

Land Acknowledgement

We would like to begin by acknowledging that Concordia University is located on unceded Indigenous lands. The Kanien'kehá:ka Nation is recognized as the custodians of the lands and waters on which we gather today. Tiohtià:ke/Montréal is historically known as a gathering place for many First Nations. Today, it is home to a diverse population of Indigenous and other peoples. We respect the continued connections with the past, present and future in our ongoing relationships with Indigenous and other peoples within the Montreal community.

Nous aimerions commencer par reconnaître que l'Université Concordia est située en territoire autochtone, lequel n'a jamais été cédé. Je reconnais/Nous reconnaissons la nation Kanien'kehá: ka comme gardienne des terres et des eaux sur lesquelles nous nous réunissons aujourd'hui. Tiohtià:ke / Montréal est historiquement connu comme un lieu de rassemblement pour de nombreuses Premières Nations, et aujourd'hui, une population autochtone diversifiée, ainsi que d'autres peuples, y résident. C'est dans le respect des liens avec le passé, le présent et l'avenir que nous reconnaissons les relations continues entre les Peuples Autochtones et autres personnes de la communauté montréalaise.

The Department of Contemporary Dance offers a BFA Major in Contemporary Dance.

Dance students at Concordia discover and define their own aesthetic, method, and process, in a learning environment that embraces an inclusive artistic relationship between mentor and student. To support our unique focus on creative process and choreography in a social context, the program's technical training draws from contemporary practices in dance and related performance fields. This synthesized approach to training is carefully designed to meet the needs of choreographic research and versatility in performance.

Our students stage their own choreographies, collaborate across disciplines, and perform in original works created by their peers. They are taught by a renowned faculty made up of performers, choreographers, composers, filmmakers, scholars, and multidisciplinary artists, who actively contribute to the teaching and outreach of the performing arts both here in Montreal and internationally. When students graduate, they are prepared to be independent artists, ready to contribute to the dance community in meaningful ways.

Department of Contemporary Dance, Concordia University

Contredanse **Straight Lines** **Meet Slow Chaos**

Creative Process I – Performances

March 14 & 15 @ 7:00 pm
JM Blackbox

“Move at the speed of trust.”

Adrienne Maree Brown, Emergent Strategy, 2017



Social Media: @cu.dance
Website: <https://www.concordia.ca/finearts/dance.html>

Piece Description

Contredanse – straight lines meet slow chaos, explores the dances that unite and divide us through improvisation scores and hybrid choreography, delving into how we negotiate the challenges of competition and cooperation within community (Jackie Smart, *New Dramaturgy*, 2014). This first-year **Creative Process I** performance focuses on themes surrounding individual and cultural identities in relation to the collective.

In the fall of 2023, students in Creative Process I created solos on themselves and then on each other, exploring the roots of their identity and the different dance techniques living in their bodies, under the guidance of Professor Lília Mestre. Over the winter session, the group collaborated with choreographer Erin Flynn to create a piece using the notion of *Contre/Counter* as a starting point.

The term "Contredanse" originated from a popular 18th century French country dance requiring dancers to cooperate in executing various geometric figures since the steps were not standardized. The French word "contre" has contrasting meanings, such as: besides, encounter, instead of, despite, or inverse. In English, "counter" is used to denote retaliating, answering, hitting back, opposing, resisting, warding off, or defying. Echoing real life, this process has students merging their solos and experiences to collectively explore alienation & togetherness, coming of age, care, defiance, competition, resilience, elation, connection, and community support.

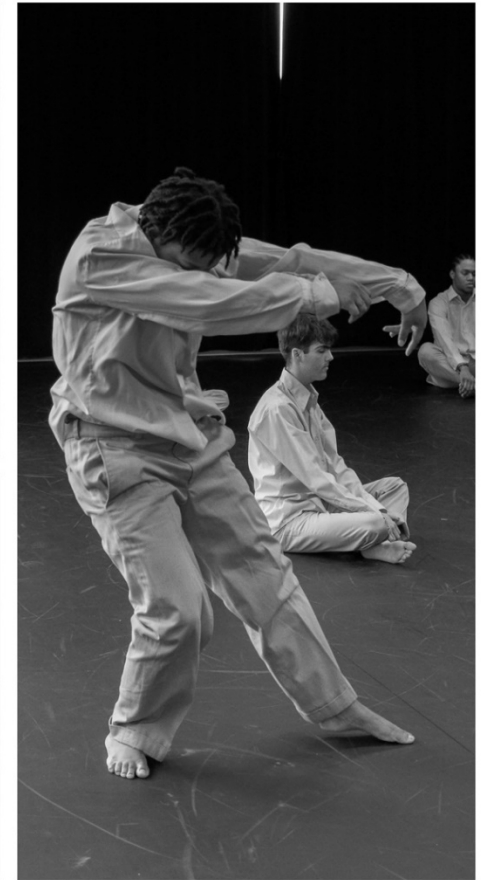


Photo Credit: Kristina Hilliard

CONTEMPORARY DANCE DEPARTMENT

Full-time Faculty

Jens Richard Giersdorf, Ph.D., Professor and Chair
Angélique Willkie, MA, Associate Professor
Lília Mestre, Assistant Professor

Artists in Residence

Erin Flynn, Eroca Nicols, Helen Simard

Part-time Faculty

Paul Chambers, Erin Flynn, Marie Claire Forte, Sara Hanley,
Susanna Hood, Alanna Kraaijeveld, Kama La Mackerel, Warwick
Long, Pierre-Marc Ouellette, Isabelle Poirier, Philip Szporer.

