

Porch View Dances - PVD10

A virtual event celebrating 10 years of 'real people dancing in real spaces'

Featuring new dance film commissions by: Rodney Diverlus & Olya Glotka,
Atri Nundy & Aria Evans, Sara Porter & Francesca Chudnoff,
Irma Villafuerte, Ravyn Wngz, Sashar Zarif

Thursday August 5, 2021 @ 7pm EST

KAEJA 30 YEARS



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#PVD10 @kaejadance



PVD pairs professional choreographers with everyday people to reveal stories of lives lived
Co-Artistic Directors Karen and Allen Kaeja / Curator & Production Director Michael Caldwell



Past PVD Photos: SV Photography, Diana Renelli, Past PVD choreographers / Karen Kaeja, Allen Kaeja, Allison Cummings, Kathleen Rea, / Featuring the Bodiya/Qing Family, the Kerr-Wyncoll family, Jim and Owen Adams, Shay Elrich and Jen Roy

Welcome to PVD10!

About Porch View Dances

'Real People Dancing in Real Spaces'

Porch View Dances (PVD) is an award-winning community dance festival that engages everyday people as creators, storytellers and performers – many of whom have never danced before. Audience members travel from house to house to see new dance works created by professional choreographers and performed by families and friends on porches, front yards, and driveways. PVD was designed to celebrate the stories of neighbourhood residents and to bridge the gap between professional art and everyday people. Our live Tour Guide journeys audiences through the streets bringing dance out of the theatre and into our daily lives. PVD has taken place in-person across Ontario with events in Ottawa, Kitchener, and with Lakeshore Arts in Long Branch, New Toronto, and Mimico in South Etobicoke. In 2020, Porch View Dances went online for the first time and reached people across Canada, and internationally. Our 10th anniversary continues to bring together artists and community participants to make dance art for public viewing and participation. PVD engages 'real people dancing in real spaces' and in this way sends the strong and powerful message that art is for everyone.

Land Acknowledgement

As we meet today on a virtual platform, Kaeja d'Dance would like to acknowledge the Indigenous Peoples of all the lands that we inhabit today, and that we call home. Take a moment to feel your feet on the ground, breathe and imagine the soil that lays beneath. Our home is situated on Treaty 13 territory. This land has been the site of human activity for over 15,000 years. Tkaronto, "where the trees meet the water"; "The gathering place" of many nations: the Wendat, the Haudenosaunee, and the Anishinaabe, including the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. We are grateful to be here virtually with all of you across many traditional territories and we welcome and honour the responsibility that comes with the opportunity to live, work, learn and play on this land. Please join us in reflecting and acknowledging the harms and mistakes of the past and to consider how we are and can, each in our own way, move forward in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.

Curator's Statement

As I write this, I am sitting in my home - a familiar site for so many of us in recent times.

The relationship to our own personal living spaces has shifted dramatically, and our understanding of 'home' has forever changed.

For some of us, our home is the physical space that we inhabit - the spot where we rest our heads at night, and for others, it's a place far away that conjures nostalgic memories. Perhaps it's our birthplace or where we grew up... or the place where we feel most safe and seen and able to express the fullness of who we are.

As I approach my work with Porch View Dances in this momentous 10th anniversary season, I am drawn to this expansive idea of 'home', with the acknowledgement that everyone's living spaces are wonderfully different and we each have agency to define 'home' for ourselves.

Each artist (new to Porch View Dances this year) proposes a unique vision of 'home' through their choreographic film offering, highlighting and revealing the effectual presence, absolute bravery, and distinct beauty of each community participant, through movement.

I am reminded of the original impulse for Porch View Dances, designed by Karen Kaeja in 2012 - a desire to uncover the day-to-day interior lives of our neighbors and community, consciously guiding those stories outdoors, joyously spilling out onto porches, lawns, and sidewalks through live dance performance.

We have just begun to collectively emerge from our homes to gather, celebrate, and dance together. As we tentatively move into this new space, I am hopeful that this collection of choreographic films will inspire, uplift, and remind us all of the power and potency of art and dance, to bring us together in difficult times.

