



Public Energy

PERFORMING ARTS

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Your donation helps us keep ticket prices accessible and our programming electrifying.
It's easy to do online: Monthly tax-deductible donations can be made at canadahelps.org.

CONTACT

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PUBLIC ENERGY PRESENTS

Photo credit to Drew Berry



Rock Bottom Movement

SEX DALMATIAN

February 17, 2023
Market Hall Performing Arts Centre
Peterborough, Ontario

PublicEnergy.ca
PERFORMING ARTS

SEX DALMATIAN

Rock Bottom Movement

World Premiere

Choreographer & Director: Alyssa Martin

Writers: David Bernstein, Pony Nicole Herauf and Alyssa Martin

Performers and Collaborators: Drew Berry, Brayden Jamil Cairns, Sam Grist, Pony Nicole Herauf and Natasha Poon Woo

Composers: Morgan-Paige Melbourne & Benjamin Shapiro

Lighting Designer: Noah Feaver

Technical Director: Elijah Stefura

Stage Management: Kathy Le

Costume Designers: Sam Grist & Alyssa Martin

Understudies: Steph Harkness and Morgyn Aronyk-Schell

RUN TIME : 75 MINUTES - NO INTERMISSION

Special Thanks:

Morgyn Aronyk-Schell, Brian Berry, Cody Berry-Ottertall, Robert Binet, Michael Caldwell, Bri Clarke, Nadia Dardano, Katie Adams-Gossage, Sydney Grace-James, Micaela Janse van Rensburg, Kéita Fournier-Pelletier, Clara Isgro, Josh Johnston, Bill Kimball, Laurence Lemieux, Jianna Neufeld, Riley Ough, Spencer Poon Woo, Hayley Rourke, Blythe Russel, Eilish Shin-Culhane, Abby Silvera, Caileigh Suline, Samantha Sutherland, Chrystal Tam

Ontario Arts Council, The National Ballet of Canada
Citadel + Compagnie, Public Energy, The Registry Theatre, Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre

Our friends & families.

WARNINGS: FOUL LANGUAGE, SEXUALLY EXPLICIT MATERIAL, EXTREME EMBODIED STATES, STROBE LIGHT, HAZE, SIRENS, SCREAMING

NEXT FROM PUBLIC ENERGY PERFORMING ARTS:



THESES ARE THE ARTISTS IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

Mammalian Diving Reflex (Tkaronto/Toronto)

& Public Energy Performing Arts

Watson & Lou, The Gallery of Sorts

383 Water Street, Peterborough

March 3 from 6 -10pm; drop-in as part of First Friday Art Crawl

This audio project brings together art students at Thomas A Stewart Secondary with artists from in and around Nogojiwanong/ Peterborough. The students welcome the artists into their school to give a hands-on workshop and can ask any questions they want. Then we flip it: artists asking, students answering. What exactly is an artist? What exactly is a student? Come and discover the answer to these and other prying questions at a celebration and listening event at March's First Friday Art Crawl.



PADDLE SONG

Cheri Maracle (Six Nations of the Grand River First Nation)

Co-Presented by Nozhem: First Peoples' Performance

Space & Public Energy Performing Arts

Nozhem: First Peoples' Performance Space

(Room 101, Enwayaang Building, 1 Gzowski Way, Peterborough)

March 24 & 25 @ 7:00pm

Pauline Johnson was a trailblazing heroine, proud Mohawk poet and performer during the late 1800s. The daughter of a respected Six Nations Mohawk Chief, and an English mother, Pauline embraced her heritage and fiercely challenged the stereotypes of women and First Nations Peoples. Her powerful story is brought to life in *Paddle Song*, a one-woman musical theatre performance by Cheri Maracle, that captures the heart and journey of young Pauline.

ABOUT PUBLIC ENERGY PERFORMING ARTS:

Public Energy Performing Arts is Peterborough's animator of dance, theatre, performance and interdisciplinary work. Since 1994 we have presented a mainstage series of artists drawn from across Canada and beyond, commissioned new work in concert with other Canadian presenters, supported the development of the local dance, theatre and performance community and nurtured audiences that are knowledgeable and passionate about the performing arts.

