

Mocean Dance celebrates dissolving boundaries and an enduring partnership

Where Dance and Music Meet plays March 31 and April 1

Kjipuktuk/Halifax NS – March 9, 2023: When Mocean Dance Co-Artistic Director Susanne Chui and legendary jazz percussionist Jerry Granelli met in 2012, they felt an immediate connection and discovered a parallel approach to improvisation.

Over the years that synergy grew as they shared their ideas and techniques through numerous collaborations, performances and workshops. That symbiotic relationship opened a door to new practices, dissolving the boundaries of dance and music and revealing the limitless potential of interdisciplinary art. *Where Dance and Music Meet* (WDMM) expands their work with a new generation of artists who are carrying these practices forward.

The Creative Core

The work is a full-length evening of dance/music pieces co-created by Chui who is the director, with six core collaborators, all musicians/composers and faculty of the Creative Music Workshop (CMW) – TD Halifax Jazz Festival's flagship summer education program. Jerry's son, J. Anthony Granelli (bass), Ross Burns (guitar, capoeira), Doug Cameron (percussionist), Nick Dourado (saxophone, piano), Andrew MacKelvie (saxophone) and Nicholas Maclean (guitar) have been coming together from various locations and working closely for almost ten years. Each has their own deep connection to Jerry Granelli, whose vision and perspective underpins this work.

The Ensemble

The core group will be joined onstage by 12 performers: Solène Bernier (dancer), Sara Coffin (Mocean Co-Artistic Director, dancer), Kathleen Doherty (dancer), Ellen Gibling (harpist) India Gailey (cellist, vocalist), Andrew Jackson (trombonist), Meredith Kalaman, (dancer) Kelvin Mansaray (violinist), I'thandi Munro (dancer), Sam Penner (dancer), Sarah Prosper (dancer) and Lilion Quarmyne (dancer).

What's in a name?

The original production was intended to be a collaboration between Jerry Granelli and Chui, but creation was put on hold when Granelli became sick in 2020 and later postponed after his death in July 2021. When re-envisioning the work, Chui reached out to her CMW co-faculty members to join her in exploring their own connection with Granelli and to interdisciplinary improvisation. As this dynamic performance unfolds, dancers and musicians perform short works with spontaneous elements that erase the lines between roles and genres.

"*Where Dance and Music Meet* is a title that Jerry and I used over the years for a lot of the projects that we have done together," explains Chui. "In fact, Jerry started using this phrase back in the 1970s when he began working with dancers in a summer program at Naropa University. It has a history and a lineage and we felt it was the title that best encapsulates the context of Jerry's vision and work that has flowed from the past and continues to propel us into the future."

About Susanne Chu

Widely known as the Co-Artistic Director (with Sara Coffin) of Mocean Dance, Chui is a central figure in Halifax's contemporary dance community. While at Mocean she has performed in works by choreographers who include Heidi Strauss, Serge Bennathan, Tedd Robinson, and co-created *Burnwater: Alchemy* with Erin Donovan (Hear Here Productions). At her core, she describes herself as an improviser. Her love for the genre began at the age of 19 and she has continued to expand her horizons through study, research, and creation projects across Canada and beyond. After returning to Halifax from Toronto in 2007, she began working extensively with improvising musicians, writers, and visual artists. Her full length work, *Threnodies*, created with composer, musician, and educator Geordie Haley, won the 2012 Diane Moore Creation Award and was presented by the TD Halifax Jazz Festival.

As a faculty member of CMW for the past nine years, Chui has expanded her practice into new realms of mindfulness and movement; teaching workshops, performing, and leading dance and music ensembles that explore the intersections of the two genres. Her most recent project is *Becoming Old Growth*, a new collective with Erin Donovan and poet Basma Kavanaugh.

About Jerry Granelli

Jerry Granelli had a sweeping career that spanned decades and continents, playing with many of the brightest names in jazz history and creating over 30 albums. His prolific and genre-crossing music has been recognized by institutions which include the Junos Awards, the Grammy Awards, the National Library of Congress Sound Archives, and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. His connection to Nova Scotia ran deep, as he lived in the province from the early 1980s. As a co-founder of the TD Halifax Jazz Festival (HJF) and later, the Creative Music Workshop, Granelli made an indelible impact on Nova Scotia's arts community. Through his dedication and passion for arts education, he inspired a generation of musicians and improvising artists. Granelli was honoured with the 2016 Portia White Prize, which recognizes cultural and artistic excellence on the part of a Nova Scotian artist who has attained professional status, mastery and recognition in their discipline. <https://jerrygranelli.com/>

Performance Dates: March 31 – 8pm; April 1 – 3:30 pm and 8pm. To Note: the April 1, 8pm performance will include ASL interpretation, and will also be Livestreamed.

Venue: St. Andrews United Church, 6036 Coburg Rd., Halifax

Tickets: Adults - \$28; Seniors - \$25; Students/Artists - \$20; Youth/Underwaged - \$15 (plus taxes & fees).

Livestream (online): Pay-what-you-can

Purchase at: www.tinyurl.com/moceantickets

Where Dance and Music Meet is a Mocean Dance co-production with 1313 Music Association, and is sponsored by the TD Halifax Jazz Festival.

Learn more about Where Dance and Music Meet: moceandance.com / IG, FB @moceandance

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