- Michael Caldwell

Curator and Production Director, Porch View Dances 2021

Welcome Note

Welcome to a dream that began 10 years ago. A passion project that shares narratives and brings people together, Porch View Dances sparks a smile to my whole being. I am over the moon and honoured that our colleague Michael Caldwell has brought his curatorial magic, vision and impeccable directorship to PVD10. Spreading its wings throughout Toronto this year, PVD10 moves inward to the heart unleashing stories in multiple locations and neighbourhoods representing home. Thinking about the pulse that lies within a dwelling and how dance can envelop a distinct vitality to reflect the unique voices of a family or its inhabitants, Porch View Dances continues to bring you its signature Vignettes and audience participatory Flock Landing. I am incredibly grateful to the 500+ people who have brought their love and talent in so many ways to the shaping of PVD over the past decade, and of course to the audiences and our supporters. Allen and I wholeheartedly welcome the extraordinary 2021 commissioned Toronto artists - choreographers and filmmakers, and community participants to Porch View Dances, who all dove into the joy of creation. I invite you into their enchanting artistic gems that expose, inspire and give insight to a city's humanity through brave inner dialogue transposed to moving gestures, sharing their personal interiors with us all. Warm and real, the short films offer a new expression of today, a freedom within our ephemeral artform, yet a visible imprint that can be revisited, as films - a legacy of dances and people in this moment.

- Karen Kaeja

Founder and Concept, Porch View Dances

Thank You Note

What an AMAZING year...and an INCREDIBLE Porch View Dances! Re-imagined through unbelievable vision and insight by Michael Caldwell, PVD10 is unique and unparalleled. The dance artists, filmmakers, participants, Kd'D staff, crew and volunteers have ELEVATED this year's presentation. I would also like to thank Karen for her incredible intuition and passion. Karen's belief in our community to elevate and support both professional artists and community members crosses all boundaries and peoples. Thank you, Karen for your most incredible farsightedness. You have always had our community as an essential part of your imagination and you continue to be a visionary in our dance world. I love you.

- Allen Kaeja

Co-Developer, Porch View Dances

About Kaeja d'Dance

Kaeja d'Dance bridges dance art and the public. The work is personal, highly physical, quirky and sensual, revealing stories, lives lived and risks we take as human beings. Since 1991, Kaeja has triggered a cascade of contemporary creations in dance performance, site works and screen dance. Living fully at the heart of Kaeja are Co-Artistic Directors Karen & Allen Kaeja. They break ground and weigh heavy on the inclusion of professional dance artists with real people in exclusive creative partnerships, in order to experience and perform dance art. Porch View Dances, Just Dance Jane/Finch, Downtown Dances Moncton, Wedding Brigade, Birds Eye View and Flock Landing, are a few of these engagements.

Distinguished in four encyclopedias including the Canadian Who's Who, they are internationally recognized, award-winning choreographers and dancers for stage and film, with awards such as the 2019 Dance Ontario Lifetime Achievement Award, the UNESCO Citation for the Year of Culture and Peace, CDA "I Love Dance" Community Award for Porch View Dances, Clifford E. Lee, Kathryn Ash, Bonnie Bird, and Paul D. Fleck Fellowships for Innovation and Moving Pictures Award. Their nominations are many, including Dora Mavor Moore and American Choreography Awards LA. On faculty at the School of Toronto Dance Theatre and Ryerson Universities, they were the first teachers of Contact Dance at Canada's National Ballet School. A fiery and complementary duo, Karen and Allen bring their expertise to unique frontiers with recent commissions, projects and residencies in Newfoundland, Moncton, Banff, Japan, England and Mexico. With over 200 original works, their aesthetic is athletic, sensual and theatrically devised.

Working in local and international communities, Kaeja tours live performance, commissions, dance film, community outreach, workshops, residencies and lectures while also mentoring and collaborating across Canada, the United States, South America, Europe, Asia and the Middle East, with people of all ages and identities.

Visit Us Online: www.kaeja.org

Follow Us:



[@kaejadance](https://www.instagram.com/kaejadance)

Support Kaeja

Donations from our supporters make free programming like PVD10 a reality. By supporting Kaeja d'Dance, you will help us engage fantastic artists and continue to create both virtual and in-person programming. PVD10 is the first major event in Kaeja's 30th Anniversary season. Support us in this milestone year as we look to the future. We are incredibly thankful to our funders and donors who continue to support art and experimentation as we are pushed into new territories.

