

DEZZA DANCE PRESENTS

LEG UP!

Emerging Choreographer Showcase 2020

FEB 6 & 7 @ 8PM

Moberly Arts & Cultural Centre
7646 Prince Albert, Vancouver

TIX @
dezzadance.com

CLEO HALLS &
Paper Heart Productions

RACHEL HELTEN

Desirée Dunbar, Artistic Producer

LEG UP! is gratefully supported by Sunset Community Association,
Vancouver Park Board & Moberly Arts & Cultural Centre

Photos: Zemekiss Photo & Chris Randle

Choreographer: Rachel Helten in
Collaboration with Performers

Dancers: Sophie Brassard, Chelsea
Goddard + Rachel Helten

Musician: Original Composition +
Live Performance by Ben Helten +
Misplaced in Time by The Caretaker

Projections: Digital Art + Sound
Effects by Ezequiel Peralta

OUR

VEINS

LIKE

HER

BRANCHES

I would like to extend her profound gratitude to my devoted, brave and brilliant collaborators, to Raina Von Waldenberg and Idan Cohen for their mentorship at the beginning stages of this process, to Desirée Dunbar for creating opportunities for freedom of expression and for all those who honour mother nature and the virtue of unity through their inspired action and tender hearts. ~ Rachel

RACHEL HELTEN | CHOREOGRAPHER + DANCE ARTIST

Rachel Helten is a dance artist, choreographer, and teacher currently based on the unceded indigenous land belonging to the Coast Salish peoples, including the territories of the x m kw y m (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:l (Stolo), and S lílw ta/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. (Vancouver, B.C.). In 2016, she completed her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance at Simon Fraser University. The cornerstones of Rachel Helten's creative practice are found in deep listening, collaboration, interdisciplinary methods and unearthing the stories that live within our bodies.

In like manner, Rachel has been blessed to be a part of processes that nurture these fascinations with a vast array of artists. Her select credits as an independent artist are working with Desirée Dunbar, Tara Cheyenne Friedenber, The Plastic Orchid Factory, The East Vancouver Opera and Voirelia: Psychology, Philosophy and Dance Hub. Her work has been presented at various venues around the lower mainland.

Rachel's intention to aid in the emancipation and healing of herself and others has intimately transformed her artistic practice and lead her to various corners of the earth. Rachel gleaned insight from teaching dance at an art therapy centre in Quito, Ecuador. In addition, she has trained in Florence, Italy; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Cascais, Portugal, and Brooklyn, USA. Currently, she is on scholarship at Edam Dance with Peter Bingham. Rachel desires to honour our histories, stories and the poetry of nature through her work. She would like to thank her family and friends for their love and support and for all who have helped shape who she is today.

BEN HELTEN | MUSICIAN

Ben Helten is a musician who loves the freeing nature of artistic expression. Over the years it has helped him through various struggles and allowed him a chance to share deep emotive experiences with loved ones and strangers. It is his belief that through the multiple disciplines of art one can find the connection, solitude, healing, and inspiration vital for human growth. He is grateful for those around him that have helped inspire him through their trials and triumphs. He wishes that anyone who finds themselves in a place of doubt and isolation can realize that they can turn to these forms of expression to use their struggle to learn and teach. No one is truly alone and we do not act in a vacuum of loneliness but rather as a part of a unifying force of love. We all have a right to be here.

EZEQUIEL PERALTA | DIGITAL ARTIST

From an early age, Ezequiel Peralta has been passionate about technology as an expression and expansion tool for human creative potential. Traveling and connecting with nature is another of his passions. His main interest is to investigate the intersections and resonances between technology, the body and the universal forces of nature, and their application in the arts and health. Currently, he is roaming the realm of generative art and computer programming applied to visual and performing arts. He had the opportunity to learn about Music and Technology in the National University of Quilmes and to attend different courses and workshops exploring the connection between art and technology. Ezequiel is eternally thankful to his family, friends and all of his teachers and guides.

SOPHIE BRASSARD | DANCE ARTIST

Sophie Brassard is a Vancouver-based dance artist primarily interested in site-specific and improvisational work. She graduated from Simon Fraser University in 2015 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Contemporary Dance and a minor in English literature. Since graduating, Sophie has performed in works by local companies such as Dezza Dance, Foolish Operations and Voirelia. She has also choreographed works for Vines Art Festival, Leg Up! Performance Series, MascallDance's Bloom and The response.'s Dance Café. Aside from performance and creation, Sophie is also currently working for two local dance and theatre agencies: Belsher Arts Management & Fascinator Management.

CHELSEA GODDARD | DANCE ARTIST

Chelsea Goddard is an emerging performance artist creating on the unceded traditional territories of the Squamish, Musqueam and Tsleil-Waututh nations. Chelsea is an SFU graduate with a BFA in contemporary dance. At SFU she had opportunities to work with dance artists: Chengxin Wei, Meredith Kalaman, KT Niehoff, Rob Kitsos, Justine Chambers, Company 605, and Tara Cheyenne Performance. Since graduating she has been studying contact improvisation at EDAM and with Machinenoisy and has had the chance to participate in the Boombox Youth Residency, and the BLOOM residency through Mascalldance. Chelsea currently works as an independent artist, dance teacher, and childcare provider for artists in the lower mainland.

