

JUNE 11, 2022 | 7:00PM



# CIRCUS

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## SESSIONS

**THE BANK**  
ART HOUSE



Conseil des arts  
du Canada

Canada Council  
for the Arts



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL  
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO  
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In partnership with Lab De Cirque

# WELCOME

Welcome to Circus Sessions #6! And welcome to this new arts space in Welland!

After being postponed due to the pandemic since 2019, we are so excited to be hosting this event again and we are honoured you are here to join us. It's been a journey to get here! A huge thank you to everyone who has contributed and supported this project.

Circus Sessions began as an annual event in 2016. It is a 1-week residency where circus artists come together to experiment, learn, play and create. Over the years, artists have come from across Canada, the USA, Europe and Australia. This group is a mix of professional and emerging artists across diverse backgrounds from across Ontario, most of whom have not worked together before. We invite you, our audience, to join us with open hearts, to be part of our process, and to share in the fruits of the creations from our week together. This show is fresh, raw and vulnerable.

Circus Sessions is also about building community. Following the showing, we invite you to please stay for a 20-minute Q&A with the artists.

***Thank you for joining us on this journey,***



Holly Treddenick  
*Artistic Director, Project Lead*

# MENTORS



## **ANGOLA MURDOCH - CIRCUS PERFORMER AND DIRECTOR**

For the last 20 years Angola has enjoyed a long and rich career locally, having performed at major venues in Ontario (*Buddies in Bad Times*, the *Art Gallery of Ontario*, the *Canadian National Exhibition*, *HarbourFront Centre* and others) and internationally (*Cirque Pacifica* (Maui), *Gramercy Theatre* (NYC), and *Zip Zap Circus* (South Africa)). In 2008 Angola's solo show *Twist of Fate* was awarded "most heartfelt dance show" by Paula Citron in the *Globe and Mail*. Angola

has directed five full-length contemporary circus shows, including 2019's *Toronto Circus Riot*. *The Circus Riot*, based on the actual Toronto Riot of 1855, premiered to packed audiences and critical acclaim and garnered a Dora Nomination for Outstanding Costume Design. Currently, Angola is a company member of *Femmes Du Feu Creations*, she is working in a collective reimagining Claude Vivier's *Lonely Child* into a circus opera, and she is remounting and expanding her solo show *Twist of Fate*. Angola has been the artistic director of LookUp Theatre since 2009. She is charged to be the Circus Sessions mentor for 2022.



## **ALEX BULMER**

Named one of the most influential disabled artists by UK's *Power Magazine*, Alex Bulmer has over thirty professional years' experience across theatre, film, radio and education. She is fuelled by a curiosity of the improbable, dedicated to collaborative practice, and deeply informed by her experience of becoming blind.

Alex co-founder of The Fire and Rescue Team, lead curator of CoMotionFestival 2022 with Harbourfront Centre, and former artistic director of Common Boots Theatre. She established the New Writing department with Graeae Theatre in the UK, and is the award-winning writer of multiple BBC radio dramas, the writer of *Breathe* which opened the London 2012 Olympics, the writer of the *Dora* and *Chalmers* nominated *SMUDGE*, and co-writer of the BAFTA-nominated television series *Cast Offs*.



## **STACIE DUNLOP**

With a voice that has been described as a "powerful demonstration of musical artistry wed to superb technique", soprano Stacie Dunlop is a creative visionary, an avid performer of contemporary opera, orchestral and chamber music, and producer of new opera, music theatre and most recently multidisciplinary works that weave contemporary music with contemporary circus. Highly involved in the creation of new music, Stacie has commissioned works from Canadian composers R. Murray Schafer, Harry Freedman, Peter-Anthony Togni,

Juhan Puhm, Clark Ross, Scott Godin, Tawnie Olson and Aaron Gervais. Considered to be a Schoenberg specialist known for her interpretation of *Pierrot Lunaire*, she was the understudy of *The Woman* for the Canadian Opera Company's Dora nominated production of *Erwartung* in 2015.