[Donate](#)

Performance Details

Porch View Dances 2021

A collection of commissioned films and more

Presented by Kaeja d'Dance

Porch View Dances 10th Anniversary Curator and Production Director - Michael Caldwell

Porch View Dances Founder & Concept - Karen Kaeja

Co-Developed by - Karen Kaeja & Allen Kaeja

Porch View Dances Producer - Sarah Caraher

Online Tour Guide - Jake Runeckles

Tour Guide Segment Camera - Allen Kaeja

Tour Guide Segment Editor - Michael Caldwell

Livestream Producer - Adam Germain

* All tour guide segments were filmed in Seaton Village in Toronto, the birthplace and home of Porch View Dances.

Land Acknowledgement

Text - Jim Many Hats Adams

Voice - Jim Many Hats Adams and Owen Adams

Direction / Choreography - Michael Caldwell, with Jim Many Hats Adams

Camera - Allen Kaeja

Editing - Michael Caldwell

* Filmed at Christie Pits Park in Toronto, Ontario

Home Choreography Photos



Images from *THRESHOLD*, *social reconnection/reintegration\dance in a (lowkey) tiktokified world*, and *Āmi to Āmra (Me to Us)*

Vignette Choreography Photos



Images from *Siwat*, *Guesthouse*, and *Conductor : For Harriet*

Home 1 - *Āmi to Āmra (Me to Us)*

World Premiere

Choreography - Atri Nundy

Direction / Camera / Editing - Aria Evans

Dancers - Manu Gupta, Pritha Roy Chowdhury, Roshin, Vinash

Featured Sound - Life by Roa

Filmed in Ajax, Ontario

Special thanks - to Michael Caldwell, for trusting me to do this work, to Aria Evans, for her openness and perspective, and to the Gupta Family, for letting me into their world. - AN

Description: This is the story of abundant and eternal love. The love of oneself, of one's partner and of one's children. This is a story of a family that works, plays, laughs and cries together. I am attempting to highlight the beauty in simple moments and the complexities in familial relationships. This work is being filmed at a time when Pritha, Manu and the kids are moving from one house to another. It's been interesting to discuss the idea of what home is to them. Since this is a piece about a family, the word "home" describes a place where all 4 of them live together. Under one roof.

Vignette 1 - *Conductor : For Harriet*

World Premiere

Choreography and Performance - Ravyn Wngz

Direction - Allen Kaeja and Ravyn Wngz

Camera - Allen Kaeja

Sound Editing - Jake Runeckles

Filmed at Harbourfront Centre in Toronto, Ontario

Special thanks - to Michael, Allen and Karen for inviting me into this project, offering me an opportunity to share my work. I am honoured and grateful. - RW

Description: As a dancer, home has always been my body, however as an Afro-Indigenous 2Spirit Trans woman who experiences constant violence and vitriol, the practice of leaving my body has been a way to navigate safety. I chose Harbourfront as the site for my work because it reminds me of returning to self, to land, to home, to water. I immediately thought of slavery, and as a descendant of stolen people, home has had to be our community, our family, our body. I wanted to showcase all of this in my burlesque performance for PVD, and honour Harriet Tubman, the conductor, the Mad Black Woman who helped free our people and inspire generations after her to "keep going". My work details the navigation of safety due to the intersections of my identities. I am the Black Widow of Burlesque, I chose this title to be a reminder of everything that has happened before, and that is happening now. To be a reflection and a hammer to represent the legacy of Trans women in our revolutions and, through Afro-futurism and speculative fiction, help carve and shape new ways of being in relationship to one another that reduce harm and offer global collective care.

Home 2 - THRESHOLD

World Premiere

Choreography / Direction - Sara Porter

Camera / Lighting / Sound / Editing - Fran Chudnoff

Dancers - Katherine Duncanson, Catherine Marrion, Christine Moynihan,

Production Assistant - Margarita Soria

Featured Sound - Untitled Nude, no.7 and Cloud Gate by Percival Pembroke, Sleep Fever by prOphecy sun

Filmed in Parkdale, Wychwood, and Humewood-Cedarvale in Toronto, Ontario

Special thanks - to the artists for their generous work, to Kaeja and PVD for continuing to bring dance into the community, to the funders and supporters who keep us going. - SP

Description: THRESHOLD is a triptych of dances - three solos - that deal with the experience of passage from one state - or place - to another. Following on our research of 'porches' - from Porch View Dances - we learned about the porch as a point of transition, a place to pause between things - and explored what it was like to transition from one state - or location - into another. Three distinct characters / women experience the thresholds of their environments and find comfort and strength in their quiet transformations.