Musical Accompanists

John Buck, Robert Lepine, Stefan Schneider, Daniel Villeneuve

Office Staff

Maud David Lerebours, Department Administrator
Katherine Scribner, Department Assistant
Karl Lebel Viens, Department Assistant
Samantha Treglia, Office Assistant

MB Depot, Technical Support

Kevin Moon

PRODUCTION

Instructor: Erin Flynn

Dancers: Jenny Aplin, Celine Blais, Calista Caron, Ceilidh Chopowick,
Kaitlyn Davies, Ajani Hastings, Anmarie-Paule Legault, Tajah Modeste-
Adedokun, Henry Richa, Yanik Savoie, Etora Suedois.

Production Coordinator: Nora Gibson

Lighting Designer: Trinity McQuillan

Sound Technician: Liam Gover

Stage Manager: Vailea Parris

Dancers' Biographies

Jenny Aplin is from Tkaronto/Toronto and moved to Montreal in the fall of 2023 to study dance. She is interested in dance and choreography and developing her own practice. She is a graduate from Rosedale Heights School of Arts where she studied dance. Jenny grew up in the dance and theatre community and has experience dancing at studios, including Swansea School of Dance and CCDT. Jenny has trained in classical styles, including ballet and modern. She is interested in expanding her movement, devolving her own style and artistry.

Celine Blais is a French-Canadian dancer, choreographer, and intermedia artist from Alberta, living and creating in Tiohtià:ke/Montreal over the past five years. Celine's creative practice is rooted in the art of storytelling, exploring traces of the past to reimagine ideas of the Self. Her work is inspired by the dreamy, camp and eccentricity found in the world around her, reminiscent of the time spent playing pretend and dressing up as a child. Her dance is heavily informed by her many years of training in belly dance in Penticton, BC and continues to shapeshift as she explores the fusion of contemporary dance, installation art and somatic practices. She is completing her BFA at Concordia University with a double major in Contemporary Dance and Communication Studies.

Calista Caron was born in Karlsruhe, Germany and grew up on the east coast of Canada. She moved to Montreal at the age of 13 after getting accepted to L'Ecole Supérieur de Ballet du Québec. During her studies, she has participated in numerous contemporary workshops internationally with acclaimed choreographers and dancers. Calista is now studying Contemporary Dance at Concordia University and will be training with Boston Dance Theatre in the following academic year.

Ceilidh Chopowick began competitive dance at age seven and trained in various styles such as ballet, contemporary, jazz, tap, and hip hop at House of Dance in Toronto and Cardinal Carter Academy for the Arts.

Kaitlyn Davies is a trained dancer who has studied at Mitcham Dance in Adelaide, Australia, Splitz School of Dance and Drama in the UK, and the Canadian Dance Company in Oakville, Ontario. She has performed with the Australian Classical Youth Ballet and has travelled with the Mitcham Dance competitive team, Gravity Dance, to the Australian Dance Festival in Sydney. Additionally, Kaitlyn has attended The View dance convention with the Canadian Dance Company in Toronto and has taught at the Canadian Dance Company.

Ajani Hastings is an 18-year-old first year, Contemporary Dance major, attending Concordia University. Born and raised in Toronto, Ontario with a love for dance and movement for his entire life.

Anmarie-Paule Legault is a multidisciplinary artist from Montreal, Canada. Over 10 years of work as a dancer, teacher and choreographer have inspired them to reach further into realizing visions and crafting moments. Uniting their love of movement with their experience in makeup, fashion, and theatre, they more recently began to perform as a drag king.

Taijah Modeste-Adedokun started dancing at the age of 3 and has since received training at several dance schools including the London School of Dance in Toronto, Prodigy Dance and Performing Arts in Pickering, House of Dance in Toronto, and The Academy of Living Arts in Oshawa. She also taught at The Academy of Living Arts. Taijah has performed during halftime shows for basketball games at Ontario Tech.

Henry Richa is a Lebanese queer interdisciplinary performance artist. As a queer Arab individual, he expresses through his work a reaction to present contemporary issues in the world and his personal life. Richa defines his practice by creating live performances accompanied by heavily charged hyperpop, and camp visuals: creating a euphoric experience for anyone to dive in. They work with movement as a medium to question and redefine the notion of the queer body through the exploration of gender and sexuality and drag.

Yanik Savoie hails from Bathurst, New Brunswick, I've been dancing various dance styles like contemporary, jazz, lyrical, commercial, and musical theatre since early childhood. At the age of 6, I decided to start dancing at the studio Danse Acadie, which quickly became a second home. To this day, this has been the best decision I've ever made, and I can't wait to see where this journey will lead.

Etora Suedois is a French dancer from Guadeloupe and living in Montreal since 2021. Through her body movement and her expression, she explores themes such as cultural identity, self-affirmation, and life. Her experience in dance was nourished by Modern Jazz, Contemporary Dance, and African techniques including traditional dance as "Gwoka" from Guadeloupe.