Public Energy works in Treaty 20 territory situated in the traditional territory of the Michi Saagiig and Chippewa Nations, collectively known as the Williams Treaties First Nations. We honour that we are in Nogojiwanong, the Anishinaabe word for "place at the end of the rapids", a gathering place where stories have been shared for millennia. We acknowledge the Indigenous people for their stewardship of these lands and we recognize our responsibility to foster respectful relationships with the water, the land, and its people. Public Energy recognizes that treaties did more harm than good, criminalizing cultural practices and displacing Indigenous people from their territories. We commit to doing all we can to repair this legacy by providing a platform for the voices and artistry of Indigenous artists to be heard and respected.

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Would you like to see tonight's show again, or re-visit part of it, or watch it at home with friends who did not make it to the theatre?

You can do this because a recording of the entire show will be on the new Home Theatre page of the Public Energy website beginning February 18th at noon.

Use the QR code to access the page or use this URL:
<https://publicenergy.ca/public-energy-home-theatre/>

This new feature is aimed at giving the live audience a chance to do what is almost never possible: watch for a second or third time a performance they just attended. We can re-visit works of art, literature and films multiple times. The advent of accessible recording technology and online viewing means we can achieve something similar with dance and theatre events. Access to this recording is exclusively available to the audience that attended the show tonight but will be made available to the general public at a later date when we officially launch the Public Energy Home Theatre.



ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES:

Rock Bottom Movement is the creative home for choreographer, Alyssa Martin and a team of distinctly comedic dance and theatre artists. The group has become known in Toronto for their playful, tongue-in-cheek approach to the creation of new absurd dance theatre. Initially founded as a busking company in 2012, the group has since grown to share work for stage and film at home and abroad. They've created collaboratively in residencies at numerous art centres including at The Banff Centre, Canadian Stage, The Stratford Festival Lab and The Registry Theatre. They've earned multiple Dora Mavor Moore awards and the Canadian Stage Award for Direction. The group imbues all that they do with a sense of fun and mischief, holding their audiences close to their hearts. In addition to sharing performances, the group also hosts community-based dance workshops for dancers with little to no experience called NONDancer Workshops.

Drew Berry is a Toronto-based performer and teacher. Her mediums include dance, theatre, photography, videography, and classical piano. In 2016, Drew joined Rock Bottom Movement and since has performed in six full-length works with the company. Other collaborators include: Brodie Stevenson, Jaber Dance Theatre, Portal Dance, Emma Kerson, Nico Contreras, Irma Villafuerte, and Alias Dance Project. Drew is the resident photographer/videographer with Kaeja d'Dance and has done freelance photo/video work with many independent artists and organizations in the community. Drew was an artist in residence at Guelph Dance where she created a short film *Portraiture*, which premiered at the Guelph Dance Festival and was later shown at Hillside Homeside and Dance: Made in Canada earning the Moving Pictures Award. Drew is on faculty at Centennial College. A graduate from Quinte Ballet School of Canada's post-graduate program, Drew holds her BFA (Honours) from the Performance Dance program at Toronto Metropolitan University.

Brayden Jamil Cairns is a Toronto based artist and member of Alyssa Martin’s company, Rock Bottom Movement. He left rural Ontario in 2015 to train at Toronto Metropolitan University’s School of Performance. Since his training, Brayden has worked with the likes of Rodney Diverlus, Anne Plamondon and many of his peers in collaborative processes. Brayden is interested in movement that can be enjoyed by people from all walks of life. He binds dance and lived experience to create challenging works of art, utilizing different media such as writing and film. Many of these ideas come from a powerful need to uplift the queer and BIPOC communities. Brayden will often be found researching what it is to feel pleasure and what can come from self-exploration.

Noah Feaver is a Dora Award nominated lighting designer. He works frequently in Dance and Opera and has designed for companies such as: Edmonton Opera, Toronto Dance Theatre, Tapestry Opera, Human Body Expression, Holla Jazz, Citadel + Compagnie, Zata Omm, The Royal Conservatory of Music, Against the Grain Theatre, and Rock Bottom Movement. He has worked as the Lighting Director for Ballet BC, and as the Associate Lighting Director/Programmer for Fall for Dance North. Noah holds a BFA from Toronto Metropolitan University’s Performance Production program and spent two summers as a lighting design practicum at The Banff Centre. He teaches at The National Theatre School of Canada. Noah is a member of the Associated Designers of Canada.

Originally from Winnipeg, Manitoba, **Sam Grist** is a Toronto based contemporary dancer, performer, teacher, and fitness instructor. She has been a dancer and collaborator with absurdist dance theatre company, Rock Bottom Movement since 2012, winning the 2020 Dora Mavor Moore Awards for both Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble and Outstanding Production for the company’s work, *hollow mountain*. In addition to her work with Rock Bottom, Sam has collaborated and performed with choreographers including Hanna Kiel, David Earle, Susie Burpee, Shannon Litzenberger, Julia Aplin, Jennifer Nichols, Anisa Tejpar, and Clare Preuss.

