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About Translations

Translations is an immersive performance for small audiences designed to be experienced with the 'non-visual senses'. The performance makes dance accessible for blind and partially sighted audiences. During Translations, sighted audience members are invited to experience the dance with their eyes closed, or wear a sleep shade, not as a way to replicate the experience of blindness, but rather as an opportunity to focus on the information about the moving body being delivered through other senses such as the sound of the dance, the feeling of the air moving, and the images drawn in ones imagination from the description.

About All Bodies Dance

All Bodies Dance Project (ABDP) is an inclusive dance company located on unceded Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh and Musqueam territories (Vancouver, BC). Our mission is to create opportunities for people of all abilities, genders, sizes, and backgrounds to practice, research, and create innovative, inclusive dance. In ABDP's work, differences are regarded as creative strengths as we explore the choreographic possibilities of diverse ways of moving and perceiving. Our work blurs the boundaries between community-engaged and professional practice. We value the lived experience of

movers both with and without disabilities and approach accessibility tools and practices from Disability Justice as sources of generative artistic possibility. Our practice aims to dismantle assumptions, biases, and default notions around contemporary dance, the theatre, and the dancing body. You can find more information at allbodiesdance.ca

Performer and Guide Biographies

Naomi Brand (she/her)

A performer, choreographer, facilitator, and educator living and working on unceded Coast Salish Territory (Vancouver, BC). She holds both a BA and an MFA from the University of Calgary. Over the past fifteen years, she has cultivated a unique artistic practice that straddles between professional and community-engaged art making. In 2014, she co-founded Vancouver's All Bodies Dance Project. In addition to her role as Artistic Director, Naomi is also a Community Arts Programmer with the Vancouver Park Board, a faculty member at Langara College and most importantly a mother to an awesome kid.

Collin van Uchelen

Collin van Uchelen, Ph.D., is a conceptual artist, community psychologist, and pyrotechnical designer based in Vancouver, British Columbia. As an artist, he uses collaborative approaches for designing and translating dynamic art into forms that are accessible without eyesight - including both dance and pyrotechnic arts. Collins community psychology practice focuses on enhancing belonging and social connection in community settings regardless of ability and social identity. This is a core theme reflected throughout his artistic and consulting activities. In 2017, Collin received the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award for his work in this area.

Jacqueline Russell (she/her)

A dynamically disabled director, performer, creator, arts educator, and clown who lives on Wîncîspa, Guts'ists'i, and Moh'kinstsis (Treaty Seven Land). She has taught workshops in clown, physical theatre, and creation across the country, from Comox to Montreal. What is visible about Jacqueline is her wild, curly, untameable hair. What is invisible about Jacqueline is that as a performer and creator, she has contributed to many new works. She is particularly drawn to theatrical investigations that playfully examine gender, feminism, and disability.

Snizhana Bora (Korchova)

A professional actress and director of drama theater and cinema; Acting teacher and performer. Born on December 31, 1993 in Ukraine, Khmelnytskyi. In 2011, she entered

the University of Arts in Kharkiv. Studied at KhNUM I.P. Kotlyarevsky in Kharkiv (2011-2016). She holds her Bachelor's and specialist's diploma, complete higher education. Practiced in theaters in Germany and Poland. Participated in international projects and festivals as a participant and organizer. Worked at the Kharkiv Drama Theater (2016 – 2020). International theater project called "Salt" (2015 - present). She opened her dance and theater school for children from 2 to 18 years old. With 10 years of experience working with children and a valid member of the Theater Union of Ukraine, she has starred in many television projects. Now lives in Canada, Calgary because of the war in Ukraine.

Mariana Romero

I am an Aztec descendant from Tenochtitlan, now called Mexico City. I have olive skin with tones of honey. When I smile, you can see all my teeth and gums. I have an infectious laugh. I convey stories through dance and theatre; I got my bachelor's degree from the National Centre of the Arts. I have been performing professionally for over 15 years. Calgary Arts Development honored me as a grant recipient in 2023. You can find more about my projects and how to get involved at www.marianaromero.net

Scotty Dont

Initially starting their career in visual arts at a young age, Scotty Dont later discovered dance and performance arts in Montreal. Developing a contemporary and urban foundation in movement, they then pursued higher training through the professional program at the "Ecole De Cirque de Québec." Having since toured in the states and creating two solo shows in Canada, Scotty continues their exploration in how race and gender politics inform our society, and in the art we consume and create.

Ezgi Turker

A newcomer Turkish performance artist based in Calgary/Mohkinstsis. She earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in political science and she has her dance training in modern and contemporary dance. She performed in established choreographers' works at local and international dance festivals in Turkiye. In her solo works, she focuses on social issues about the climate crisis, community building and grief. As a performance artist, she sees art as a catalyzer for impact, allowing to communicate complex concepts to a wider audience by embodiment.

Jaz [Marshall] Whiteley-Steel

A multidisciplinary artist from Mokhinstis "calgary" Alberta who also goes by the Drag pseudonym Ultra Violet. They are currently focused on expressions of gender and sexuality at the intersection of mental health, and neurodiversity: as a trans

nonbinary-queer-person. They are a drag and burlesque performer, and an unprofessional dancer/movement enthusiast. They are also a jeweller, illustrator, and maker of many things. They are the founder of SCP (Satanic Cowboy Productions) which puts on alternative-gender non-conformist- focused shows. They have mainly performed locally, but also in Edmonton, Vancouver and internationally online, specifically in the UK and Germany.

Emily Parkhouse

Emily is an emerging stage manager, playwright and occasional performer born and (mostly) raised in Calgary, Alberta. Daughter to two theatre pros, Emily was fortunate enough to be born into an artistic world, fostering a long standing passion for the performing arts. Originally aiming for a life on the stage, Emily found herself head over heels for both the written word and stage management. Much love to her family and to the incredible A.S.; thank you for believing in me, my love.

Paul Marshall

Paul Marshall is an interdisciplinary artist. He is an actor, writer, poet and photographer. Paul has performed on stage and screen. He also works very interesting gigs and welcomes the challenge of a project like this. Jobs such as working as a Standardized Patient for Med Skills and for the Military as a role player in combat and cultural scenarios. He has co-written several plays and is a member of The Single Onion poetry group. He welcomes the opportunity to work with people of different backgrounds to help create the culture. He is very interested in site specific projects that bring the arts to all people. With this workshop and others, Paul expands his tool box and develops himself more as an artist.

Kara Bullock (she/her)

Kara is a dancer, choreographer, creative arts facilitator and abolition focused artist. Kara is mother to Wilder John Wolf Bullock and partner to Distance Bullock. She was born on the Unceded Territories of the Musqueam, Tsleil-Waututh and Squamish First Nations. Her mother is from the island of Mindanao in what is colonially known as the Philippines. Her maternal great-grandfather was a Chinese migrant. Her paternal grandparents were from what is now Poland and the Sudetenland in what is now the Czech Republic. Kara organizes with local collectives Walls Down Collective and Stop the Stack YYC.

Scott Augustine, Jocelyn Mah, Shondra Cromwell-Krywulak

Choreographic consultant, Collin Van Uchelen

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