

## Show #1 Artist Bios:

### **Marcus Merasty:**



**Marcus Merasty** is a dance artist from Pelican Narrows, Saskatchewan and is of Cree descent, Assin'skowitziniwak meaning "People of the rocky area". His interest in dance began with learning traditional Métis jigging in 2013. A year later, following the invitation to perform in a contemporary dance work by Edward Poitras and Robin Poitras he began to pursue a life in dance. This was also the beginning of an on-going mentorship with artists Robin Poitras and Edward Poitras. Since then Marcus has received training in theatre from the Gordon Tootoosis Nīkānīwin Theatre and participated in the Indigenous Dance Residency (2016) & the Indigenous Choreographers Creation Lab (2019) at The Banff Centre, and has toured across eastern Canada with The Dancers of Damelahamid. Marcus recently completed the 4 year Professional Program at The School of Contemporary Dancers and is working toward his BA. (Hons) in Contemporary Dance from the University of Winnipeg.

### **Krista Solheim:**



**Krista Solheim** is an independent dance artist and movement teacher based in Regina, SK. She received her early dance training at the Youth Ballet Company of Saskatchewan, then completed a BFA in Contemporary Dance from Concordia University in 1998. In 2014, she became STOTT PILATES® certified instructor. Over the past 20 years, Krista has pursued an independent creative and performative dance practice. As choreographer, Krista has been active in developing her voice as a soloist. As performer, she has worked with a range of choreographers from across Canada. Since 2017, Krista has been working with New Dance Horizons (NDH) Creation Base, NDH/ Rouge-gorge; dancing in the creations of Robin Poitras and Edward Poitras.

### **Meara Conway:**



Praised as "divinely voiced" by the Winnipeg Free Press, Saskatchewan-born Soprano Meara Conway completed her Masters in Opera Performance at McGill in 2009 and has studied voice with some of Canada and France's foremost vocal pedagogues.

Winner of the Canadian Music Festival Competition, recipient of the Maureen Forrester Award, the Wallis Memorial Opera Competition, and a Schulich Academic Scholar, she is also a graduate of McGill's Law Faculty, and currently serves as a Member of the Saskatchewan

Legislative Assembly with the Official Opposition representing the Saskatchewan NDP.

Ms. Conway has made solo appearances with the National Arts Centre, the Regina Symphony Orchestra (Brahms' *Requiem*), and the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra (Händel's *Messiah*), Montreal's Festival en Lumière, the Ottawa Chamber Music Festival, Theatre LacBrôme, Ottawa's Tulip Festival, and has toured with the Grammy-winning Theatre of Early Music.

## **Simon Fryer:**

Principal Cellist of the Regina Symphony Orchestra, Founder and Director of the Prairie Cello Institute, Director of Regina Summer Strings, and Artistic Director of the Women's Musical Club of Toronto's *Music in the Afternoon* concert series, Simon Fryer is an artist of the utmost versatility, at home with the demands of the music of our time and those of historical performance, with the cooperation of ensemble music-making and in the solo spotlight.

Simon's discography of over 30 recordings includes the solo CD: *Music of a life so far...* acclaimed as 'a fascinating collection' by the Toronto Star. Of his latest release, on Centaur Records, a CD of Victorian Cello Sonatas by Samuel Liddle, Algernon Ashton and Charles Stanford with pianist Leslie De'Ath, Wholenote magazine lauded 'expansive playing ... Fryer's tone in the lower register is particularly lovely.' As a member of the Juno-winning Penderecki String Quartet – one of the Canada's most successful ensembles - Simon performed regularly across Canada and around the world. The PSQ released several discs during this time, including the complete cycle of Bartok's String Quartets, and worked closely with many of the world's most innovative contemporary creators from Christos Hatzis to DJ Spooky. Appearances as soloist in Canada with orchestras such as the Regina, Mississauga, and Okanagan Symphonies and the Esprit Orchestra, as well as the Da Capo Chamber Choir and the Wellington Winds, have been complemented by performances as guest Principal with such as the Hamilton Philharmonic. Previously a member of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, internationally he has performed with the Orqestra Sinfonica de Tenerife and the UK's Northern Sinfonia.