Video Message from Sam Varteniuk

General Manager, The Registry Theatre, PVD Kitchener presenting partner (2016, 2017)

Vignette 2 - Siwat

World Premiere

Choreography and Performance - Irma Villafuerte

Direction - Irma Villafuerte, in collaboration with Allen Kaeja

Camera - Allen Kaeja

Featured Sound - Irma Villafuerte

Filmed at Tiffany Falls in Ancaster, Ontario

Special thanks - to mami for taking me back to a land that lives so loudly in my body and that carries so many stories of resistance. - IV

Description: The story of La Siguanaba always impacted me as a child. This story that is meant to ignite fear, to me ignited admiration. She is strong, she is shifting, she protects herself, she teaches lessons, she is fearless... she is me, she is us... she is my land. This piece is about reclaiming the stories that I was exposed to as a child. Shape shifting spirits that now, to me, represent resistance.

Reminiscent Reel

Concept - Karen Kaeja

Direction and Development - Drew Berry and Michael Caldwell

Script and Storyboard - Drew Berry and Michael Caldwell

Camera/Editor - Drew Berry

Featured Sound - Memories and Going Higher by Bensound.com

Additional Footage - mix of archival footage by Aria Evans and Olya Glotka with current video and audio footage by the participants, recorded on their own mobile devices.

Archival Footage Choreographers - Kate Alton, Louis Laberge-Côté, Ofilio Sinbadinho and Apolonia Velasquez, Shannon Litzenberger, Andrea Nann, Karen and Allen Kaeja

Performers - Seaton Village Community Participants from the past 10 years - The Fitzsimmons-Frey Family, The Carrady-Rose Family, The Endes Family, Kirsten Boer, Marion Oliver, Lori Pacan, Evelyn Sham, Myriam Zitouni, The Greenwood Ensemble, The Bereskin Family, Karen & Allen Kaeja.

Special Guests - Sharon DiGenova, Shanna Miller (PVD production team 2012-2019)

Description: The Reminiscent Reel is a short film celebrating 10 years of “real people dancing in real spaces”, honouring the dedicated group of community participants, who have graced us with their extraordinary performances on their porches, lawns, and sidewalks, over the last 10 years in Toronto’s Seaton Village. All previous community participants were invited to appear in the film, to reminisce and contribute to a new collective movement creation, recorded with their own mobile devices, from their own homes. The Reminiscent Reel is a fun and uplifting jaunt down memory lane, and a reminder of the potential of dance, to connect us together, through time and across distance and difference.

Thank you to our Reminiscent Reel Contributing Partners:



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Video Message from Adrienne Costantino

Past Community Programs Coordinator, Lakeshore Arts, PVD presenting partner (2017-2020)

Vignette 3 - Guesthouse

World Premiere

Choreography and Performance - Sashar Zarif

Direction - Allen Kaeja in collaboration with Sashar Zarif

Camera - Allen Kaeja

Creative Consultant - Katherine Duncanson

Featured Sound - Original music composition by Sashar Zarif

Filmed in Thornhill, Ontario

Special thanks - to Allen Kaeja for collaboration, PVD, my lute (Dutar of Uzbekistan), my mother, grandmother for being my earth and the air, land and the sky of the guest house I reside in today. - SZ

Description:

"This being human is a guest house.
Every morning a new arrival.

A joy, a depression, a meanness,
some momentary awareness comes
as an unexpected visitor.

Welcome and entertain them all!
Even if they're a crowd of sorrows,
who violently sweep your house
empty of its furniture,
still, treat each guest honorably.
He may be clearing you out
for some new delight.

The dark thought, the shame, the malice,
meet them at the door laughing,
and invite them in.

Description (Cont):

Be grateful for whoever comes,
because each has been sent
as a guide from beyond."

Rumi - Translated by Coleman Barks

Jingling ears and wandering eyes are what you need to witness my story. For me home is where I can be the story, not tell a story. Not a place to settle, but a place to flow. Home for me is not a place, rather it is a state of being where I can exist here and now, not remembering the past, nor preparing for the future. Home is where the past has found its peaceful place in the present. As a human, I am a traveler, the guest in this body and on this earth. Therefore, home is where I exist in the reality of each moment. Free of defining the time and place. Free of castles and clocks. In fact, home for me is the silence between the ticks of a clock.

