



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: *FLUID FORMS*

Mocean Dance returns to the stage with ***Fluid Forms*** April 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.

*The company marks its 20th Anniversary by exploring the dynamic interplay of diverse identities.*

Kjipuktuk/Halifax NS – March 10, 2022: Mocean Dance could have marked its 20th Anniversary season with a retrospective. Instead, Co-Artistic Directors Susanne Chui and Sara Coffin chose to focus on how the company is moving forward to create and present works that reflect the artistic, cultural and societal challenges of our times. ***Fluid Forms***, is a confluence of perspectives from dance artists with deep ties to Atlantic Canada. A milestone production for the company, it features new works from four of this region's emergent voices. The live production runs for three shows only at Alderney Landing Theatre – April 8<sup>th</sup> at 8pm; and April 9<sup>th</sup> at 2pm and 8pm. The April 9<sup>th</sup> evening performance will be available via live stream.

The Elements of *Fluid Forms*

***Fluid Forms*** embraces dance as a reflection of the elusive, ever-changing nature of our world and celebrates the eloquent artists who set the pace. The program showcases the work of:

- New Brunswick-born Syreeta Hector, who explores personal and performative identities in a new quartet, ***From the Top***. Her work traces connections to family histories and considers what we inherit from our ancestors and the landscape of Eastern Canada. <https://vimeo.com/690700831>
- Halifax-based Lydia Zimmer, who continues to expand her choreographic imprint in Canada and brings her new work ***Mercurials***, a trio which toes the line between illusion and disillusion. Behind the Scenes: <https://vimeo.com/549279218>
- Mi'kmaw dance artist Sarah Prosper from Eskasoni First Nation, who teams up with Sara Coffin in ***Utawtiwow Kijinaq / Our Mother's Road***, a cross-generational, cross-cultural duet, that dives into the spiritual and emotional qualities of water.

Making Waves

Since it was founded in 2001, Mocean Dance has become a cultural magnet, bringing together diverse audiences to experience dance. Setting a course to enrich and grow contemporary dance in the region, the company has built and sustained a bold and adventurous environment that supports the creative potential of local dance artists and collaborates with acclaimed dancers and choreographers from across the country. In 2016 Mocean was honoured with ***The Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia Masterworks Art Award*** for ***Canvas 5 x 5***. This marks the first and only time that this award has been given to a Nova Scotia dance work.

The 20th Anniversary season continues that commitment to the rich artistic and cultural heritage of Atlantic Canada. "Mocean has always been about showcasing and supporting dance in this region and we continue to reflect our Atlantic roots," says Susanne Chui. "We feel very lucky to have perspectives



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from such gifted and perceptive artists as Syreeta, Sarah Prosper, Sara Coffin and Lydia to celebrate our 20th Anniversary. Their work is so prescient and relevant, especially at this time.”

Marking this milestone after two years of dealing with the choppy waters of a pandemic makes the celebration all the more meaningful. Mocean met the challenge and stepped up to their role as an artistic catalyst for dance. Pivoting to outdoors and online projects, the company prioritized support for artists and increased their roster of professional training classes. They also offered a *Staging the Screen* workshop with Live Art Dance, followed by a film creation intensive which resulted in six dance videos. The company continued to expand dance to the screen in a variety of endeavours.

Mocean participated in several interdisciplinary collaborations. These included merging dance and environmental awareness over a week of research with a multidisciplinary group of artists and the Sable Island Institute. Teaming up with commissioning producer Live Art Dance, Mocean worked with Nova Scotia-born choreographer Rebecca Lazier and the Halifax-based company Breaking Circus, to support research for a soaring off-ground choreographic art installation merging dance, visual art, circus, and music.

In March 2021, the company just squeaked through a narrow window of opportunity to mount the mainstage production *petites danses*, choreographed by Marie-Josée Chartier (Montréal/Toronto). All three performances at Alderney Landing were sell outs and the production was live streamed around the world.

Tickets on sale now for *Fluid Forms*

Mocean Dance presents *Fluid Forms* live at Alderney Landing Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 8pm and Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 2pm and 8pm. Ticket Prices (excluding taxes and fees) are: General Admission – \$28; Senior – \$25; Student/Artist - \$22; Youth/Unwaged – \$15. Tickets are available through Alderney Landing Box Office: <https://www.alderneylanding.com/events/mocean-dance-presents/>

Tickets for the April 9<sup>th</sup> live stream are by donation through eventbrite:

<https://moceandance.eventbrite.com>

More information:

**moceandance.com** FB: @moceanhalifax IG: @moceandance Twitter: @moceandance

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