

Dreamwalker Dance Company presents  
a co-production with Citadel + Compagnie

# FIREHORSE & SHADOW



**June 5, 6, 7 at 8pm**

**June 7 at 4:30pm**

**June 8 at 2pm**

**The Citadel: Ross Centre for Dance**  
304 Parliament Street, Toronto

**Produced with the generous support of**  
**Sandra & Jim Pitblado**

Cover Poster design by Camille Rojas

# Firehorse and Shadow

Tkarón:to Premiere  
a co-production with Citadel + Compagnie!

**June 5 - 8, 2025**

Mimi Herrndorf Studio Theatre  
The Citadel: Ross Centre for Dance  
304 Parliament Street, Toronto

Choreographer / Writer / Performer - Andrea Nann  
Shadow Artist / Performer - Annie Katsura Rollins  
Director / Creative Contributor - Sarah Chase  
Dramaturg - Cindy Mochizuki  
Outside Eye - Michelle Silagy  
Creative producer, Outside Eye - Kelsi James  
Sound Design & Composition - Ben Grossman  
Lighting Designer - Echo Zhou (after Jennifer Lennon)  
Video Animations - Elysha Poirier  
Director of Video Content/Editor - Henry Mak  
Director of Photography - Eric Chan  
Production Manager - A.J. Morra  
Outreach Manager - Lauren Runions  
Stage Manager - Taylor Zalik-Young  
Technical Director - Eli Stefura  
Sound Consultant - Adam Achacon  
Box Office Support - Jen Hum

Performance time is approximately 50 minutes

The creation of this work was generously supported by the Dance Artist in Residence program at Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity and by National Ballet of Canada's Creative Action Open Space program. Firehorse and Shadow was originally commissioned by CanAsian Dance for its 2020 KickStart program. The premiere live performance of Firehorse and Shadow was co-produced by plastic orchid factory May 4-6 2023 at Left of Main in Vancouver's Historic Chinatown.

\*Beverly Nann's interview footage is extracted from 'Saltwater City' (1986)  
Director/Producer: Douglas Nicolle, Associate Producer: Carol Ann Lee, Writer: Paddy McCallum, Host: Ramona Ma.

A Spectra Communications production in association with CBC.

Firehorse and Shadow is a performance work situated in Vancouver's Historic Chinatown. It exists as a set of stories combining elements of contemporary dance, shadow puppetry, animation, film, and theatre. The stories belong to choreographer Andrea Nann whose great-grandmother Mew Lee was 'sold' by her family in China and sent to Vancouver as a servant girl in early 1900. Mew gave birth to Nann's grandmother Lin in Vancouver's Shanghai Alley in 1912. Although Lin never left Vancouver she was forced to identify as a Chinese citizen when she married a Chinese man. Nann's mother Bev was born during Canada's Chinese Exclusion Act. She was taught to value assimilation during times of extreme anti-Chinese attitudes.

Firehorse and Shadow brings forward embodied, felt and often untold stories focusing on but not limited to the lived experiences of Chinese Canadian women. In this work intangible experiences are given form through Nann's embodied familial histories process that has been developed in collaboration with core collaborators: director/dance-storyteller Sarah Chase; dramaturge/visual artist Cindy Mochizuki; and shadow artist/performer Annie Katsura Rollins. The work explores memory, sensation, perception, personal histories, relationships, cosmology, Chinese medicine, food, and fate.

The work can also be experienced online at [www.firehorseandshadow.com](http://www.firehorseandshadow.com).

Thank you to Sandra and Jim Pitblado, designer Cheryl Lalonde, Maurisa and Sue, Jen Hum, Kwoi Gin, partners Citadel + Compagnie, Laurence Lemieux, Marianna Rosato, Sierra Chin Sawdy, Rachana Joshi, Judy Luo, Beverly Nann, Andy Maize, Owen Maize, Adina Herling, Laura Cournoyea, CanAsian Dance, Acces Asie, Curtis Whittaker, Simon Rossiter, Danielle Denichaud and to Brendan Wyatt and Sahara Morimoto for sharing and inspiring joy and playfulness during our early creation process.

The Citadel is home to Citadel + Compagnie: Laurence Lemieux, Artistic Director.