Well-known for his master classes in cello and chamber music, Simon has been guest faculty at many institutions including the University of Western Ontario, Brandon University, the Desautels School of Music, the Vancouver Cello Club, Mount Royal College, The Banff Centre, Memorial University, the University of British Columbia, Oberlin Conservatory, Shanghai Conservatory, Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, Indiana University; the University of Southern California, and Paris University 8. Simon has held faculty positions at Wilfrid Laurier University, the University of Toronto, and the Glenn Gould School in Canada, as well as at the Casalmaggiore International Festival in Italy.

Simon holds performance accreditation from the Royal Northern College of Music and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and has been active as a chamber musician, orchestral player, and soloist in more than thirty countries on six continents. He performs on an instrument completed in 1998 by Masa Inokuchi and when not playing the cello, enjoys nothing more than tinkering with his elderly MG sportscar.

Visit [www.simonfryer.com](http://www.simonfryer.com) for more information.

## **“Clinker” Gary James Joynes:**



Gary James Joynes, also known as Clinker, is an award-winning visual and sound artist based in Edmonton, Canada. He blends the beauty and physicality of sound's auditory and visual elements in rigorous and emotional installation works, and in Live Cinema AV performances. Joynes' innovative and thought-provoking works have earned international recognition, with exhibitions and performances held at art galleries and festivals worldwide. His artistic practice invites audiences to experience the profound beauty of the unseen and to encourage a slowed and attentive state in viewers - to have them interrupt busy-ness

for prolonged moments of being-ness.

Through the convergence of analog and digital technologies, Joynes crafts intricate audiovisual compositions that push the boundaries of perception and sensory experience. His works often involve the transformation of audio signals into kinetic video sculptures and fine art photographic works, unraveling the hidden beauty and emotional potential of sound. His installations delve into the relationship between sound and physical matter, offering an enthralling glimpse into the interconnectedness of the senses.

Collaboration, also a major focus of his practice continues to see Joynes composing, scoring and performing sound and music for various avant-garde filmmakers and contemporary dance companies. Most recently he has enjoyed working with dancers [Brian Webb](#) and [Robin Poitras \(C.M.\)](#), media artists Edward Poitras, [Dr. Brad Necyk](#), [Aron Munson](#) and musician [Dr. Deepak Paramashivan](#) to name a few.

### Lindsay Cottin:



**Lindsay Cottin**, New Dance Horizons's newest Artist-in-Residence, is an accomplished versatile dancer and movement artist from Regina, SK with over a decade of experience training, performing, teaching, choreographing and directing locally and internationally. Her dance background consists of Contemporary, Bellydance, Ballet, Hip Hop, Dancehall, Heels, Salsa, and Flamenco. She has been an integral part of Regina, SK as she has directed and coordinated various dance shows for children to adults and is a contributing member of the Flux Movement Practice studio.

In 2011 Lindsay moved to Toronto, ON in which she performed with The Arabesque Dance Company and Tsingory Dance Company (African Dance Company), as well as actively trained in various studios in other styles such as; Contemporary, Ballet and Samba. She has also been a dance company member of the Los Angeles Bellydance Academy in LA and has won various awards in the US. Currently Lindsay is actively performing and teaching in the styles of Bellydance, Contemporary, Dancehall and Heels.

Besides dance, Lindsay is a Holistic Practitioner and holds diplomas in Shiatsu Massage Therapy, Recreational Therapy and has various certifications in Reiki and energy work.

### Johanna Bundon:



**Johanna Bundon** is a Saskatchewan based dance and theatre artist. Her choreographic work has been presented by New Dance Horizons, Globe Theatre's Sandbox Series, the National Arts Centre's Prairie Scene Festival, and the Prairie Dance Circuit. Her work has also expanded through participating in *Untitled Peter Tripp Project* created alongside Jayden Pfeifer & Lee Henderson. This project has been shared nationally: Stream of Dance 2019, MAGNORTH Vancouver 2019, Dunlop Art Gallery at Neutral Ground Regina 2020, Curtain Razors 2021, PAVED Arts Saskatoon 2022, and Struts Gallery & SappyFest Sackville, NB 2023.

