*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 8, 2019. For more information: Bill Kimball,* *bill@publicenergy.ca* *705-745-1788*

***Public Energy Performing Arts Celebrates 25 years of ground-breaking performance
May 25th 2019***

**12pm-5pm Free Pop Up Performances**

**8pm P(art)y Ball At The Market Hall Performing Arts Centre
*doors open at 7:30pm with a staircase performance***

**10pm Free after-party at Theatre On King**

**Public Energy Celebrates the past, present and future with a full day of**

**public activities that highlight the city’s creative voices**

*Party with the past as we bring 25 years of performance history to life with a star-studded performance lineup that features artists from every era of Public Energy’s history. With prizes and special guests, Peterborough’s newest art party will be a chance to celebrate the past, present and future.*

“The 25th will really be a celebration of everything Public Energy has accomplished in this city over the last 25 years – a chance to reflect on a formidable past and get excited for the future,” says Performance Curator and Associate Director, Victoria Mohr-Blakeney. “Public Energy has created space for local national, international artists to tell their stories through movement and voice for over 2 decades – it’s a history worth celebrating,” adds Mohr-Blakeney.

**Schedule of Events:
12:00 pm: World premiere performance of an outdoor dance piece involving 30 community members** choreographed by internationally celebrated choreographer Bill Coleman.

**1:00pm:** **FREE Pop Up Performances will take place throughout Downtown Peterborough** by artists: **Opal Elchuk, Mithila Ballal, Naomi Duvall, Wes Ryan** **& Patrick Walsh**. Exact times and locations to be announced.

**6:30pm: VIP Meet & Greet with the P(art)y Ball Artists and photographer Wayne Eardley**

Featuring:

* The P(art)y Ball Photo Booth. Have your photo taken with a P(art)y Ball artist by Peterborough’s preeminent art photographer, Wayne Eardley.
* Gourmet snacks and drinks from Peterborough finest caterers.
* Best seats in the house: Cabaret-style table seating.

**7:30 pm:** Pre-performance in the staircase of the Market Hall with **Anandam Dance Theatre**

**8:00 pm:** Mainstage **P(art)y Ball** at the Market Hall, featuring **Evelyn Hart, Debra Brown, Cherish Violet Blood, Deepti Gupta** and many others.

**10:00 pm:** After party at the Theatre on King, featuring **The Peterborough Acasdemy of Circus Arts** and **veejay** **Lester Alfonso**, who will draw on 25 years of video documentation from Public Energy’s archives to create visuals for the dance party with **deejay Helen-a** who will spin vinyl from all eras of music to take the event into the wee hours.

Twenty-five years ago in 1994 Public Energy Performing Arts began as Peterborough New Dance with its first ever performance by Debra Brown *– Apogée*. Twenty-five years later*,* on May 25th ,2019, **Debra Brown** will bring us new circus-dance acts we’ve never seen! Brown is the original choreographer for **Cirque du Soleil** and won an Emmy for her choreography on the 74th Academy Awards. Brown will be accompanied by some of the most accomplished performing artists in the country.

Along with Brown, Canadian legendary ballerina **Evelyn Hart**and renowned dancer and choreographer **Bill Coleman** will perform a duet choreographed by **James Kudelka**from Kudelka’s full length work *Love, Sex and Brahms*. Hailing from Peterborough, Evelyn Hart, **is the former prima ballerina for the Royal Winnipeg Ballet** and continues dancing on international stages. Bill Coleman has been bringing his dance works to Peterborough since before Public Energy was founded, and was the **2018 winner of the most prestigious dance award in Canada**, The Walter Carsen Prize. James Kudelka, one of Canada’s greatest living choreographers, has had his work presented by Public Energy on numerous occasions, most memorably with his collaboration with opera singer Daniel Taylor in 2006.

As audiences enter the Market Hall **Anandam Dance Theatre** will reprise its site-specific work *Divergent Dances Peterborough*which was first performed on the outside of Peterborough Square during Artsweek in September, 2018. This work is being reimagined for the Market Hall’s main staircase by its choreographer, **Brandy Leary,** with collaborators from Peterborough’s busy circus arts community, **Thomas Vacarro**and**Jen Elchuk**, among others.

At 8pm the **evening show** will showcase incredible artists from the last 25 years. **Cherish Violet Blood** (Blackfoot) will perform her powerful monologue *Be a Babe.* Cherish’s wide ranging career as an actor, musician and writer has taken her around the world, including appearing as Annie Cook in the Peterborough production of *Rez Sisters* in 2009. **Deepti Gupta**, one of Canada’s most innovative South Asian choreographers, will perform her solo Kathak dance *Static*, with video by Peterborough’s Lester Alfonso. Deepti’s most recent appearance with Public Energy was with the world premiere of her newest work*Snowangels*, in 2018.

The night would not be complete without the jaw-dropping work of **Nimkii Osawamick**(Odawa, Wikwemikong Unceeded Reserve, Wolf Clan)**,**a Peterborough-based singer, hoop dancer and champion Powwow dancer, will perform his powerful, high energy dance accompanied by one of Canada’s leading deejays.  Nimkii will perform with **Bryden Gwiss Kiwenzie**, a Pow-Wow singer/song maker and Men’s Traditional Dancer. Bryden was nominated for a Juno, Indigenous Album Of The Year 2017, on his debut album release entitled Round Dance & Beats, which fuses Traditional pow wow songs with modern hip hop production.

Local favourites – theatre artists **Ryan Kerr**and**Kate Story** - will remount *Snow Day*, their hit dance work from the Emergency #11 festival in 2003. Kate and Ryan are probably the most prolific artists working in Peterborough’s independent theatre/dance scene, with so many original works to their credit it is hard to keep score. Their most recent collaboration with Public Energy was 2017’s hit play-with-song-and-dance, *damned be this transmigration.*

It would not be a 25th anniversary celebration without artists hanging from the rafters! **Nicole Malbeuf,** a Peterborough-based aerial artist with Trellis Arts & Entertainment, will perform her newest aerial hoop routine. Nicole has performed her imaginative aerial and circus work with numerous groups in Peterborough, Toronto and smaller circus communities around Ontario. With Public Energy she performed in the 2018 Max’s Cabaret and took part in the Alternating Currents development process for new work in 2017.

Long-time Peterborough favourite **Old Men Dancing** will perform a new dance made specially for the P(art)y Ball. This talented group of gentlemen of a certain age got its start through Public Energy in 2002, have had some of Canada’s best contemporary dance creators create work for them, and performed as far afield as Toronto and Kitchener-Waterloo.

And last but certainly not least, **Wes Ryan**will perform a new spoken-word piece created specially for Public Energy’s 25th anniversary. Wes’s track record with Public Energy is the longest in duration of any artist on the P(art)y Ball program, with more than 15 shows to his credit going back to the very first season. That first PE work was *Kitten on a String with Fish Hooks* for the Emergency #3 festival; his most recent was *The Caregiver, with*Becca Partington, in Emergency #22 (2018).

Tickets: $25 / $15 for students and underwaged
Available at the Market Hall Box Office: online at markethall.org by phone 705-749-1146