Home 3 - *social reconnection/reintegration\dance in a (lowkey) tiktokified world*

World Premiere

Choreography - Rodney Diverlus

Direction / Camera / Editing - Olya Glotka

Dancers - Cianan Liburd and Kiké Otuije

Featured Sound - Fresh New Prince by Simon Jomphe

Filmed in King West Village in Toronto, Ontario

Description: I wanted to explore 'home' as it relates to our physical and intimate relationships. Outside of the brick and mortar of a 'home', how do we find home through each others' bodies? Those with whom we share intimate pasts, deep connections, and trust. In this time of reopening and reconnection, we are reacquainting our body relation to those around us; those we want to hug, to touch, to play with, to rub up on; relationships between old friends where there's comfort and ease; where things just 'click'. Social and vernacular dance is deeply embedded into the vocabulary of Black diasporic communities; embedded in our DNA from before the middle passage. Before there was TikTok, there were town gatherings with moving bodies; public bacchanals. Drawing on social dances or past and present, from the Cha Cha Slide, to Lindy Hop, to a Whine & Jerk, we used an eclectic palette of dance that made us feel good. Unabashed liberation. This dance is not for you; it's for us.

Flock Landing

Concept - Karen Kaeja

Flock Landing Leader - Lilia Leon

Flock Landing Dancers - Lilia Leon, Meryem Alaoui, and Deltin Séjour

Dancers/Community Participants - Catherine Campbell, Sophie Dow, Mai Duong, Catherine Kourkounakis, Erika MacNeil, Brenda Somers

Camera - Drew Berry and Allen Kaeja

Editor - Drew Berry

Featured Sound - Original music composition by Edgardo Moreno

Filmed at Vermont Square Park in Toronto, Ontario

Description: Flock Landing invites audience members to participate in a gentle and inclusive group movement ensemble experience. Connecting us in the here and now, Flock Landing embraces simple gestures that are accessible to people of all ages and abilities. Since 2007, we have established 120 Flock Landings from Toronto to Japan - appearing in our annual Porch View Dances, Guelph Dance Festival, Nuit Blanche, Downtown Dances Moncton and Yokohama. We encourage you to join in our Flock Landing and dance with us from the comfort of your home!

Artists



Meryem Alaoui (Flock Landing Dancer)

Artistic Director of Jasad Dance Projects, Meryem Alaoui is a dancer-choreographer from Morocco, living in Toronto. Her work is often an invitation towards a softer and sensorial experience of dance. A graduate of The School of Toronto Dance Theatre, she has danced for multiple choreographers, including Amanda Acorn. Her choreographic works have been shown in Ontario and Quebec. In 2019, she created a solo for Sonia Rodriguez, principal dancer at the NBoC. Meryem has received residency support nationally and internationally, and funding from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council and the Toronto Arts Council. She also enjoys being involved in arts-education and community arts projects.



Fran Chudnoff (Filmmaker)

Francesca Chudnoff, also known as Franz/Fran, is a Toronto based millennial, with a BFA in performance, and paying rent as a multidisciplinary artist. She is a dance maker, video artist, and photographer. Their work is in conversation with internet aesthetics, the instantaneous energy of communications technology and its inevitable intersection with performance. Franz utilizes the assemblage of found parts, storytelling and digital image-making inside digital and physical landscapes. They are a queer 20-something, living in a land of Instagram captions and pop song tropes. Francesca recently completed a 3-year residency at Dancemakers Centre for Creation.



Rodney Diverlus (Choreographer)

Rodney Diverlus (@rodneydiverlus | he/them) is a Haitian-Canadian performance maker and activist whose work is borderless. His practice samples from dance, choreography, theatre, mass mobilization, afrofuturism, queer subcultures, and public arts-based interventions. He has worked throughout Turtle Island in theatre, dance, and film. Beyond his artistic practice, he moonlights as a community activator and writer. He is a co-founder of Black Lives Matter in Canada, and co-director of Wildseed Centre for Art & Activism.



Aria Evans (Filmmaker)

Aria is a queer, award-winning interdisciplinary artist whose practice spans dance; creation, performance and film. With a large-scale vision, collaboration is the departure point to their work, created under their company POLITICAL MOVEMENT. Advocating for inclusion and the representation of diversity, Aria uses their artistic practice to question the ways we can coexist together.