LOVE UNCOVERED: A CONTEMPORARY DANCE CABARET

PAPER HEART PRODUCTIONS

Choreographer: Cleo Halls

Dancers: Colleen Cassisy, Cleo Halls, Jenna Ogen,
Stilene Razo, Kate Holley

Music: Stevie Wonder, Elton John, Etta James, Lana Del
Rey, Two Feet, Dinah Washington, Alicia Keys, The
Beatles, Rihanna

Thank you to Kate, Jenna, Silene, and Colleen for their time, artistry, open minded attitudes, and creative brilliance, to Rachel Helten for always inspiring me, to Desirée Dunbar for her guidance, mentorship and support, and to Meegan for believing in me from day one. ~ Cleo

CLEO HALLS | CHOREOGRAPHER + DANCE ARTIST + PAPER HEART PRODUCTIONS CREATOR

Cleo Halls (also known as Cleo Victory) is a dance and burlesque artist living and working on unceded Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh territories. An innovative movement storyteller, her work pushes boundaries and combines artistic disciplines. Her signature style blends contemporary dance technique, bold sensuality, and a deliberate playful silliness that juxtaposes profoundly personal themes.

Cleo is deeply passionate about creating work that celebrates and elevates the feminine. Her work explores female and femme sexuality through a distinctly queer lens. With the intention of empowering women both on and off stage, Cleo uses dance as a medium for reclaiming femininity.

Cleo is a graduate of both MacEwan University's Theatre Arts program and The Dance Initiative professional training program. Select stage credits from her eight years as a professional performer include appearances with The Lovers Cabaret, The Gold Fever Follies, Zynth and Co, Esoteric Bazaar, Iron Mountain Theatre, La Maison Lust, Vancouver Burlesque Co., April O'Peel Productions, Wet Coast Burlesque, Gogo Bungalow, and The Dusty Flowerpot Cabaret. Cleo is also a dedicated dance educator with students of all ages. Her teaching credits include Vancouver Burlesque Co, Ballet BC, Shadbolt Centre for the Arts, and numerous dance studios and community centres throughout the Lower Mainland.

COLLEEN CASSIDY | DANCE ARTIST

Colleen comes from Calgary, Alberta, and has made Vancouver home after spending years dancing at sea. She has a passion for both teaching and performing and is excited to be back on stage with the talented humans of Paper Heart Productions for their second year

JENNA OGEN | DANCE ARTIST

Think of sipping Bourbon in the dim flicker of candle light, silk sheets against your skin, a soft hand caresses your cheek. Jenna exudes sensuality. Finding her reprieve in nightclubs, she has performed in beloved venues throughout Vancouver. The Burlesque scene captured her heart when she was touched by the warm embrace of Contemporary. Placing the two together set off a spark that could not be contained.

SILENE RAZO | DANCE ARTIST

Attaining a BA in Dance and Communications in her native Mexico, Silene is a versatile dancer, actress and dance instructor. She started her career as a radio and television presenter and then became a professional dancer, after graduating in 2014 from Contempodanza School in Mexico City. Highlights on international stages include: winning the Grand Prix of the New Prague Dance Festival, and two concert tours throughout Japan with the Perez Prado Orchestra. Vancouver highlights include Interdisciplinary and Contemporary Dance performances, Illusion, Samba and Dance Cabaret shows, a Dance film, and Assisting Choreography for a theater play. She has also performed in Dancing on the Edge and The Winnepeg Fringe Festivals.

KATE HOLLEY | DANCE ARTIST

Kate is so excited to be back performing in Vancouver after spending the last four years touring with Celebrations/Jubilations Dinner Theatre. She graduated from Grant MacEwan University with a diploma in Theatre Arts, and has been living for musical theatre since then. Now she is rediscovering her love for dance, through teaching at her old dance studio (Dance Co.) and being a student (Luminesque and Vancouver Burlesque Co.) Kate is grateful to be sharing the stage with people who love dance as much as she does!

DEZZA DANCE PROJECTS

ELAN DANCE PROJECT

"Find new, reconsider old, become limber, stretch, lean, move... I say this with love: shut up and dance" ~ Twyla Tharp from her new book, Keep Moving

This Contemporary dance ensemble is performance orientated and trains in the traditional Martha Graham Technique with Artistic Director, Desirée Dunbar. Auditions are held in August and the program runs from September to June with various performances throughout the year. This is for experienced adult dancers of all ages.

SCOTIABANK DANCE CENTRE

Learn more @
dezzadance.com

TUES & THURS
11:30-1PM

DEZZA DANCE PROJECTS

COLLABOR

ATIVE

CREATIVE

DANCE

FOR

OLDER

ADULTS

An arts program with lead artists Desirée Dunbar that uses the collaborative creative strategies developed in the Arts and Health Project, encouraging and supporting seniors to express their life experience and knowledge creatively in groups working with professional artists who have training to work with the older populations. Based on the foundation of collaboration, the project builds community and strengthens cultural and social understandings.

TROUT LAKE COMMUNITY CENTRE
WEST POINT GREY COMMUNITY CENTRE

Learn more @
dezzadance.com

MON + FRI
12:30-2PM

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the x m kw y m (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and S ílw ta /Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

Moberly Arts & Cultural Centre

**Oliver McTavish-Wisden, Community Arts Programmer
Kage, Technical Director & Operator
Steph Hildebrand, Assistant Stage Manager
Sunset Community Association
moberlyartscentre.ca**

Dezza Dance



**Desirée Dunbar, Artistic Director
Non-Profit Board of Directors: Cherylann Buckmann, Eileen
Fogarty-Ellis, Linda Rosenheck
Videographer & Editing: Willan Leung
dezzadance.com**

The mission of Dezza Dance is to support individuals in social connection, authentic creative expression and dance artistry while enriching communities in Vancouver, BC.

The non-profit organization is supported in part by by Aberthau Mansion/ West Point Grey Community Centre, Vancouver Parks Board, Trout Lake Community Centre, Moberly Arts & Cultural Centre, Arts & Health, Healthy Aging and Deux Mille Foundation and Private Donors.