



MOCEAN  
DANCE

Mocean Dance presents

# PETITES DANSES

Choreography by Marie-Josée Chartier (Toronto/Montréal)

April 9, 8pm / April 10, 2pm & 8pm / Livestream: April 10, 8pm / Alderney Landing Theatre

Note from the chair

# WELCOME FROM MOCEAN DANCE

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Welcome to *petites danses*, Marie-Josée Chartier's acclaimed work, re-embraced by new and former performers, characterized by the terroir of their stories in this time and place.

To you, the audience, thank you from all our hearts. Whether seated in your carefully spaced groups or watching the livestream, for art-makers the presence of an audience—a viewer—is critical. We are truly lucky to be here.

Thanks to Marie-Josée for sharing her artistry and experience, and helping Mocean and its artistic collaborators manage this project through the realities we face together.

To our sponsors, funders, and donors, continuing to support Mocean's catalytic mission has been more important than ever during this unusual year. Our gratitude is boundless.

On behalf of the entire organization, we count on you to help us advance contemporary dance and live performance today and in better times ahead.

Sincerely,



Pamela Scott Crace  
Chair, Mocean Dance

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# CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S NOTE

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Welcome back!

This year has reminded us not to take for granted the innate need for creativity and connection. Artists reflect the world around us and help us make sense of its complexities. They are also masters of the unknown with the ability to find meaning in the darkest of times. The *petites danses* project is a model for adaptability and transformation. Originally created in 2015, *petites danses* has been performed in six cities, with each group of artists bringing their own history and artistry to each iteration. Our East Coast artists, working within the realities of the past year, bring a whole new dimension to the performance of *petites danses*; as an audience member you bring your interpretation informed by your own experiences and together we create a “small dance” of this moment in time. Tonight's show offers a glimpse into four existing works from the *petites danses* collection and we've created one piece, adding a new chapter to the work. It is an invitation to embrace the stories of our lives—acknowledging the beauty, complexity and impermanence of each moment—while reminding us that we are part of a greater narrative.



Susanne Chui, Co-Artistic Director

# CHOREOGRAPHER'S NOTE

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Stepping in the studio on March 22, in a room filled with dancers and actors, felt both surreal and familiar. Surreal for the reasons we know, not being able to enter such a space in over a year and familiar, because the moment I entered, there is an unspoken agreement. We are here to work, create, exchange, discover and rekindle the joy of hugging your colleagues! I am extremely grateful to be here, to engage with such admirable artists and to be able to continue exploring this thing we do: making art.

— Marie-Josée Chartier

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# PETITES DANSES

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**CONCEPT, CHOREOGRAPHY, DIRECTION:** Marie-Josée Chartier\*

**COMPOSERS:** Rodney Sharman, Linda C. Smith, James Tenney

**LIGHTING CONCEPTS, DESIGNS:** Marie-Josée Chartier, Simon Rossiter

**ADDITIONAL LIGHTING DESIGN:** Benoît Gravel

**SET AND PROPS DESIGNS:** Marie-Josée Chartier, Peter Earle

**COSTUME DESIGNS AND COORDINATION:** Marie-Josée Chartier,  
Martha Cockshutt

**ADDITIONAL COSTUMES AND ALTERATIONS:** Kate Mitchell

**PROPS ASSISTANCE:** Leah Skerry



# PROGRAMME

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## **trio**

performers: Nathaniel Dooks, Mairéad Filgate\*, Julie Robert\*

rehearsal assistant: Mairéad Filgate

music: *Septet* by James Tenney

## **solo**

performer: Gillian Seaward-Boone\*

rehearsal assistant: Susanne Chui

music: *After Truth* by Rodney Sharman

This solo was initially created with and performed by Sara Coffin at the IMPACTfest in Moncton on January 11, 2020 produced by Atlantic Ballet Atlantique Canada. This new version has been developed with Gillian Seaward-Boone.