At Dreamwalker it is our intent that everyone feels invited, wanted, and welcomed to participate in our events and activities. We continue to do the work to listen, learn, unlearn, and relearn in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action, in response to the Black Lives Matter Movement, and in recognition of all past and present atrocities, persecution and mistreatment of people based on their ethnicity, culture, place of origin, race, ancestry, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical appearance, and/or dis/ability. We stand in solidarity with all who are facing or have faced persecution or discrimination, and are working to create a supportive, safe and equitable world.

We are honoured to live, work and create in Toronto/Tkarón:to, on Dish With One Spoon Indigenous Territory and acknowledge the Land as Traditional Territory of many Nations including the Haudenosaunee, the Anishnabeg, the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Chippewa, and the Wendat Peoples.



# ARTIST BIOS



## Andrea Nann

Fire Horse Andrea dances to reach across distance and to experience herself and others in celebration of possibility, plurality, imagination, originality, and belonging. She is a contemporary dance artist, deep listener, founding artist of Dreamwalker Dance Company, and founder/co-creator of Conscious Bodies, an embodied community practice. Andrea is a graduate of York University's Department of Fine Arts and has contributed to the creation of new works by over 70 dance and theatre creators from across Turtle Island. She has been

recognized for outstanding choreography, performance, contributions to the performing arts sector and for her work in community actioning. For Andrea, dance and embodiment shifts attitudes and ways of being, tuning us into what makes each of us distinct, to what we share, and ultimately how we can live together in wonderment and peace.



## Annie Katsura Rollins

Metal Monkey Annie is a Chinese/Japanese/English/Irish theatre maker, arts researcher and community artist. She incorporates ethnographic research and apprenticeship into her work, with particular interest in traditional puppet forms in Asia and their intersection with ritual practice and community building. She was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to canvas Mainland China for the last remaining shadow puppet artists in 2011 and named valedictorian in 2019 for her PhD on the possibilities of preserving intangible performative culture at

Concordia University. Annie lives in Toronto and co-curates at Concrete Cabaret, an experimental performing object collective, and is a community arts manager at MABELLE Arts. She is a metal monkey who partnered with a fire snake, and together they are raising a fire monkey and a metal ox - her family is her favorite menagerie. [anniekatsurarollins.com](http://anniekatsurarollins.com).



## Sarah Chase

Fire Horse Sarah has performed her dancestory work across Canada and Europe. She also toured with both Benôit Lachambre's Dance par B. Lieux, and with German choreographer Raimund Hoghe. Her many works created for Canadian artists include Toronto Dance Theatre, Peggy Baker, Andrea Nann, Theatre Replacement, AntonijaLivingstone, Montreal Danse, and Marc Boivin. She is the recipient of the Jacqueline Lemieux Award for Excellence from the Canada Council for the Arts, and received the Prize of the Festival at

the Munich Dance Biennale. The solos she created for both Peggy Baker, and Andrea Nann won Doras. She is an associate dance artist of the Canadian National Arts Centre. Sarah loves waking up to the chorus of frogs under the stars, the dawn chorus of birds in the spring, and the several generations of deer she has come to know while living on Hornby Island.





### **Cindy Mochizuki**

Fire Dragon Cindy Mochizuki creates multi-media installation, audio fiction, performance, animation, drawings, public artworks and community-engaged projects. She has exhibited, performed and screened her work in Canada, US, Australia, and Japan. Recent exhibitions include the Art Gallery at Evergreen, Kamloops Art Gallery, Prince Takamado Gallery at the Canadian Embassy in Tokyo, Japan, Nanaimo Art Gallery, Agnes Etherington Art Centre, Vancouver Art Gallery, Frye Art Museum, and Yonago City Museum. She received the

Vancouver Mayor's Arts Award in New Media and Film (2015) and the Jack and Doris Shadbolt Foundation for the Visual Arts VIVA Award (2020). She has worked for theatre and dance companies in scenography, animation design and dramaturgy including Theatre Replacement, Rumble Theatre, Little Onion Puppet Company, Lisa Mariko Gelley, Theatre Calgary and Arts Club Theatre. Cindy is grateful to part of the 4 Directions and to see Fire Horse & Shadow in this iteration. Things that inspire her are stories, fortunes, forest walks and culinary experiments. [www.cindymochizuki.com](http://www.cindymochizuki.com)



### **A.J. Morra**

Based in Toronto, Water Pig A.J. is a graduate of the Technical Theatre Program at Toronto Metropolitan University, and has enjoyed an active career as a Technical Director, Production Manager, and Stage Manager for contemporary dance, opera, circus, and theatre. Selected credits include three seasons with Toronto Dance Theatre, 9 seasons with Festival of Dance Annapolis Royal, and assorted projects with ProArte Danza, Groundling Theatre Company, Holla Jazz, Zero Gravity Circus, Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre, Soundstreams, and Signal Theatre. A.J. has been working with Dreamwalker Dance Company since 2016.



