers renamed its performing venue The Rachel Browne Theatre in 2008. Rachel's biography, Dancing Toward the Light, by acclaimed dance artist and writer Carol Anderson, was published in 1999. The feature documentary, A Good Madness — The Dance of Rachel Browne by film maker Danielle Sturk was released in the Fall of 2014.

Rachel was inspiring as an artist and remained active as a choreographer, teacher and performer until her passing in 2012, dedicating her life to her art. Rachel made a profound contribution to dance in Canada and has left a prolific artistic legacy.

### STEPHANIE BALLARD

Stephanie Ballard is a critically acclaimed choreographer, personal coach and dance educator whose work has garnered the prestigious Clifford E. Lee Award, the Jean A. Chalmers Award and the Canada Council for the Arts Jacqueline Lemieux Prize.

She has been affiliated with Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers for forty five years. She has a Masters Degree in Therapeutic Counselling and is Artist in Residence / Archivist for the SCD Professional Contemporary Dancers Professional Program. She is Artistic Advisor for Peter Quanz and QDance and an active member of The Canadian Dance Alliance.

As Director of the Winnipeg Dance Preservation Initiative she plays an active role in advocating for Dance in Manitoba and throughout Canada. She would not have a career in dance had it not been for Rachel.

All of the dances presented this evening have been choreographed by Rachel Browne.

Special mention to Hugh Conacher whose artistic partnership with Rachel Browne was prolific. He is responsible for the Original Lighting Designs for the majority of her dances, including all of the dances you will see this evening. Due to limitations the adaptation tonight is by Stephanie Ballard.

# PROGRAM

## **OLD TIMES NOW** 1987

CONSULTANTS: D-Anne Kuby, Andrea Nann  
MUSIC: Old Time Blues  
ARRANGED AND PERFORMED BY: Almeta Speaks  
COSTUME DESIGN: Megan La Touche  
ADAPTED BY: Vivian's Tailors  
DANCER: Kathleen Hiley

## **TOWARD LIGHT** (Excerpt) 1995

REHEARSAL DIRECTOR: Odette Heyn  
CONSULTANT: Stephanie Ballard  
MUSIC: J.S. Bach  
COSTUME DESIGN: Wanda Farian  
DANCERS: Odette Heyn and Paula Blair,  
Kendra Coulter, Kendra Penner, Anna Protsiou, Ilse Torres-Orozco

## **CAMPING OUT** (Excerpt) 1985

CHOREOGRAPHY AND CONCEPT: Tedd Robinson  
CHOREOGRAPHIC CONTRIBUTION: Rachel Browne  
REHEARSAL DIRECTOR: Stephanie Ballard  
MUSIC: Franz Liszt  
DANCERS: Neilla Hawley and Shawn MacLaine  
Allison Brooks, Emma Dal Monte, Mark Dela Cruz, Julious Gambalan, Trevor Pick, Emily Solstice Tait

## **WILLOW ISLAND** 1997

REHEARSAL DIRECTORS: Odette Heyn, Stephanie Ballard  
CONSULTANT: Kristin Haight  
MUSIC: Simon Jeffes  
PERFORMED BY: The Penguin Cafe Orchestra  
COSTUME RECONSTRUCTION: Megan La Touche  
DANCERS: Kamryn Dyck, Melina Giesbrecht, Joell Jobin,  
Shayla Rudd, Kyra Taylor-Gagne, Sharazade Vahid, Fiona Witherell, Colleen Zander

## **KJ4** 1994

REHEARSAL DIRECTOR: Faye Thomson  
MUSIC: KEITH JARRETT: Improvisations  
COSTUME RECONSTRUCTION: Megan La Touche  
DANCERS: Allison Brooks,  
Emma Dal Monte, Mark Dela Cruz, Trevor Pick

## **FREDDY** 1991

REHEARSAL DIRECTOR: Faye Thomson  
CONSULTANT: Sharon Moore  
MUSIC: Traditional Berlin Text,  
Kurt Weill, Roger Fernay, Lion Feuchtwagner  
PERFORMED BY: Teresa Stratas  
COSTUME DESIGN AND DECOR: Randal Newman  
COSTUME RECONSTRUCTION: Megan La Touche  
DANCER: Robyn Thomson Kacki

## **SUNSTORM** (Excerpts) 2001

REHEARSAL DIRECTOR: Stephanie Ballard  
CONSULTANT: Kristin Haight  
MUSIC: Chopin Preludes; Pianist: Evgeny Kissin  
COSTUMES: Wanda Farian  
DANCERS: Kendra Coulter, Julious Gambalan,  
Neilla Hawley, Shawn MacLaine, Anna Protsiou, Emily Solstice Tait, Ilse Torres-Orozco