## **duo**

performers: Susanne Chui\*, Matthew Lumley

music: *Septet* by James Tenney

rehearsal assistant: Gillian Seaward-Boone

## **quintet of men**

performers: Roland Chun Shing Au, Nathaniel Dooks, Henricus Gielis, Sébastien Labelle, Matthew Lumley

music: *After Truth* by Rodney Sharman

## **quintet of women**

performers: Gillian Seaward-Boone, Susanne Chui, Julie Robert, Anastasia Wiebe\*, Lydia Zimmer\*

rehearsal assistant: Mairéad Filgate

music: *Dirt Road* (movement #1) and *Moi Qui Tremblais* both by Linda Catlin Smith

This new work was commissioned by Mocean Dance for *petites danses*—Halifax version.

\* Member of the Canadian Alliance of Dance Artists

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## THANK YOU

Marie-Josée Chartier would like to thank Susanne Chui and Sara Coffin who pushed through all the variables of the last year to make this production happen. To all the performers for their artistry and generosity throughout this short, intense and very productive process. To Mairéad Filgate for jumping in at the last minute to join me in this adventure. Thanks to the long list of dancers, actors, presenters and supporters who have been involved in the different iterations of *petites danses* since 2014 with a special mention to Darryl Tracy who has been assisting me along the way; all these great people are part of what you will see tonight.

## NOTE

This project was originally envisioned as a “maritime version” of *petites danses* in collaboration between Marie-Josée / Chartier Danse, Mocean Dance, The Coop (Fredericton, NB) and Connection Dance Works (St. John, NB). For nearly five years the four companies worked to realize the full scope of the project; some workshops and creation residencies took place but the full Maritime tour could not happen due to challenges with funding and then the pandemic happened! It became clear that we would need to adapt in order to make it happen. We would like to acknowledge and thank Marie-Josée, Lesandra Dodson, Lisa Anne Ross and Connection Dance Works for their collaborative spirit and the energy they put into developing the project. We also want to thank Susan Chalmers Gauvin and Atlantic Ballet Atlantique Canada for presenting in-progress versions of three of the pieces last year; and to ArtsNB, Tim Yerxa and the Fredericton Playhouse for supporting various creation phases for the New Brunswick pieces.

**LYLE TILLEY DAVIDSON**  
Chartered Professional Accountants

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# BIOGRAPHIES

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## **MARIE-JOSÉE CHARTIER, Choreographer**

A versatile artist, whose talents transcend the boundaries of dance, music, opera and multi-media, Marie-Josée Chartier moves easily between her many roles as choreographer, performer, director, vocalist and teacher. Her dynamic and critically acclaimed works have been presented at major festivals across Canada, Europe and Latin America. Her work was the subject of the documentary film *In Stillness and in Motion*, presented on CBC, BRAVO!, Radio-Québec and at Montréal's Festival de Films sur l'Art.

Since 2003, in addition to her ongoing activities as a performer and choreographer, Marie-Josée directs/stages contemporary opera and multi-media productions which have been presented internationally including the Covent Garden (London), the Prague National Theatre (Nová Scéna), Arts and Ideas Festival (New Haven), Festival Ars Musica (Brussels) and Cervantino (Guanajuato).

She is the recipient of the Jacqueline Lemieux Prize (2015), the K.M. Hunter Award (2001), nine Dora Mavor Moore Award nominations garnering for *fifty-one pieces of silver* (2002) and sharing with the multi-disciplinary collective URGE for *And by the way Miss* (2005).

Upcoming is the ongoing creation of a theatrical/physical work *Fracas* with writer Margaret Sweatman (Winnipeg), participating as faculty member for *Evolution: Classical* (Banff), directing *Showroom*, a new opera (libretto, Atom Egoyan, music, Rodney Sharman, Toronto), staging *L'Outre-Rêve* for l'ECM+ (Montréal) and *one+one is three* with writer Anne Michaels and singer David Sereda (Toronto/Owen Sound).

Marie-Josée founded Chartier Danse in 2003 to support her projects, building a cornerstone for large scale productions and partnerships. Born in Montréal and based in Toronto, Marie-Josée makes her home wherever she shares her passion for theatre, music, dance and powerful human stories. Photo: Jeremy Mimmagh

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**SUSANNE CHUI, Co-Artistic Director,  
Performer**

Susanne Chui is an award-winning dance artist and Co-Artistic Director of Mocean Dance. Susanne trained professionally at the School of Toronto Dance Theatre and was based in Toronto from 1999-2007, during which she danced for many independent choreographers and was a founding member of *TILT: sound + motion* dance company.