### **Ben Grossman**

Notorious Water Rat Ben Grossman is a busy musician and sound artist: improviser, studio musician, composer, and noisemaker. He works in many fields, having played on over 100 CDs, soundtracks for film and television, composition and sound design for theatre, dance, installations, work designed for radio transmission, and live performances spanning early medieval music to experimental electronics. Ben's tools of choice are electronics, percussion, and especially, the *vielle à roue* (hurdy-gurdy), a contemporary electro-acoustic string

instrument with roots in the European middle ages. Through extended techniques, and sometimes electronic processing, Ben seeks to use it as a physical interface into sound creation, spontaneous composition and the exploration of acoustics, form and extended aesthetics. [www.macrophone.org](http://www.macrophone.org)



### **Echo Zhou**

Water Rooster Echo is an award-winning, proud Chinese immigrant and Tkaronto-based scenographer. She has designed for numerous art organizations nationwide, including the National Art Centre, Stratford Festival, Tapestry Opera, Tarragon Theatre, Buddies in Bad Times, Theatre Passe Muraille, Thousand Islands Playhouse, and various live performance festivals. Her designs have been presented in Japan and China. Recent credits are Benevolence (Tarragon Theatre), Comfort Food (Crow's Theatre), Blind;

Passe Muraille); Cymbeline (Stratford ); Rocking Horse Winner (Tapestry Opera); A Poem for Rabia (Tarragon Theatre); The Chinese Lady (Studio 180); Between a Wok and a Hotpot (Cahoots Theatre); The Year of the Cello (Theatre Passe Muraille); HMS Pinafore (Vancouver Opera); Every Brilliant Thing (Thousand Island Playhouse); White Girls in Moccasins (Manidoons Collective); Mr. Shi and His Lover (Music Picnic). Echo is a member of ADC. For Grandpa, 獻給敬愛的爹爹. [echozhoudesign.com](http://echozhoudesign.com)



### **Michelle Silagy**

Wood Sheep Michelle's dance work has been presented in Amsterdam, NY, and Canada including above the Arctic Circle and The Gardiner Museum, where she presented ReTrace, an intergenerational, multi-ability event. Silagy's Inclusion Practice encompasses DanceAbility International Training with founder Alito Alessi for over 12 years in Vienna, Mexico City, and Uruguay. She continually shares innovative practices as informed by her directorship of The Young Dancers' Program at the School of Toronto Dance Theatre (1990-2022). Recent work

includes coordinating Moonhorse Dance Theatre's Dance Encounter Series, Inclusion Advising with Wild Soma, Outside eye processes for Carol Anderson and Movement coaching for Xi Wang. Silagy works extensively with Andrea Nann and Dreamwalker sharing practices, which through artistic exchange, bring together Communities, Indigenous Teachings, and Artists. Silagy is developing The Reverie Duets, celebrating difference.



### **Kelsi James**

Earth Tiger Kelsi James (they/she) is a white queer and asexual theatre creator, producer and performer, who works most often from the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh, and from Tkarón:to. Kelsi has a degree in Musical Theatre from Sheridan and a certificate in ASL & Deaf Studies from VCC. Kelsi has composed for Driftwood Theatre (King Henry V) and Theatre Rusticle (The Tempest), and has been a Creative Producer for Dreamwalker since 2021. She is the founding creative producer of Art For Ace Week, and has

developed queer centred work through programs at the Paprika Festival, Arts Club, Rumble, Tarragon, Sound Off, and the frank. The questions that compel Kelsi as a creator are: how do I blend theatre with community gathering? How do I build accessibility into the bones of my work? How do I honour the queer ancestors, and how can I empower the next gen queers?





