



YOUNG LUNGS DANCE EXCHANGE


20TH ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL

JUNE 26-29, 2025
SATURDAY, JUNE 28





Deanna Peters, Sevrin Emnacen, and Luciana D'Anunção,
'not knot naught' by Peters, 2025. Photo Sophia Wolfe



Young Lungs Dance Exchange recognizes our responsibility in reconciliation. We acknowledge that this sacred land that we are dancing on has been the site of dance for more than 15,000 years. We give thanks to the caretakers of this territory: the Anishinabek, Inninewak, Anishininew, Dakota, Red River Métis, and Dene Peoples.

We honour Treaty number 1 and our responsibility to peaceably share and care for the resources found here in the prairies.

Today, the place we now call Winnipeg is still home to many First Nations, Inuit and Red River Métispeoples from across Turtle Island.

We are grateful for the teachings of Indigenous peoples, colleagues, Elders, and peers, sharing traditional and contemporary Indigenous knowledge.

We are grateful for the ability to dance and celebrate, and for creative freedom on this land. We acknowledge ourselves as visitors living, working and dancing in this territory.

Message from the Artistic Director:

I am a choreographer today because of Young Lungs Dance Exchange. Twenty years ago this organization created a platform for dance makers like myself to create new work with peers, as well as foster an open and encouraging environment for collaboration with all art makers. I was thrilled at the opportunity to step into this position a year ago and offer back the abundance I have received.

Editing the book we created as part of our 20th Anniversary reminded me of the ground breaking work we were making and the conventions we were defying. Whenever I felt discouraged, my forever-mentor Tedd Robinson would remind me to focus on the work of collectives and organizations like Young Lungs Dance Exchange.

I am one player in a pool of many who have made this massive feat a reality. Former Director Zorya Arrow was given the task of planning our 20th Anniversary season two years ago. She selected 20 artists, myself being one. When I became Director in 2023, it was an obvious curatorial choice for me, to trade places with Zorya. To offer her the place of artist, dance maker, performer. As an artist-driven organization we dance around each other and share the layers of administrative and artistic periods.

As you dance through this festival I hope you feel a glimmer of how it all started, and a shaft of light from where it's going. Here's to 20 more years of artistic exchange.

With love and gratitude,



Alex Elliott

Executive Director and Festival
Artistic Director
Young Lungs Dance Exchange

Thank you to our funders, sponsors, and partners.



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A note from the Programming Curators:

The festival offers a chance to witness an impressive 20 year retrospective of living contemporary dance here in this place. The range of work, the calibre of art and the joy of risk through seasons goes to show how important and necessary this dance exchange has been to artists of all disciplines, and audiences alike.

As curators we approached this invitation to organize the exchange of dance that would happen on each of the 4 days of the festival with the following considerations:

Practical needs

Moods and themes

Links from one piece to the other

And

Variety on each day

The breath of fresh air that Young Lungs so joyously invited into the room by opening the window here on Treaty 1 has been life giving, and industry changing. We hope you breathe in what the festival has to offer, and enjoy the exchange that happens back and forth, in and out.





Aria Evans

Each program is its own constellation, with artists in conversation through movement, style, and energy - distinct voices orbiting a common centre. Connections started to emerge - shared themes, common threads in how artists were thinking and moving, while also uplifting the varied approaches to making..->



Luther Konadu

There's a wealth of variety in this celebratory showcase which made the work of curating rather galvanizing. I wanted to pass some of that eclectic and inspiring experience to audiences across each day of the festival. In this way, the public comes away discovering and learning something new upon every visit..->



Charlene van Buekenhout

Connections shining through for me were those of bodies and vessels engaging with varying spaces, textures, and lifecycles from the tactility of earth, to the atmosphere of imagination and how these meet, merge, and move together. I saw the journey through experience and beyond, with artists investigating the movement of life, death, and spirit through these cycles..->

Show Order: Saturday June 28 @ 7PM

D-Anne Kuby

Ali Robson

PRINCESS DASHA

INTERMISSION

Johanna Riley

Deanna Peters

Jennifer Essex

D-ANNE KUBY



D-Anne Kuby is of Slavic and Anglo Saxon descent. She has been working in dance since the late 70's. Performer, teacher, choreographer, rehearsal director, producer/administrator. In the mid 90's she took a step away from performing to study film at Simon Fraser University. She quickly became much sought after for video work in the Vancouver dance community. In 2005 D-Anne felt the pull of the prairies and headed to Regina as manager of New Dance Horizons. Full time admin led to burn out. In 2008 she moved back to Winnipeg. To rest. She slowly reconnected with performance working with artists including, but not limited to Doug Melnyk, Maggie Nagle, Ian Mozazen and Zorya Arrow.