For Mocean, Susanne has developed roles in works by many of Canada's finest choreographers and co-created with Erin Donovan (Hear Here Productions) *Burnwater* and *Burnwater: Alchemy*, both multi-disciplinary, immersive performances. A passionate improviser, Susanne collaborates across disciplines and teaches at the Creative Music Workshop, an annual improvisation-based summer program. Her dancing in Mocean's *Canvas 5 x 5*, choreographed by Tedd Robinson, earned her the 2016 Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia's Masterworks Award.

An active arts manager, Susanne has worked in various roles in the arts community and has been Co-Artistic Director of Mocean, in tandem with Sara Coffin, since 2012. From the office, to the studio, to the stage, Susanne is deeply committed to contributing to the voice of Canadian dance. Photo: Nick Rudnicki



**JULIE ROBERT, Interim Artistic Producer,  
Performer**

Originally from Montréal, Julie Robert studied ballet at l'École Supérieure de Ballet du Québec and danced professionally for Le Jeune Ballet du Québec, Ballet Ouest de Montréal & Le Ballet Métropolitain de Montréal as a corps de ballet member. Seeking to expand her artistic practice, Julie completed the professional dance training program at L'École de danse contemporaine de Montréal in 2015 (formally ladmmi). Since graduating, she has presented

her own choreographic works with Tangente (Montréal), and has been a part of several Montréal, Toronto, and Halifax-based dance projects. Julie has been an independent dance artist since 2016, working primarily for Mocean Dance & Votive, and has performed in works by Heidi Strauss (Toronto), Vanessa Goodman (Vancouver), Marie-Josée Chartier (Toronto) and Sara Coffin (Halifax), among others. Photo: Julie Artacho

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**MAIRÉAD FILGATE, Rehearsal Assistant,  
Performer**

Mairéad Filgate (Toronto/Montreal) is an avid performer, choreographer and teacher. She has worked with numerous independent artists and companies and toured throughout Canada, to Europe, U.S.A., China, and Mongolia. Mairéad is Artistic Associate of tiger princess dance projects and a founding member of Throwdown Collective with whom she received a Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding Choreography in 2016. Throwdown Collective's new full-length work will

be presented in 2022. Mairéad is currently gathering an oral history of the Danny Grossman Dance Company of which she was a proud member from 2003 to 2008. Photo: Trish Lindström



Originally from Nova Scotia, **GILLIAN SEAWARD-BOONE** completed her professional dance training at l'Ecole de Danse Contemporaine de Montréal (EDCM). Upon graduating, she worked with Sinha Danse, Pigeons International and Sasha Ivanochko, before joining O Vertigo Danse as a full company member until the direction of Ginette Laurin. During her time with the company, she performed and taught extensively throughout Europe, Asia, and North America. Since returning to Halifax in 2013, Gillian has worked as an independent artist, performing

the works of Alexis Cormier, Lydia Zimmer, Lisa Phinney and Vanessa Goodman (Votive Dance). Gillian has danced with Mocean Dance for seven seasons, performing works by Serge Bennethan, Marie-Josée Chartier, Sara Coffin, Sharon Moore and Parts+Labour\_Danse, and was Rehearsal Director for Danielle Desnoyers, Heidi Strauss, Sara Coffin and Lydia Zimmer. She is currently a member of the modern dance faculty of Halifax Dance's Intensive Training Program, Director of Production and Development at Halifax Dance and Co-Director of The Young Company of Halifax Dance. Photo: Val Boulet

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### **ANASTASIA WIEBE, Performer**

Anastasia Wiebe is a Halifax-based dancer-choreographer. She trained at Peridance Capezio Center and graduated from their Certificate Dance Program in 2015. She has had the pleasure of performing works by Victor Quijada, Robert Battle, Hofesh Shechter, and many more. She is currently co-artistic director and dancer with Nostos Collectives. Anastasia is an emerging choreographer co-choreographing her first full-length work in 2018 with Jessica Lowe, *Parallel Paths*. She has also had

the pleasure of setting works across the Maritimes and Toronto.