Olya Glotka (Filmmaker)

Olya Glotka is a Toronto-based, queer, award-winning filmmaker specializing in dance film and documentary. Through her art, her advocacy and social work, she blends her creativity with the desire to make our world a better place - one story at a time.



Lilia Leon (Flock Landing Dancer - Lead)

Lilia Leon is a Mexican-Canadian performing artist with a multi-faceted career including performance, choreography and education in dance and theatre. She graduated from York University with a BA in Dance and is an alumni of The School of Toronto Dance Theatre. Lilia has a long relationship with Kaeja d'Dance and has been involved with PVD through performing, teaching, and coordination for several years. Looking for balance and sustainability in her artistic practice, she became a Registered Massage Therapist in 2021. She continues to create, perform and produce her own work and is passionate about supporting fellow creatives through massage therapy and movement coaching. For self-care tips and motivation follow her on IG: @artfulmassagetherapy



Atri Nundy (Choreographer)

Mid-career dance artist, educator and choreographer, Atri Nundy completed her arangetram (graduation) in 2005 after years of continuing her passion for dance molded through learning Bharatanatyam at Sampradaya Dance Academy under the tutelage of Lata Pada, CM. Nundy continues to work as a Company dancer/choreographer and teacher at Sampradaya Dance Academy. She has toured extensively in India, Indonesia, UK and the Caribbean. Technically diverse in her training, Atri's professional practice includes work in a variety of contemporary practices. With this training she has performed with many companies in Toronto including KasheDance, Nova Dance and Ronald Taylor Dance. Commissioned by Anandam DanceTheatre where she also works as a dancer, she is in the process of creating her first ensemble work, *Mindful Chatter*, while working with seminal choreographer Padmini Chettur in her newest work *Chalking*, set to premiere and tour internationally in 2021/2022.



Sara Porter (Choreographer)

Sara Porter has been presenting her multidisciplinary stage creations internationally since 1990. Creating at the intersection of original text, movement, and sharp humour, Porter's works explore queer and feminist themes, presenting a self-reflective body in performance. Her signature one-woman show *Sara does a Solo* toured across Canada and the US between 2016-2019, with stops in New York City, San Francisco, Vancouver, St. John's Newfoundland, and many points in between. She is recipient of a Chalmers Arts Fellowship and is featured in the award-winning CBC series, *The Move*. Her upcoming solo – *Getting to know your Fruit* – premieres on film this fall.



Jake Runeckles (Online Tour Guide)

Jake is a theatre maker, musician, and advocate for positive change. He began training in classical piano when he was 4 years old, and has happily picked up many instruments since then. As a teenager, he found a love for musicals, and in pursuit of a dream to perform for a living, he trained at George Brown Theatre School, and the Birmingham Conservatory for Classical Theatre. In addition to acting, he has worked as a playwright, as a producer, and as a musician for companies such as Cahoots Theatre, Clay and Paper Theatre, and Theatre by the Bay. Selected acting credits include *The Neverending Story*, *Henry VIII* (Stratford Festival); *I and You* (Outlook Theatre); *The Secret Garden* (Young People's Theatre).



Deltin Sejour (Flock Landing Dancer)

Deltin Sejour was born and raised in Freeport Grand Bahama, The Bahamas, where he received his early training, primarily in martial arts. During adolescence, he began training in Theatre as well as Dance at Lois Sieler Academy of Dance, Georgia School of Theatre and Dance as well as Freeport Players Guild. Seeking further training, he attended The School of Toronto Dance Theatre and later Dance Performance at George Brown College. Sejour has participated in works by Kaeja d'Dance, Newton Moraes Dance, REASON D'être Dance, Wind in the Leaves Collective, and the Canadian Opera Company. Sejour has also traveled to India to study various aspects of Yoga and Movement. He spends his free time taking workshops to expand his knowledge of the arts, reading, writing, and doing calisthenics and extensive research. He is a dedicated artist that's always seeking to learn more about movement, art, the human body, and the world at large. As an emerging artist, Sejour seeks to continue his education by collaborating and creating meaningful, thoughtful, physical and engaging work.



