

Creative Team Biographies

Robin Poitras
Co-Artistic Director



Robin Poitras, C.M. (Co-Artistic Director) is one of Saskatchewan's most prolific dance and performance creators. Creating dance, performance, and installation works, she has been actively engaged in contemporary dance practice since the early 80s. For many years Robin has traversed the formal worlds of dance and performance art. She co-founded New Dance

Horizons in 1986, with Dianne Fraser where she continues to act as Artistic Director. She is a recipient of the 2021 Order of Canada, the 2016 Lieutenant Governor's Lifetime Achievement Award, the 2006 Mayor's Awards for Business & The Arts' Lifetime Achievement Award, and the 2004 Women of Distinction Award for the Arts.

About Robin's creative process

My practice is rooted in a physical world comprised of choreography, dancing and actions/acts. My performance works often involve the use of found or formed objects, texts, images, sound and/or other media. I am curious about relationships and resonance among the worlds of art, science and nature and in exploring how these worlds feed back and forth in mythical, mysterious, elusive and sometimes obvious ways.

Edward Poitras
Co-Artistic Director



Edward Poitras was born in 1953 in Regina, Saskatchewan and is a member of the Gordon First Nation. He studied with Sarain Stump at the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural College in Saskatoon (1974) and then with Mexican Aboriginal artist Domingo Cisneros at Manitou College in La Macaza, Quebec (1975-1976). Poitras then became an instructor himself, teaching at the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College in Saskatoon (1976-1978), the University of Manitoba (1978) and the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College at the University of Regina (1981-1984, 1989-1990, now First Nations University of Canada). Poitras has also worked as a graphic artist for New Breed magazine (1984-1985). Poitras's mixed-media sculptures and installations combine a variety of natural and human-made elements. His work explores themes including history, treaties, the effects of colonialism, and life in urban spaces and on the reserve. Poitras's work has been exhibited in solo and group shows across the country and in the United States and Finland, and has been included in nearly every major contemporary Aboriginal exhibition since 1980. In 1995, Poitras became the first Aboriginal artist to represent Canada at the Venice Biennale. A 2002 exhibition organized by Saskatoon's Mendel Art Gallery, "Qu'Appelle: Tales of Two Valleys," included many of his recent works. Poitras's work is part of the collections of the Canadian Museum of Civilization (Hull, Quebec), Mendel Art Gallery (Saskatoon), Saskatchewan Arts Board, MacKenzie Art Gallery (Regina), Thunder Bay Art Gallery, and the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, among others. In 2002, Poitras was awarded the Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts. In November 2020, Edward joined Robin Poitras C.M. as the Co-Artistic Director of New Dance Horizons.

Rania Alharthi
General Manager
Front of House Manager



Rania Alharthi is a multifaceted artist whose creative endeavors span the realms of theatre, film, installation, and dance. Her innovative studio productions feature a unique blend of collapsed objects, soundscapes, film projections, and live performance, inviting audiences to engage with her work on multiple sensory levels. Her recent projects delve into themes of family displacement and the poignant nostalgia inspired by the Dead Sea, situated on the Jordanian-Palestinian border. Through an intercultural performance installation, Rania explores these complex narratives, reflecting on personal and collective histories that resonate deeply within her cultural heritage. Rania's interdisciplinary practice is profoundly influenced by her experiences as a member of the Diaspora and her engagement with postcolonial identities. She is driven by a desire to challenge conventional narratives and to forge new pathways for dialogue and reflection through her art. Before relocating to Canada in 2012, Rania established herself as an independent artist in the West-Bank, Jordan, and Tunisia, making significant contributions to the artistic landscapes of those regions. Since her immigration, she has become an active member of the arts community in Regina, Saskatchewan, collaborating with diverse organizations and institutions such as Globe Theatre, On Cue Performance Hub, Curtain Razors, and the Mackenzie Art Gallery.

Caitlin Coflin

Marketing & Production Coordinator



Caitlin Coflin is a dancer, dance teacher, and Somatic Movement Educator (SME) in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada. Caitlin completed her post-secondary training in Winnipeg, Manitoba and received her BA Honours in Dance from the University of Winnipeg in affiliation with the Professional Program of the School of Contemporary Dancers in 2010. She has studied with Bill Evans numerous times at the Bill Evans' Teacher Institutes where she developed an interest in Bartenieff Fundamentals and Laban Movement Analysis. In 2020, Caitlin completed her training to become a Laban/Bartenieff Movement Analyst and Somatic Practitioner (CMA-SP). Since 2010 Caitlin has been a member of the teaching staff at Youth Ballet of Saskatchewan and teaches through New Dance Horizons' Dance Core classes, where she integrates Somatics and Laban/Bartenieff Movement Analysis into Modern Dance classes. Caitlin has danced professionally with Robin Poitras' company Rouge-Gorge and with Connie Moker Wernikowski, and has been given many opportunities to present her own work through New Dance Horizons. Caitlin joined the New Dance Horizons team as Marketing & Production Coordinator in 2024.

Andrew Manera
Lighting Designer



Andrew Manera is an Instructor in the Theatre Department in the Faculty of Media, Art, and Performance where he teaches technical production and stage management. He is a passionate, devoted, and outspoken supporter of emerging artists, community engaged artistic practices, and independently run non-profits. In 2016, Andrew founded the not-for-profit and charitable organization Artesian Performing Arts Inc. and became the organization's first Artistic and Executive Director. He remains an in-demand consultant, collaborator, and mentor in production management, technical design, and theatre craft.

Marcus Merasty
Production Assistant



Marcus Merasty is an independent multidisciplinary artist with ancestral roots from Wapâwikoscikanihk, Pelican Narrows, Saskatchewan and of Asinîskâwitiniwak, Rocky Cree, heritage. He completed the Professional Program at the School of Contemporary Dancers in Winnipeg, MB, in 2021. A Past Artist-in-Residence at New Dance Horizons (NDH), Regina, SK. Marcus' passion lies in exploring Indigenous contemporary dance performance and creation. In 2024 their work was presented at the Remain Modern (Saskatoon, SK) and at NDHs Stream of Dance Festival (Regina, SK). Recently Marcus has worked as an interpreter for; The Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra, The Globe Theatre, NDH/Rouge-gorge, and Lara Kramer.