### **LYDIA ZIMMER, Performer**

Lydia Zimmer is a graduate of Walnut Hill School for the Arts ('07) and The Boston Conservatory (B.F.A. '11). Since returning to her home city of Halifax, Lydia has created several works supported by Canada Council for the Arts and Arts NS. These include *Bonne Nuit* (2016), presented through Live Art Dance; *Embankment*, commissioned (2017) and remounted (2021) by Votive Dance; *Sonderlings* (2018), commissioned by Nostos Dance

Collectives, and *Sondering* (2019), a solo presented by FODAR. Lydia completed a dance residency at Nes Artist Residency in Skagastrond, Iceland, and a choreographic residency in Sofia, Bulgaria at the Derida Dance Centre. Lydia has been commissioned by Mocean Dance to create a new work that will premiere in the Spring of 2021... she is grateful to be able to rehearse with Votive and Mocean during this pandemic! She currently works for Mocean Dance, Votive Dance, and Kinetic Studio. Photo: Cooked Photography



### **ROLAND CHUN SHING AU, Performer**

Roland Chun Shing Au is the Artistic Director of *Theatre du Poulet* which is based in K'jipuktuk/Halifax. He graduated from The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) Major in Acting in 2012. He has performed internationally in Hong Kong, Macau, China and Ireland before settling in NS, Canada. His work — "The Ex-

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inction of Hong Kongers “with Theatre du Poulet received two awards in 2018 for ‘The Best Newcomer Award’ at the Halifax Fringe Festival and ‘The Theatre Centre’s Emerging Artist Award’ at the Summerworks Festival in Toronto. Follow him on Instagram & FB: @theatredupoulet / <https://www.theatredupoulet.com/>. Photo: Seamus Sullivan@ Lenscape Photography



**NATHANIEL DOOKS, Performer**

Nathaniel “Natorious” Dooks is a Breaker, Actor, and Artist based out of K’jipuktuk/ Halifax Nova Scotia. He has been competing, performing, and organizing community events in the Nova Scotian Hip Hop scene since 2011. Branching out from breaking he’s trained in various styles of Hip Hop dance leading to his better understanding of dance as a whole. He’s thrilled to be given the opportunity to push his skills in a dance style completely out of his comfort zone.



**HENRICUS GIELIS, Performer**

Henricus Gielis is an actor and improviser based in K’jipuktuk/Halifax. He is a member of the comedy troupe Hello City! He has worked with many local theatre companies including: Festival Antigonish, Ship’s Company Theatre, Matchstick Theatre, Steady Theatre Co., Work-shirt Opera, Eastern Front Theatre, and Villain’s Theatre. Most recently he performed in the livestreamed sitcom *The Crevice* from Phylis Rising Productions. You can catch him this summer performing with Two Planks and a Passion Theatre in Canning, NS.



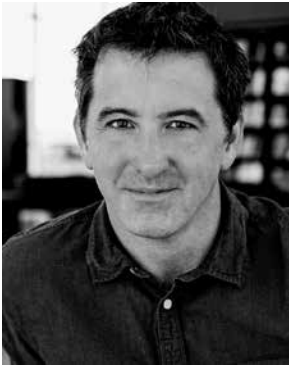
**SÉBASTIEN LABELLE, Performer**

Sébastien Labelle is Executive Director of the Bus Stop Theatre Co-op and Festival Director for Mayworks K’jipuktuk/Halifax. He has performed with numerous local theatre companies including Workshirt Opera, Matchstick Theatre, Shakespeare By the Sea, Villain’s Theatre, 2b Theatre and Two Planks and a Passion Theatre. He was last seen online playing David

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in *The Crevice* for Phyllis Rising Productions via The Bus Stop Theatre. He is also a collaborator on the River Clyde Pageant in PEI and will soon be seen on screen in *The Good House* for Amblin Entertainment and *Chapelwaite* for Epix. Photo: James MacLean