### **Laura Runions**

Earth Snake Lauren Runions is a dance artist, choreographer and facilitator based in Tkarón:to and Kijipuktuk. For Lauren dancing involves moving-thinking, writing, choreographic objects, community labs, performances and daily independent practice. Their work investigates the role of social choreography as a reciprocal spatial practice. With deliberate movement experiments and staged interactions they begin to expand this notion through score-reading and -writing. Lauren has choreographed performances for MOCA, Nuit Blanche,

Nocturne and Radiant Rural Halls. More recently, they have worked as a dancer with Susannah Haight, SLOW DANCE LAB/Sally Morgan, Christopher Willes & Adam Kinner, and Mocean Dance/Jacinte Armstrong. [www.laurenrunions.com](http://www.laurenrunions.com)



### **Taylor Zalik-Young**

Fire Ox Taylor is a Toronto-based Stage Manager and Production 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 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; Co-Production Manager, Hypothetical Baby, Nightwood Theatre, 2025; Production Stage Manager, The 9th!, ProArteDanza, Ontario Tour 2025.



### **Eli Stefura**

Fire Ox Eli (he/him) is a technician in the city of Toronto. He began working professionally in the industry upon his graduation from Toronto Metropolitan University in 2019. Eli danced recreationally and professionally for 19 years before transitioning to a career in production. Eli Joined the Citadel team in 2021 and has enjoyed being able to blend his love of dance with his passion for technical production.



### **Eric Chan**

Wood Ox Eric's journey in the arts began with a passion for theatre production. After graduating from Toronto Metropolitan University's Performance Production program, he spent his early career working with theatre, dance, and event companies. His path then led him to television, where he discovered a new love for creating from behind the lens. Over the years, Eric has collaborated with numerous artists in the performance arts, often reconnecting with old friends. In many ways, he feels his career has brought him full circle, back to his original artistic passion.





### **Jen Hum**

A Toronto based independent dancer, Jen Hum uses her multifaceted background to create performances that seek out the substance that resides behind our life encounters. Her curiosity has resulted in solo projects and opportunities to work with a diverse collection of individuals and groups including Fujiwara Dance Inventions, Tracey Norman Dance, Redsnow Collective, Polynomials, J9 Dance Projects etc. Part of her current focus is creating alongside members of Returning River; an artistic collective dedicated to the exploration of

space and place and how they are linked to each members' cultural background, ancestry, upbringing and present day experiences.



### **Elysha Poirier**

Earth Sheep Elysha is a multidisciplinary artist working in animation, film and video for live performance. Combining digital and analog sources she creates intrinsic worlds of their own reflected in mixed media and 3D environments. Based in Tiohtià:ke Montréal, Elysha is currently experimenting with 3D generative design platforms, and experimental web design. She's realized a wide range of installations and engaged in live performances for dance, experimental music, film, theatre and web. Elysha is also a core-collaborator with Dreamwalker

since 2009. [elyshapoirier.com](http://elyshapoirier.com) Photo: From left to right - Jacob (Wood Ox), Joscelyn (Metal Monkey) and Elysha at Enniskillen Park.



### **Henry Mak**

Wood Tiger Henry Mak is a videographer, editor, and director who has been working in the worlds of Dance, Theatre, and Community Arts. He treasures his experiences working alongside Dreamwalker Dance Company, MABELLEarts, the Toronto Consort, Tribal Crackling Wind, the Toronto Fringe, and others he has been blessed to have created with.



### **Adina Herling**

Adina Herling has worked as an Arts Manager for over two decades working closely with some of Toronto's most respected dance artists and companies. She currently works as General Manager for Tribal Crackling Wind, ProArteDanza, Esmeralda Enrique Spanish Dance Company and Kaeja d'Dance, and as Financial Manager for Dreamwalker Dance Company and Jaber Dance Theatre. Adina was recently awarded TAPA's Leonard McHardy and Jon Harvey Award which recognizes the important work of theatre, dance and opera administrators. Photo: From left to right - Isabel Herling, Eve Schiffman and Adina.

# FOR DREAMWALKER DANCE COMPANY

## CORE STAFF

Andrea Nann, Artistic Director  
Adina Herling, Financial Manager  
Kelsi James, Creative Producer  
Sarah Chase, Core Creative Collaborator  
Elysha Poirier, Core Creative Collaborator  
Karen Bennedsen, Bookkeeper  
Michelle Silagy, Inclusion Facilitator  
Philip Davis, Indigenous Liaison, Creative Contributor  
Isaiah Gilson, Indigenous Liaison, Creative Contributor  
Joshua Classic Roots DePerry, Indigenous Liaison, Creative Contributor  
Danielle Denichaud, Researcher/Knowledge Mobilizer

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