YLDE has been instrumental in fanning the flame of her passion for movement. D-Anne combines her movement practice with "just sitting" as they both pull her into her body, the root of her existence.

D-ANNE KUBY

"last days" is a durational work happening in the Gallery throughout the festival.

Thursday, Friday, Saturday 6:15pm - 10:00pm

Sunday 1:15pm - 5:00pm

Viewers are encouraged to watch for as little or as long as they like, and to feel free to chat with each other the way they might while looking at a painting, sculpture, or installation.

Concept/choreography: D-Anne Kuby

Creative consultant/assistant: Zorya Arrow

Performers: D-Anne Kuby and Zorya Arrow

Sound Design: Erin Buelow

Huge thanks to YLDE. And to the myriad individuals, both living and dead, who inhabit this work.

"last days" was developed with the financial assistance of the Manitoba Arts Council.

ALI ROBSON



Ali Robson is a dance artist, parent and community worker who is curious about collaborating across disciplines, making art in different communities and creating work with and for people of all ages. She has worked as a dancer, teacher, choreographer, rehearsal director, movement coach and collaborator since 2004. Ali has performed with companies such as, EDAM Dance, TRIP dance company, and Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers. Ali is a collective member of Weather Parade Dance Theatre with Natasha Torres-Garner, and together they produce intergenerational performances in public and artistic spaces. Ali has instructed movement courses at the University of Winnipeg and has taught creative movement and improvisation classes for children and adults throughout Winnipeg and across Canada. She is currently working at North End Women's Centre and studying Acupuncture.

ALI ROBSON

Take On Me

"Take on me. Take me on. I'll be gone. In a day or two" (A-ha)

Solo movement. A capella vocals. An invitation to sing along.

John Hirst Anderson - Vocalist

Ali Robson - Dancer

For Karen, who taught me how to find stillness.

PRINCESS DASHA



PRINCESS DASHA is the performance/sound/video project of Winnipeg-based artist Dasha Plett. Informed by practices of psychoanalysis, plunderphonics, and the New Narrative movement, PRINCESS DASHA's work has been shown at Cluster Festival, Nuit Blanche, YLDE, Art Holm, WNDX Festival, and sendtreceive.

Dasha Plett is also an award-winning composer and sound designer, sculpting the sonic worlds of theatre, dance, and film work for Buddies in Bad Times, Stratford Festival, RMTTC, PTE, Cercle Molière, TPM, Mammalian Diving Reflex, Frances Koncan, Waawaate Fobister, Debbie Patterson, Stephanie Sy, and Alexandra Elliott. Dasha is also one half of We Quit Theatre, a nationally acclaimed performance collective with Gislina Patterson. She is a proud member of IATSE local ADC659. Visit the princess online at www.princessdasha.com.

PRINCESS DASHA

Created and performed by Dasha Plett. Dramaturged and directed by Gislina Patterson.

Special thanks to Jack Maier, Colby Richardson, Jaimz Asmundson, Tim and Corinne

FINAL DESTINATION GIRL

true crime documentary about demonic warfare, sending emails to your childhood art teacher, and Final Destination 2.



PRINCESS DASHA, 'FINAL DESTINATION GIRL', 2025. Photo Gislina Patterson

JOHANNA RILEY



Johanna Riley is a co-founder and former board member of Young Lungs Dance Exchange, and has been a dance artist for over 20 years. She was a company member with Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers for twelve seasons, as well as performing with other independent dance, theatre, and multidisciplinary artists from Winnipeg, across Canada, and beyond. She has choreographed over a dozen original dance works, which have been presented and toured by Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers and Young Lungs Dance Exchange. Riley was also a faculty member with the Professional Program of the School of Contemporary Dancers for most of her career, teaching dance technique, improvisation, performance, and composition. In 2018 she returned to school herself, completing an education degree at the University of Winnipeg in 2022. She is currently engaged in the highly demanding and immensely creative job of middle school classroom teacher in the Seven Oaks School Division in Winnipeg.