# ARTISTS



## JORDANA GREENBLATT

Jordana Greenblatt (Marion Aether) is an aerialist specializing in static trapeze and aerial rope. Their recent performances include "Close(d)," a piece for trapeze (Marion Aether) and looped guitar (Rory Jade Grey) for Hercinia Arts' site-specific show Peep; aerial rope for 3D capture as part of Jean-Luc Bedyk's VR immersive art project, *Circuscapes*; and trapeze for Andralyn Zayn's documentary, *Circus Artists*. They are a circademic whose recent work includes a publication on aerial arts in the journal *Sexualities*. A long-standing member of Cirkus Syd's international Circus Thinkers and chapter author for the group's publication, *Circus*

*Thinks: Reflections, 2020*.



## KAYLIE KREATRIX

Kaylie Kreatrix is a circus and sideshow artist, with a special talent in creating engaging acts and highly skilled performances. She specializes in sword swallowing, fire eating, stilt walking, object manipulation and character work. Originally from Ottawa, she has attended intensive circus training in Australia and Europe and brought the best of what she's experienced back to her roots to be performed at events like Winterlude, Just For Laughs Festival Montreal, and cabaret shows. She is one of two professional female sword swallows in Canada, and the only Japanese sword swallower

world-wide. You can expect audiences to be delightfully entertained, pleasantly surprised, and enjoying every moment of the adventure that Kaylie brings.



## HAYLEY LANDRY

Hayley Landry is grateful to have been a part of the Ontario circus community since 2012, when she joined a social circus troupe with a focus on mental health. Since then her role has expanded from student to performer and instructor, and assistant program director. Hayley co-created and performed in many full-length stage productions, as well as a circus documentary film. She continues to develop and share skills in aerial, stilt walking, and acro, and juggling. She has found profound meaning in looking at how the worlds of circus and mental health connect, and using circus as a tool for storytelling and empowerment.

# ARTISTS



## TANIS MACARTHUR

Tanis Sydney MacArthur has been an independent costumier for performing artists for more than 25 years. She is also an interpretive dance artist, choreographer, aerialist, stilt walker, prop maker, creature designer and large scale inflatable sculpture artist. Clients of note include *Femmes du Feu*, *Hamilton Aerial Group*, *Aeris Korper*, *Fly With Me Aerial Dance*, *Steel the Sky Aerial Arts*, *Team T&J*, *Mabel Moon*, *Learie McNicolls*, *Red Betty Theatre*, *Aoucheva Dance Studio*, *Defining Movement Dance Company*, *Parahumans*, *the Acromaniacs* and *Artword Theatre*. She placed

third nationally in the *Smirnoff International Fashion Awards* 1994 and regularly contributed original designs to *Fashion Cares*. She served as designer/key wardrobe for the film *A Windigo Tale* by Armand Garnet Ruffo. She created *The Arctic Fox*, Inspired by *Icebergs* and *Fly South*, outdoor installations of multiple 16' tall inflatable sculptures, in collaboration with *Cobalt Connects*.



## DIANA LOPEZ SOTO

I'm a mother and multidisciplinary artist interested in movement as an act of full awareness. Process is vital for my creative practice, my work incorporates field work, landscape and energy journeys in a dialogue with sculpture, durational work, ritual and film. I see my body as a space of potential and I'm inspired by natural cycles, ceremonies, ecosystems and their relationships to my body and life. I have performed and collaborated with Circus Orange, Hercinia Arts, Flying Solo, Femmes du Feu and Mata Danza. I am also a member of Vanguardia Dance Projects and am currently in the co-creation phase of a solo with Alejandro Ronceria.



