

## Show #4 Artist Bios:

### **Robin Poitras:**

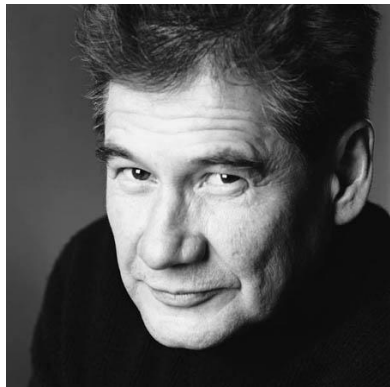


**Robin Poitras, C.M.** is one of Saskatchewan's most prolific dance and performance creators. Creating dance, performance, and installation works, she has been actively engaged in contemporary dance practice since the early 80s. For many years Robin has traversed the formal worlds of dance and performance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

### **Andrew Menara:**

**Andrew Menara**, 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.

## Adam Barruch:

Adam Barruch began his career as a young actor, performing professionally on Broadway and in film and television, working with prominent figures such as Tony Bennett, Jerry Herman and Susan Stroman. He later received dance training at LaGuardia High School for Music & Art and Performing Arts. After three years, he graduated early and was accepted into the dance department at The Juilliard School. As a dancer he has performed the works of Jiri Kylian, Ohad Naharin, Susan Marshall, Jose Limon, Daniele Dessnoyers, and was a dancer with Sylvain Émard Danse in Montreal. As a choreographer, Adam's work has been presented at venues such as The Joyce Theater, Dance Theater Workshop, City Center, NYU/ Skirball Center for the Performing Arts, The Juilliard School, The Baryshnikov Arts Center, Ailey-Citigroup Theater, The 92Y: Buttenweiser Hall, Jacob's Pillow: Inside/Out, LaMaMa, The Cedar Lake Theater, Gina Gibney Dance Center, The Harris Theater, The Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, The Cowles Center, The Yard on Martha's Vineyard, Bates Dance Festival and Theatre Usine C in Montreal. Adam Barruch is also the developer of 'Dynamic Sequencing,' a movement practice designed to promote expansive range, healthful coordination and optimal awareness in motion. He has taught technique and repertory at Princeton University, The Boston Conservatory, Fordham University, Marymount Manhattan College, The Martha Graham School, The Hartt School, The Conservatory of Dance at Purchase College, New York University, Hofstra University, West Virginia University, SUNY Brockport, Texas Christian University, The Hubbard Street Professional Training Program and internationally at La Escuela Profesional de Danza de Mazatlán (EPDM), New Zealand School of Dance and Ballet Divertimento in Montreal. He has also worked with The Margie Gillis Dance Foundation, performing and researching Conflict Transformation as part of The Legacy Project. Based in Brooklyn, Adam currently creates and performs work with own company, Anatomiae Occultii. Adam is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Acupuncture from Pacific College of Health and Science. [www.anatomiaeoccultii.com](http://www.anatomiaeoccultii.com)

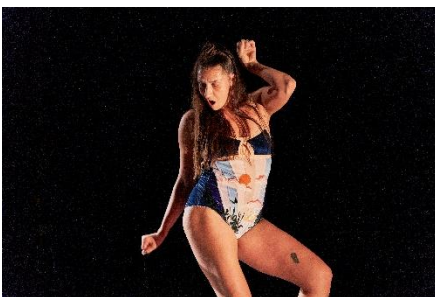
## Mohana Das:



Mohana Das is a professional Indian Classical dancer with 25 years of experience and a Dance teacher for over 14 years. She is the recipient of the prestigious Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) Scholarship. She is a "National dance Competition "winner in her home country and performed as a soloist in major dance festivals in India, Bangladesh, Singapore. She also won prestigious dance awards from Government in different times. She is trained in different classical and folk-dance forms and learned under the tutelage of famous classical dance artists and Guru: Sharmila Banerjee, Shaswati Garai Ghosh, Benazir Salam, Vidushi Arushi Mudgal, Nritya Upadhyay Sandip Mallic and many more. She is enlisted as an Artist in National Television. She is the artistic director of her dance school in Regina named 'Nritya Kalpa Yog'. She along with her team performed in different festivals in Saskatchewan. Besides she is also

working as Data scientist Manager at SaskTel.