JOHANNA RILEY

Falling Flight

Choreographed and performed by Johanna Riley

Music: The Cellist of Sarajevo

Composer: David Wilde

Performer: Yoyo Ma

I made *Falling Flight* and first presented it as part of *No Idling 2006*, an annual showcase of new work which Young Lungs Dance Exchange presented for many years. This was one of the first dances I made as a young choreographer and it feels appropriate to be revisiting it, as it is now almost 20 years old, and would not exist without the support I received from Young Lungs.

For me, the dance is about solitude, and is an attempt to process the feeling of being alone, for good and for bad. Part of my inspiration were the bald eagles I would watch when spending time at my parents' cabin near Kenora. Another motivation I had was to try to create a close relationship between the dance and the music that went beyond music.

DEANNA PETERS



Originally from Treaty 6 Territory (Saskatoon) and based on unceded Coast Salish Territories (Vancouver), Deanna Peters/Mutable Subject is a dance artist and designer who creates, performs and DY produces for the stage, club, gallery, web and print. Deanna uses the name 'Mutable Subject' because they're always moving and evolving in their 22 year career. As a creator of "eye-popping" and "deeply moving" dance works, Deanna's known for pushing the boundaries of the form. As well as performing in their own choreography, Deanna's been engaged as a dancer in every year of their career, most recently with Jeanette Kotowich and Helen Walkley. Diverse training projects keep Mutable nimble in body and mind and currently D's being mentored in house dance by Sekou Heru (NYC). They're co-founder of aka collective and Co-Director of the Vancouver International Dance Festival. It's all dance: mutablesubject.ca

DEANNA PETERS

not knot naught

We are a three in a four world. A triangle in a square.

created and performed by Deanna Peters/Mutable Subject
in collaboration with performers Sevrin Emnacen, Luciana
D'Anunciação outside eye Helen Walkley supported by Odd
Meridian Arts, The Dance Centre, City of Vancouver, aka
collective, Young Lungs Dance Exchange

collaborator bios:

Sevrin "Sevi" is a half-filipino b-boy and experimental street dancer. Seeking to emulate the wild creativity emerging from the growing Vancouver street dance scene, Sevi's style has become attuned to musical details and bizarre movements uncommonly explored in breaking. Sevi has a degree in philosophy, hoping to construct bridges between street dance and the oeuvre of 20th century continental philosophy: lucianaf.com

Luciana's a Brazilian artist, living and working between Canada and Brazil since 2007. She holds an MFA in Interdisciplinary Studies from Simon Fraser University and has training in dance improvisation, contact improvisation, somatic dance practices, Butoh, physical theatre and clown. Luciana considers the creative reciprocity that exists in an encounter. By doing so, she's politically acknowledging the wholeness of the body in art making and community building.

JENNIFER ESSEX



Jennifer Essex is a Canadian contemporary dance choreographer, dancer and aerialist. She has developed projects including a stop-motion film for French fashion house Hermes, an interactive video with the award-winning team from Studio Murmur, and a "choreophonic prosthetic" with acclaimed artist and filmmaker Di Mainstone. In 2024 Jennifer was the Artistic Director for HOME, a mass participation project that engaged over 3,000 community participants from across Middlesbrough. Her work has been recognized by support from the Canada Council for the Arts and Arts Council England. She lives in County Durham.

JENNIFER ESSEX

Choreography/concept: Jennifer Essex

Performers: Sontje Bohn, Anaïs Bossé, Debbie Patterson, Emma Petit, Odéah Roy, Treasure Waddell

Composer: Portia Graves

Costumes: Emily Rose Spreadborough

REPLICAS uses text and email messages from couples at various stages in their relationships as inspiration for dance duets. The audience receives the raw text messages, videos and photos from which the work was originally conceived, creating a complex relationship between digital and live presences.

REPLICAS examines questions at the forefront of our culture: How is communication changing in the digital age? What can be lost/gained by our new intimacy with technology? How is our attention being stretched by this new information-rich environment? What is the current role of physical presence?

REPLICAS gratefully acknowledges the support of Arts Council England, Stockton International Riverside Festival, Dance City, Pavilion Dance Southwest, The School of Contemporary Dancers, and Young Lungs Dance Exchange. It was originally performed at Stockton International Riverside Festival and Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art in 2016.

Young Lungs Dance Exchange 20th Anniversary Festival

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Luther Konadu

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Acknowledgements:

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'REPLICAS' by Jennifer Essex. Photo Phil Hill

YOUNGLUNGS.CA

Lise McMillan and Jaime Black-Morsette in research by Black-Morsette, 2017. Photo by Leif Norman