**MATTHEW LUMLEY, Performer**

Matthew Lumley's recent stage credits include *Elapultiek*, *Frankenstein*, *In This Light*, *Animal Farm*, *North Mountain Vanya* (Two Planks and a Passion Theatre), *The Realistic Jones*, *Heaven Above/Heaven Below* (KAZAN), *Hamlet* (Below the Salt), *The Little Years* (Matchstick Theatre), *This Is Nowhere* (Zuppa Theatre). Recent TV and film credits include *Hopeless Romantic* (Northeast Films); *Polaroid* (Dimension Films), *Weirdos* (Shadow Shows), *Mr. D* (CBC). Matthew wrote and performed in *First Weekend* and *Surf Gods* (airing on CBC); he co-wrote

and performed in *The Perfection of Man* (Misery Loves Theatre Company/Eastern Front Theatre). Upcoming in 2021: *Macbeth*, *Schoolhouse* (Two Planks). Matthew studied at the Neighborhood Playhouse (NYC) and York University (Toronto). Photo: Emily Jewer



**BENOIT WHITEHEAD GRAVEL, Technical Director**

Benoit Whitehead Gravel is a multidisciplinary artist and technician based out of Kijipuktuk/Halifax. He is currently working at Ship's Company Theatre in Parrsboro as technical director and facilities coordinator, and can otherwise be found in the lighting departments of various theatres in the Maritimes, including Neptune Theatre and Alderney Landing. He has designed lights for Mocean Dance, Votive Dance, and Kinetic Studios everywhere from theatres to studio attics. The pandemic has

offered him the opportunity to dive deeper into his hobbies, including painting, writing music, and training to become a professional wrestler. Support Maritime arts and wrestling!

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# ABOUT MOCEAN DANCE

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Mocean Dance is an award-winning contemporary dance company based in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Led by Co-Artistic Directors Susanne Chui and Sara Coffin, Mocean commissions Canadian and international choreographers to create dance that is highly physical, collaborative, and technically and emotionally rich. Recognized nationally as a leading dance company from the Atlantic Region, the company was honoured with The Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia Masterworks Art Award in 2016 for *Canvas 5 x 5*, which was the first time this esteemed provincial award was given to a Nova Scotia dance work. Founded in 2001 by Carolle Crooks Fernando, Sarah Rozee, Sara Harrigan, Alicia Orr MacDonald, and Lisa Phinney Langley, and a resident company of Halifax Dance since 2002, Mocean is committed to its home base in Nova Scotia, contributing to the province's dance and arts community by providing opportunities for creation, performance, collaboration, development and education. [www.moceandance.com](http://www.moceandance.com)

*Mocean Dance creates, collaborates, and performs in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral home and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people. We have gratitude for this land, and respect and appreciation for its many generations of caretakers. As an organization, we commit to learning what it means to be Treaty People who move forward together in peace and friendship.*

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**CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTORS:** Susanne Chui & Sara Coffin

**INTERIM ARTISTIC PRODUCER:** Julie Robert

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSOCIATE:** Deanna Johnston

**2020-21 SEASON PERFORMERS:** Jacinte Armstrong, Gillian Seaward-Boone, Susanne Chui, Kate Houston, Julie Robert, Anastasia Wiebe, Lydia Zimmer

**GUEST CHOREOGRAPHERS:** Marie Josée Chartier, Rebecca Lazier, Lydia Zimmer

**EDUCATION / OUTREACH:** Julie Robert, Meredith Kalaman, Lydia Zimmer

**REHEARSAL DIRECTORS:** Gillian Seaward-Boone, Mairéad Filgate, Susanne Chui

**MEDIA RELATIONS:** Sheila Duggan

**TOUR DEVELOPMENT:** Gillian Reid, Felix Productions

**TECHNICAL DIRECTOR:** Benoit Whitehead Gravel

**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Kevin MacCormack

**VIDEOGRAPHY:** Maritime Videographic, Lumi Studios

**LIVESTREAM:** Tom Rice / Alderney Landing Theatre

**GRAPHIC DESIGN:** Co. & Co.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** Pamela Scott Crace (Chair), Charles Baxter (Treasurer/Secretary), Margaret Armour, Sansom Marchand, Ewa Jachimowicz-Quinn, Andrea Smillie

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Thank you to Live Art Dance Productions, *petites danses* Presenting Sponsor

**SPECIAL THANK YOU:** Pamela Scott Crace and John Crace for hosting the artists, Sara Coffin for carrying this project through many of its stages, Halifax Dance, Sheila Duggan, Leah Skerry, the technical staff at Alderney Landing, the Mocean Staff, Board and Supporters, our families, and to Marie-Josée, all the collaborators for their incredible work.

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