## Jeanette Kotowich:



Originally from Treaty 4 territory Saskatchewan, Jeanette creates work that reflects Nêhiyaw/Métis cosmology within the context of contemporary dance, Indigenous performance, and Indigenous futurism. Fusing interdisciplinary collaboration, de-colonial practices and embodied research methodologies; Jeanette's work references protocol, ritual, relationship to the natural/spirit world and Ancestral knowledge. Their practice is intergenerational and vocational; it's a living and lived experience. Jeanette has self-presented and been programmed at theatres and festivals across Turtle Island and internationally.

Her solo *Kisiskâciwan* premiered in Vancouver 2022, and has since toured to 11 cities nationally, and to Germany and Australia. Her ensemble work *Kwê* was presented at Matriarchs Uprising and Dance in Vancouver 2021/22. She is now working on a new ensemble called *BOLT*, a work for 4 performing artists. Jeanette is the Artistic Associate at Raven Spirit Dance, and co-founder of [aka](#) collective. She facilitates movement workshops with Indigenous worldview, workshops on de-colonial perspectives in the arts, and is a Métis dance and cultural knowledge carrier. She resides as a guest on the Ancestral and unceded Sk̓w̓x̓wú7mesh, Səlilwətaʔɬ/, and Xʷməθkʷəy̓əm territories, colonially known as Vancouver. [movementhealing.ca](http://movementhealing.ca)

### **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 Ameur.

### **Anne Neudorf:**

Anne Neudorf is a contemporary dancer and choreographer originally from the Treaty 4 territory of Regina, Saskatchewan and currently based in Treaty 6 territory, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Anne holds a Bachelor of Arts Honours in Contemporary Dance from the School of Contemporary Dancers and the University of Winnipeg, under the direction of Odette Heyn and Faye Thomson. Anne has worked with organizations and artists such as Stephanie Ballard and Dancers: Landscape Dancing, Deaf Arts Manitoba Magic of ASL, New Dance Horizons (Stream of Dance 2022, 2023 and Rouge-gorge 2023), Youth Ballet of Saskatchewan, Arts Accessibility Network Manitoba, Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers (Emerging Artist Initiative 2022) and Free Flow Dance Company (Emerge 2023) and Peter Quanz. Anne is also a dance teacher and is inspired by movers of all ages, she continues to explore finding joy and connection through dance.

### **Natalie Sluis:**

Natalie Sluis is a contemporary dance artist located in Winnipeg, Manitoba. She is a graduate of The Professional Program of The School of Contemporary Dancers. She has been the recipient of several scholarship awards from the Manitoba Arts Council. Natalie is now fully engaged in the artistic beauty of contemporary dance, and it has become her life's passion. She has completed multiple professional projects in both choreography and dance.

Natalie's recent and upcoming projects include Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers Emerging Artists Initiative Project, Odette Heyn-Projects and the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, New Dance Horizons / M-Body Project (Regina), Free Flow Dance Theatre Company / Q Dance (Saskatoon), SABO Project: Marie-Josée Chartier and Darryl Tracy (Toronto), Lina Cruz: Fila 13

Productions (Ottawa), Stand Up Dance (Potsdam / Berlin, Germany).

She is honoured to perform Peter Quanz's "241" in New Dance Horizons Stream of Dance Festival 2024.

**Peter Quanz:**

**Peter Quanz** is a Canadian choreographer of international renown known for his groundbreaking choreographic collaborations in dance, music, and visual art. His diverse aesthetic encompasses classical and contemporary ballet, contemporary dance/theatre experiences, and classical Chinese dance. Cultural immersion is a significant component of Peter's work and he is attracted to projects that offer opportunities to build international cooperation.