

Fragments éphémères

Friday, March 24th, 2023

Saturday, March 25th, 2023

7:00 pm

How do random beads string together, despite their individual differences?

Multiple universes coming together, to create a kaleidoscope which picks up and rearranges its parts. Building bridges and pathways, connecting together, observing, reversing, speaking, and counting.

The desire to do something individually, while connecting horizons within and without. Learning how to blur the lines in between stark frontiers, the group has played with bits and pieces to create these Fragments éphémères.



Dancers: Allyss, Santiago Lopez Alzate, Nicki White, Emine Adilak, Ashlee Gemberling, Solen Rios
Photo: Kristina Hillard

Full-time faculty

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

Artist in Residence

Helen Simard

Part-time faculty

Charles Brecard, Paul Chambers, Florence Figols, Erin Flynn, Marie Claire Forté, Sara Lucie Hanley, Alanna Kraaijeveld, Gaetan Leboeuf, Warwick Long, Pierre-Marc Ouellette, Isabelle Poirier, Philip Szporer, Daniel Villeneuve, James Viveiros

Office staff

Maud David Lerebours, Department Administrator
Katherine Scribner, Department Assistant
Cameron Raman-Nair, Office Assistant

Musicians Technique Classes

John Buck, Robert Lépine, Stefan Schneider

Created and performed by

Allyss, Emine Adilak, Élisabeth Bergeron, Ashlee Gemberling, Liam Gover, Zachary Lagha, Santiago Lopez Alzate, Mia Catherine Pereira, Solen Rios, Nicki White

Under the guidance of

Helen Simard, Artist-in-Residence, Department of Contemporary Dance,
Concordia University

Music and Sound Design

Roger White

Lighting Design

Trinity McQuillan

Production Coordination

Danielle Garrison

Production and Technical Interns

Victoria Dubé, Yasmine Chami

Costumes

Provided by the participating students
(special thanks to Emmy's closet)

Special thanks

Helen, Victoria, Yasmine, Roger, the cleaning staff,
Trinity, Danielle and to each other

A word from Helen Simard, Artist-in-residency

The piece you will see tonight is created and performed by the 1st year students in the Department of Contemporary Dance at Concordia University. They have worked all semester through a collective dramaturgy, so that they could experience the various roles they might take on in a choreographic project. *Fragments éphémères* is a delicate balance between sticking to your idea, and doing what is best for the work. It is the result of negotiation, collaboration, and determination. It is about learning to use your own choreographic voice, while also listening to the voices of others. It is about togetherness and singularity. It is about trust, in yourself, in the group, and in the process.

As no work is ever truly finished, *Fragments éphémères* is a work-in-progress. We are proud to share the work with you today and invite you to share your thoughts and interpretations of the piece with the artists, so that they can continue to learn from and grow through this process, long after the semester is over, and the lights have gone out on the stage.

Biographies of Creators/Performers

Emine Adilak

Emine Adilak, they/she, is an interdisciplinary artist and practitioner from Toronto, Ontario. Before moving to Tiohtià:ke/Montreal to embark on their contemporary dance journey, they trained and competed in various dance styles, published a poetry anthology, and were co-director for a multi-medium art show educating students and youth on rape culture, sexual assault, and objectification. Emine is currently exploring how their different pathways intersect with movement and identity, and how this illuminates their space as dancer and choreographer throughout different areas in life. In their movement practice, they are experimenting in balancing rhythm and successive flow as well as fostering connections with themselves, other dancers, viewers, and the space.

Allyss

Allyss is a dancer and movement instructor from Athens, Greece currently located in Tiohtià:ke/Montreal. Her movement practice is focused on aerial dance, fusion (neo bellydance-tribal fusion), contemporary, and acro heels. Allyss works with audio and visual media as well as improvisational scores to further inform her movement style. She draws inspiration from noise to doom to punk and industrial, cinema and photography, human relationships and emotional struggles. She is part of the fusion duo *Les Soeurs Dryades* next to Isabelle Forest. Allyss believes in dance as a form of activism and collective essence, for her dance is a way to gain agency over her body, and a tool to liberate the body from preconceived biases and social perceptions. Allyss stands in solidarity to her fellow colleagues-artists in Greece, in their actions protesting against the Presidential Ordinance []Δ 85, /2022.

Santiago Lopez Alzate

Originally from Medellín, Colombia, Santiago Lopez is an emerging movement artist and director. In his movement practice he explores radical softness and receptive flow, while nourishing questions on dramaturgical analysis and performance direction. During his time in Montreal, he has had the opportunity to be part of intensive workshops with artists like Charles Brecard, Charles-Alexis Desgagnés and RUBBERBAND dance company. Simultaneously, he trains with Cypher Electro Montreal, where he is developing his skills as an electro dancer. In 2021, Lopez founded *Compagnie Eblouie*, an interdisciplinary and intersectional project. With this initiative, he aims to open a space for the analysis of the political and cultural background of human perception, researching its components through the lens of performing arts.