Pony Nicole Herauf is a queer creator and performer originally from Calgary, Alberta. She graduated from the Toronto Metropolitan University: School of Performance Acting program in 2018. Pony works as a writer, director, actor, and dramaturge. Her filmic work has been programmed and awarded at festivals such as the Vancouver International, Whistler, TIFF, TIFF Next Wave, Chattanooga, Forest City, Myrtle Beach, the Los Angeles Independent Short Awards, and now streams on CBC Gem.

Originally from Surrey, BC, **Kathy Le** is an emerging multi-disciplined performer and artist in Toronto, ON. She recently graduated from George Brown College and is now a mentee under the Human Body Expression x Ballet Jörgen mentorship program. Kathy uses her extensive dance training to perform, choreograph and also stage manage movement-based shows in the Greater Toronto Area. Her most recent work includes choreographing “*Come and Go*”, an original piece, that will be remounted at George Brown Dance’s Unleashed in April 2023.

Alyssa Martin is a choreographer and director based in Tkaronto. She’s using an absurdist approach to bake imaginative coping mechanisms into celebratory homemade spectacles. Blurring dance, theatre and comedy from an anti-patriarchal perspective, she creates most often under the umbrella of Rock Bottom Movement. Outside of the company, Alyssa has choreographed for companies including The National Ballet of Canada, Toronto Dance Theatre, The Stratford Festival, Tarragon Theatre, Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre and with many post-secondary dance programs. She has the ongoing pleasure of collaborating as a director, choreographer and movement director in theatre, musical theatre, opera and film. Her process is all about creating contexts within which she and her collaborators can explore the most bizarre corners of the psyche with a sparkling, mischievous energy. She prioritizes joy, tenderness and humour while approaching leadership as a co-conspirator.

Morgan-Paige Melbourne is a Tkarón:to-based interdisciplinary artist. With experiences ranging from scoring short films to solo performances, her work and story were featured in Musicworks Magazine Winter 2020-2021 Issue 138, The WholeNote Magazine, Ludwig van Toronto and Toronto Guardian. Past projects include *Bin Chicken* film collaboration with Toronto Dance Theatre and Alyssa Martin, *The Magic Wallet* short film, *Mission Sankofa* short film, Hillside Inside’s “*The Sound of Light*”, “*Where Do I Go?*” short film with Tapestry Opera and Rock Bottom Movement, 21C Music Festival’s “*New Music In A New World*”, a commissioned work and performance for Suoni Per Il Popolo, sound art installation “*My Ancestor Summons Me*” at MOCA Toronto, Debaser Pique, the 21C Music Festival with the world premiere of her improvisational work “*A Time to Exist*” in Koerner Hall, and Wavelength Summer Thing opening for headliner Backxwash.

Natasha Poon Woo began training and performing with Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre (CCDT) in her hometown of Toronto. She then studied at the Conservatory of Dance at SUNY Purchase, performing the works of Pam Tanowitz, Twyla Tharp, and Doug Varone before graduating summa cum laude with a BFA and the President’s Award for Achievement. Natasha is a frequent performer with Rock Bottom Movement and Côté Danse, and has worked with Conny Janssen Danst, Kevin Wynn Collection, Bouchardanse, The Dietrich Group, Roderick George, Benjamin Landsberg, Ryan Lee, Gadfly, Little Pear Garden, and Hit & Run Dance Productions, among others. She is a Dora Award-winning performer with Rock Bottom for its acclaimed production, *hollow mountain*.

Benjamin Shapiro is a musician, composer, producer, and multi-disciplinary artist based in Toronto. He’s interested in exploring unique, raw forms of expression that feel as though they are living and breathing. He has produced music and soundscapes for short films, dance performances, records, ads, as well as various idiosyncratic biofeedback and AI-based projects. Benjamin’s auditory output spans a wide range of genres including indie rock, house, ambient, folk, techno, hip hop, hyperpop, R&B, jazz, and country. He plays in the art-rock band Glutenhead, as well as genre experiments Don Blitzer and All That Is Criminal. Benjamin has a background in neuroscience and is in graduate training to be a psychotherapist. He published a book of poetry in 2019 and is currently working on a philosophical novella.