Other collaborative endeavours include *Live Duet* (ongoing since 2016) co-created with Pfeifer, and *the understory* (2015) co-created with bee pallomina. In 2023, Johanna performed new work by Robin Poitras & Edward Poitras and a duet commissioned from Connie Moker-Wernikowski. Johanna is a graduate of LADMMI: *Les Ateliers de Danse Moderne de Montréal* (2005), San Diego 4 Feldenkrais Professional Training Program (2020), Globe Theatre's Actor Conservatory (2008), and has a BA in Arts & Culture from the University of Regina (2013). She frequently teaches Feldenkrais Method & contemporary dance technique through New Dance Horizons' bi-weekly training platform, Dance Core (Regina, SK.)

### Tessa Rae Kuz:



**Tessa Rae Kuz** is a dance artist, emerging choreographer and educator based on the Treaty 4 Territory of Regina Saskatchewan - the original lands of the Plains Cree, Saulteaux, Dakota, Nakota, Lakota, and Metis people. She holds a BFA in Dance Performance from the Toronto Metropolitan University. She is currently an active participant of Margie Gillis' Legacy Project, where she performs in both solo and group works. Her long-term artistic mentorship with Robin Poitras and Edward Poitras began in 2019 and continues to evolve through opportunities to interpret and perform in new and past creations, rehearsal direct, and teach. In 2022, she had the opportunity to further her development through Educate And Dance - a street dance training program led by

Montreal hip hop pioneer Angelo Aneur.

### Carol-Ann Bohrn:

Carol-Ann Bohrn began dancing in her hometown of Brandon. Her career debuted in Saskatoon with the White Birch Ballet. In Winnipeg she has performed works by Marie-Josée Chartier, Rachel Browne, Jera Wolfe, Idan Cohen, and Jolene Bailie. She has danced and acted for theatre, film, television commercials and music videos. Carol-Ann was nominated for an Evie Award for her choreographic contributions to Prairie Theatre Exchange's original show, *By Grand Central Station*. After graduating from the School of Contemporary Dancers / University of Winnipeg, she sought further development at the Cartae Open School at aceartinc, the Foundational Mentorship Program at Mentoring Artists for Women's Art, and the Royal Winnipeg Ballet's Teacher Training Program. Her practice is influenced by studies in Grotowski, Pochinko Clown and Feldenkrais.

### Jesse Rae Archibald-Barber:

Jesse Rae Archibald Barber is from Regina and is a professor of Indigenous Literatures at the First Nations University of Canada. His publications include stories in *The Malahat Review*, *MBC Magazine*, and *mitewâcimowina: Indigenous Science Fiction and Speculative Storytelling*, as well as editing the award-winning anthology *kisiskâciwan: Indigenous Voices from Where the River Flows Swiftly*. His most recent work, *acâhkos nikamowini-pîkiskwêwina – The Star Poems*, presents a contemporary adaptation of traditional star stories in both Cree and English.

### Robin Poitras:

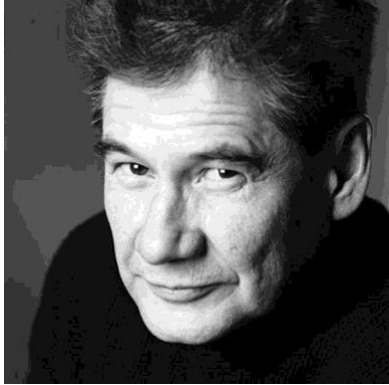


**Robin Poitras, C.M.** is one of Saskatchewan's most prolific dance and performance creators. Creating dance, performance, and installation works, she has been actively engaged in contemporary dance practice since the early 80s. For many years Robin has traversed the formal worlds of dance and performance 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:



**Edward Poitras** is a member of the George Gordon First Nation and a resident of Treaty Four Territory. He is an artist who has always recognized his mixed heritage – Métis/Cree/Saulteaux – as a powerful source of energy, creativity, and contradiction. Themes of colonization, assimilation, integration, genocide, displacement, migration, survival, nationalism and transnationalism permeate his work as he explores tensions, contradictions, narratives, and interactions.