Élisabeth Bergeron

Élisabeth is a Montreal based cultural worker and a contemporary dance student. She has trained in dance at various schools from the age of 20, including École de danse contemporaine de Montréal, Ballet Hop, Urban Element Zone and taken private classes with teachers such as Geneviève Lauzon and Élise Bergeron. Her work focuses on the shift in between performative states and the impact the surrounding space has on the performer. Having made a late entry in the professional dance world, she uses her various life experiences to nourish her movement and presence and continuously develops her technical skills. She aims to explore dance in new contexts and to open the possibilities of the practice by reaching out, connecting, healing, experimenting. Élisabeth looks forward to continuing exploring the possibilities dance offers and to strengthen her experience as a dancer and choreographer.

Ashlee Gemberling

Ashlee Gemberling is a non-binary dance artist born and raised on the island of Maui, Hawaii, the stolen and occupied land of Na Kānaka Maoli (the Indigenous people of Hawai'i). They currently reside in Tiohtià:ke, or Montreal, a territory situated within the traditional and unceded lands of the Kanien'kehá:ka Nation. Before starting their path in dance, Ashlee worked as a harm reduction support worker as well as an advocate and organizer in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, the centre of Canada's overdose crisis. Their drive to help others in addition to the passion for movement and arts are a combination that continues to motivate their practices. As they continue with their studies in movement; Ashlee looks forward to collaborating with other artists, therapists, and support workers to create safe and accessible spaces that allow people to redefine their relationship with themselves through movement exploration.

Liam Gover

Liam is a first-year student in Concordia University's Contemporary Dance Department. He began dancing at the age of six and soon thereafter started training in numerous styles competitively. He trained at Sheila Parkins School of Dance and completed a DEC in Arts, Literature and Communications at John Abbott College where he specialized in photography and media arts. His work focuses on the framing of identity and positionality through movement and his research explores themes relating to Crohn's disease, healing and renewal. On the side, Liam teaches at a local dance studio where he shares his love for dance and artistic movement with his students. Liam is a certified teacher of PBT, and he regularly attends workshops, conferences, seminars, and other continuing professional development events.

Zachary Lagha

Zachary is from Montreal and a first-year student in Concordia University's Contemporary Dance Department. He is in the figure skating Canadian team. He specialized in the ice dance category. In his career, he practiced different kinds of dance such as ballet, ballroom, contemporary and hip hop. He entered the dance department to find another dimension to his dance. His primary goals are gaining more freedom in his movements and to detach himself from the notion of perfection. Being in the Concordia dance department allows him to expand his creativity in order to become a more complete choreographer. His work is simply focused on exploring new ways of moving and experiencing.

Mia Catherine Pereira

Originally from southern Ontario, Mia trained at Traditions Academy of Dance and credits her amazing teachers and teammates for fostering her love of dance and giving her the confidence to continue to pursue her craft. Mia feels that artists play an important role in emphasizing social inequalities. She is passionate about using the arts to bring important issues to light, thereby supporting positive social change. Collaborating with other artists to produce works that are meaningful, and in turn impact people's perspective, brings her fulfillment. Mia takes pride in giving back by mentoring the next generation of dancers. Mia is determined to positively contribute to her community by promoting the arts and using dance to support people's well-being. Mia experiences the world through dance and thus makes meaningful connections that enhance her life and the lives of others.

Solen Rios

Solen is a Franco-Mexican emerging artist passionate about movement in all its forms. After studying ballet for 14 years in México city, her hometown, she decides to move to Canada to pursue her studies in contemporary dance at Concordia University. Simultaneously, Solen trains in a Hip Hop troupe called "VI" at Urban Element Zone dance studio, a place that rapidly became a second home for her when she realized, how much the street dance community had to offer. She considers herself a polyvalent dancer eager to learn a variety of dance styles such as Dancehall, Waacking, House and Popping. As a young artist in Montréal, Solen strives to become a dance interpreter and find her place in between the commercial and the contemporary dance

Nicki White

Nicki White, they/them, an interdisciplinary artist from Tkaronto/Toronto, has been exploring their relationship with movement, their own body, and the bodies they engage with in their creative endeavours. Currently based in Tiohtià:ke/Montreal, they have been exploring what it means to have different bodies performing in spaces and all the capacities that often go unappreciated when we think about what our bodies can do. In their practice they use music, noises, and movement to create works that play with the innate connection between sound and motion. During their time at Concordia, Nicki plans to figure out what they want to do artistically and have a lovely time rolling around on the floor until then.

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.

Land acknowledgement

We recognize 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 and Indigenous peoples. 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.



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