## **SPECIAL THANKS TO:**

Faye Thomson C.M. for her ongoing Artistic Direction and Administration of Verge. WCD and the School of Contemporary Dancers Professional Program continue in partnership to break new ground by providing a challenging and professional experience for our graduates, emerging artist and guest artist. Verge is an exceptional concept originated between Brent Lott (WCD) and Faye Thomson (SCD). Last year Verge took a leap forward with Ballard (WCD) and Faye Thomson (SCD) by introducing guest artist and new challenges for the dancers. This year's VERGE is unlike any other as we celebrate Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers 55th Anniversary! We are deeply indebted to Faye and her continued commitment to dance in our community and across Canada.

## **THANK YOU TO:**

Iryna Kravchenko, Odette Heyne C.M., Gaile Petursson-Hiley, Charleen Kulbaba (The Rachel Browne Memory Pamphlet), Dwight Chmilinsky, Colin Wiens, Kristin Haight and Megan La Touche.

## **RECOGNITION FOR CONTRIBUTIONS:**

Thank you Kathleen Hiley and Robyn Thomson Kacki for contributing your works by Rachel Browne to this evenings incredible event.

## VERGE ARTISTS

### ALLISON BROOKS

2017 graduate of the Professional Program of SCD. Professional Projects: Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers, Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers VERGE, Sinha Danse for the NAfro Dance Festival, Odette Heyn - Projects / Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Stephanie Ballard and Dancers, SOS Dance (Victoria), Stand Up Dance (Vancouver / St. Johns).

### KENDRA COULTER

Upcoming 2019 graduate of the Professional Program of SCD. Professional Projects: Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers VERGE, Paula Blair Project, Odette Heyn - Projects / Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Stephanie Ballard and Dancers.

### EMMA DAL MONTE

2018 graduate of the Professional Program of SCD. Professional Projects: Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers VERGE, Sinha Danse for the NAfro Dance Festival, Odette Heyn - Projects / Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Stephanie Ballard and Dancers, Mascall Dance (Vancouver), Sinha Danse (Montréal), Le fils d'Adrien danse (Quebec City), @tendance / C. Medina (Vienna, Austria).

### MARK DELA CRUZ

2018 graduate of the Professional Program of SCD. Professional Projects: Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers, Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers VERGE, Sinha Danse for the NAfro Dance Festival, Stephanie Ballard and Dancers, Dancers Studio West (Calgary), Sinha Danse (Montréal), Le fils d'Adrien danse (Quebec City), @tendance / C. Medina (Vienna, Austria).

### JULIOUS GAMBALAN

Upcoming graduate of the Professional Program of SCD. Professional Projects: Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers VERGE, Mouvement Winnipeg Dance Projects, Sinha Danse for the NAfro Dance Festival, Odette Heyn - Projects / Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Stephanie Ballard and Dancers.

### NEILLA HAWLEY

2018 graduate of the Professional Program of SCD. Professional Projects: Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers VERGE, Gearshifting Performance Works, Sinha Danse for the NAfro Dance Festival, Odette Heyn - Projects / Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Stephanie Ballard and Dancers, Le fils d'Adrien danse (Quebec City).

### SHAWN MACLAINE

2017 graduate of the Professional Program of SCD. Professional Projects: Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers VERGE, Gearshifting Performance Works, Mouvement Winnipeg Dance Projects for the NAfro Dance Festival, Odette Heyn - Projects / Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Stephanie Ballard and Dancers, Stand Up Dance (Toronto).

### KENDRA PENNER

2016 graduate of the Professional Program of SCD. Professional Projects: Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers VERGE, Odette Heyn - Projects / Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Stephanie Ballard and Dancers, Odette Heyn - Projects / Indian City: Canada Day Parliament Hill (Ottawa), SOS Dance (Victoria), Dandi Productions with the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, the Malaysia Philharmonic Orchestra and the Singapore Symphony Orchestra.

### TREVOR PICK

2017 graduate of the Professional Program of SCD. Professional Projects: Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers VERGE, Ming Hon Project, Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers for the NAfro Dance Festival, Stephanie Ballard and Dancers, The Creative Gesture Dance Residency at The Banff Centre for the Arts, Mascall Dance (Vancouver).

### ANNA PROTSIOU

2018 graduate of the Professional Program of SCD. Professional Projects: Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers VERGE, Odette Heyn - Projects / Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Stephanie Ballard and Dancers, Le fils d'Adrien danse (Quebec City), Artists Pool for The Seven Fingers Company (Montréal).