## ERIKA LUI

With a background training in Provincial-level competitive gymnastics as a teen from their hometown of Toronto, Erika continued to explore many modes of movement knowledge, ranging from cheerleading to dance, parkour and free-running to rock climbing, after finally finding a home and heart within the circus arts in 2016. In 2018 Erika left Toronto to immerse within the circus world by completing a two-year, full-time intensive circus arts training program in Chicago, IL, USA. Upon returning, Erika aspires to perform professionally and create art that is impactful and motivating toward positive social change.

# ARTISTS



## SARAH LOU STUART

Sara Lou is a flying acrobat from Niagara Falls. She has been Creative Director to her troupe Harmonic Shadow Circus for five years. Harmonic Shadow Circus is a collaborative low frequency doom ensemble that averages two productions per year. They use handmade costumes, sounds, and animal masks to play the roles of shapeshifters. Through their creative works, she explores fungi, urban animals, folk history, and historical spaces. Sara Lou is also a painter, sewist, and musician, and enjoys incorporating these handmade elements into her shows. She lives in Niagara with her partner and their husky.



## THOMAS VACCARO

Thomas Vaccaro is the founder and Artistic Director for the non-profit Organization, The Peterborough Academy of Circus Arts. Matriculated from the National Circus School of Montreal, Thomas is trained to coach 17 different circus disciplines to all age groups in a recreational, advanced, social, or production setting. His primary loves when it comes to circus are Cyr Wheel, Aerial Acrobatics, Flow Arts, and a study and practice of movement in general. Since 2014 Thomas has been the Artist in Residence of Market Hall Performing Arts Centre in Downtown Peterborough

and has used his residency to produce/direct original full length circus arts productions, host social programming for marginalized groups, and proudly coach many students. He is an avid believer that circus is an accessible art to all peoples, and takes joy from helping others find their flow within themselves. His recent work reflects interpersonal relationships of family, recently having performed alongside his non-circus artist husband at the Ontario Contemporary Circus Arts Festival in 2019 & his adopted son as part of Public Energy's Emergency #22 in 2018; His family was also the subject of a documentary by filmmaker LA Alfonso entitled Circus Boy at the Reframe Film Festival in January of 2020. In his spare time he enjoys (carefully) practicing on his skateboard, watching anime, and practicing archery.



## HILARY WEAR

Hilary Wear is a theatre artist and a Métis woman. Hilary writes and performs site-specific Clown turns; stages text and/or movement-based pieces; collaborates in co-creations and devising, and works for others as an actor. Hilary facilitates inter-generational cooperative games groups focused on fun and Anishinaabemowin. Hilary is an accredited Therapeutic Clown(s) for pediatric & geriatric healthcare clients, hoping to also go into prisons... for a few hours a week. Hilary has spent the Covid seasons creating employment and working to eradicate the invasive species that have

colonized the Michi Saagig Anishinaabeg territory lands for which she shares responsibility, in Peterborough County. Hilary is currently most interested in supporting consideration for the global campaign to STOP ECOCIDE.

# PRODUCTION TEAM

## PRODUCER AND PROJECT LEAD

Femmes du Feu / Holly Treddenick

## TECHNICAL DIRECTOR, RIGGING, LIGHTING, SOUND

Upstage Dynamics (Peter Benedetti)

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

John Wilson

## PRODUCING ASSISTANT

Miranda Forbes (Dance Umbrella of Ontario)

## MARKETING, DESIGN, PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Kristina Dubois

## CANADA SUMMER JOBS EMPLOYEES

Davon Knight, Ian Karanja and Ashley Knight

George and Charlette Treddenick

# THANK YOU

## Thank you to our funders:

Canada Council For The Arts  
Ontario Arts Council  
Department of Canadian Heritage

## Special thanks:

The Bank Art House  
Downtown Welland BIA  
Welland Creatives Network  
Aldo Parrotta  
Caffineoline & The Vegan Hippie Chick  
Presstime Design  
All the participants for their open hearts  
All of you for attending  
Lynanne Sparrow for seeding this project



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