### EMILY SOLSTICE TAIT

Upcoming 2019 graduate of the Professional Program of SCD. Professional Projects: Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers VERGE, Paula Blair Project, Odette Heyn - Projects / Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Stephanie Ballard and Dancers, Odette Heyn - Projects / Indian City: Canada Day Parliament Hill (Ottawa), New Dance Horizons (Regina), Theatre New Brunswick / Confederation Centre for the Arts (cross Canada tour).

### ILSE TORRES OROZCO

2017 graduate of the Professional Program of SCD. Professional Projects: Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers VERGE, Gearshifting Performance Works, Sinha Danse for the NAfro Dance Festival, Odette Heyn - Projects / Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Stephanie Ballard and Dancers, Colectivo 1.618 (Leon, Mexico).

## GUEST ARTISTS

### PAULA BLAIR

Under the direction of Casimiro Nhussi, Paula has been dancing with NAfro Dance Productions since the company's inception. Paula has had the privilege of working with numerous Canadian choreographers spanning a rich performance career. She has worked with Rachel Browne, Stephanie Ballard, Odette Heyn, Gaile Petursson-Hiley, Constance Cooke, Brent Lott, Christina Medina and Sharon Moore just to name a few. Paula's projects are numerous as she teaches, advises, serves on arts boards, choreographs, produces and performs. She continues her long-time association with The School of Contemporary Dancers and is on faculty for their Professional Programs. Paula gratefully received the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Award for her contribution to contemporary dance.

### ODETTE HEYN, C.M.

Odette Heyn is Co-founder and Co-director of The School of Contemporary Dancers Professional Program. She is Artistic Director for Odette Heyn - Projects whose ongoing work with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra has provided exciting work for graduates, emerging and established artist within our community. Over the years Odette has danced in numerous works created by Rachel Browne and they formed a unique dancing partnership. She is overwhelmed and honoured to be dancing an excerpt from *Toward Light*. Odette was appointed as a Member of the Order of Canada for her contributions to contemporary dance.

### KATHLEEN HILEY

Winnipeg Dance Artist, Kathleen Hiley has performed solo works by Rachel Browne, Stephanie Ballard, Jeanne Bresciani, Isadora Duncan, Margie Gillis, Gaile Petursson-Hiley and Peter Quanz. Her performances have been presented across Europe, Canada and New York. Kathleen's upcoming projects include work with Patricia Beatty, Q Dance, the Isadora Duncan International Institute, and Toronto Heritage Dance. Kathleen graduated from the School of Contemporary Dancers Professional Program in affiliation with the University of Winnipeg with a BA Honours in Dance and received the Gold Medal in Theatre and Film. She is an Artistic Coordinator of the General Program of SCD and works within the Junior and Senior Professional Programs.

### ROBYN THOMSON KACKI

Since graduating from the Professional Program of the School of Contemporary Dancers, Robyn Thomson Kacki has worked with Stephanie Ballard, Paula Blair, Susie Burpee, Odette Heyn, C.M., Gaile Petursson-Hiley, Tedd Robinson, and @tendance / C. Medina (Austria). She is a company member with NAfro Dance Productions under the Artistic Direction of Casimiro Nhussi. She recently performed *Freddy in the Stream of Dance Festival* in Regina and, alongside Susie Burpee, Tedd Robinson's *Cotton Handkerchiefs and Dog's Tears* in both the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Guelph Dance Festival and *Fall For Dance North's Open Studio* in Union Station, Toronto. She is an Artistic Coordinator of the General Program of SCD and works within the Junior and Senior Professional Programs.

## STUDENT GUESTS

### THE WILLOW ISLAND CAST

The School of Contemporary Dancers is delighted to collaborate for Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers VERGE: *Remembering Rachel Browne*. Rachel's signature work, 'Willow Island', will be performed by members of the Third Year of the Professional Program of SCD.

## ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR / MENTORSHIP

### ALEXANDRA WINTERS

Born and raised in Winnipeg, Alexandra Winters is a mixed-race independent dance artist, teacher and creator. She has worked professionally with @tendance / C. Medina (Austria), Stephanie Ballard and Dancers, company Constance Cooke (Victoria), Gearshifting Performance Works, ENTITEY / Jason Martin, Janelle Hacault and Kayla Jeanson through the Young Lungs Dance Exchange Research Series, and Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers under the artistic direction of Brent Lott. Alex is a 2015 graduate of the School of Contemporary Dancers Professional Program.