Irma Villafuerte (Vignette Choreographer)

Irma Villafuerte is a dance artist, educator and first-generation daughter of refugees from Nahuat Pipil Territory Kuskatan, post-colonial El Salvador, based in Tkaronto. She is a graduate of George Brown Dance's Dance Performance Studies. She's had the honor to be part of festivals such as *Night Shift 2020* Presented by the Citadel & Compagnie, Fall for Dance North's *Open Studio*, *The Rhubarb Festival*, *DanceWeekend Ontario*, Aluna Theatre's *Panamerican Routes Festival*, *Panamania 2015*, *12th Bienal de la Habana 2015*, *Vanguardia Dance Projects Festival*, *International Dance Meeting* in Guantanamo, *CounterPulse Performing Diaspora* in San Francisco, etc. She's been part of works by Kaha:wi Dance Theatre, Jaberri Dance Theatre, Kaeja d'Dance, Victoria Mata, Aria Evans, Alejandro Ronceria, and Arsenio Andrade. Since 2017, she has led a journey nurturing her choreographic development through residencies with Dancemakers, TDT's Emerging Voices, George Brown Dance and Aluna Theatre; currently developing two important works *nudoDESnudo* and *Xilopango*. As a Latin American woman, her passion for social justice and human rights is the driving force for creation in Irma's choreographic and performance work, recently recognized by the Toronto Arts Foundation as a finalist for the emerging artist award. She is a dance instructor at Casa Maiz' Semillas Latinas program for Latin American children; in 2019, she joined the faculty of the Theatre Department at Randolph College for the Performing Arts. www.irmavillafuerte.com



Ravyn Wngz (Vignette Choreographer)

Ravyn Wngz "The Black Widow of Burlesque" is a Tanzanian, Bermudian, Mohawk, 2Spirit, Queer and Transcendent empowerment storyteller. Ravyn is an abolitionist and co-founder of ILL NANA/DiverseCity Dance Company. She is a co-founder of Black Lives Matter Canada, a Canadian Best Selling Author, a Top 25 Women on Influence in Canada recipient of 2021 and she is on the steering team of Black Lives Matter Toronto Chapter, a group who are committed to eradicating all forms of anti-Black racism, supporting Black healing and liberating Black communities.



Sashar Zarif (Vignette Choreographer)

Sashar Zarif is an internationally renowned performing artist, educator, and researcher. For the last three decades, Zarif has toured across forty countries, and has spent his professional life promoting cultural dialogue through intensive fieldwork, residencies, performances, and creative collaborations. His award-winning, multi-disciplinary dance projects are steeped in the artistry and history of traditional, ritualistic, and contemporary dance and music of the Central Asian, Middle Eastern, and North African regions. Zarif is committed to developing his own practice, grounded in a deep, mystical connection to dance. His creative approach *Living Stories / Moving Memories* explores the physical, mental and emotional aspects of memory.

Community Participants



Katherine Duncanson

Katherine Duncanson has been involved in the performance of music, dance and theatre for many decades and had the pleasure of creating with and/or being an interpreter in the works of many of Canada's most renowned performing artists. She is also a Creative Facilitator/ Director for musicians, theatre artists and dance artists. Katherine has performed across Canada, in the US, Amsterdam and Jamaica; in 3000 seat theatres, and in rooms just for one; in parks and parking lots; in oceans and art galleries; on rafts, on rooftops, in tree tops, tents and canoes; in bathtubs, on a scooter, under rocks, soaked by rain and surrounded by fire.



Manu Gupta, Pritha Roy Chowdhury, Roshin and Vinash

As parents to a family of five who are curious and adventurous, Manu and Pritha are trying to encourage their boys to try and venture outside of their comfort zones. For Pritha, experimenting with Porch View Dances is like a homecoming, returning to dance after many years. For Manu, this is new and uncomfortable. But when the opportunity came up, they seized it, to show the boys that there is so much adventure and learning if they can approach new experiences with curiosity.



Cianan Liburd

Enmeshed in the arts at a young age, Cianan explores his blackness and queerness through activism and artistic mediums such as painting, drawing and performance. He's worked in branding and communications for the last 4 years and enjoys the collaborative nature of the work, which allows him to flex his creative muscles. He first heard about PVD through his friend and eventual choreographer. Cianan is excited to, through dance, tell the story of two souls' return to one another after a gruelling year of separation, isolation and self-determination, and the reawakening of their bond, simply at the sight of a loved one.



Catherine Marrion

Catherine Marrion is an expressive arts therapist and voice coach who long ago made theatre in San Francisco, B.C. and Toronto, and then taught voice and movement for decades at Humber's Theatre Performance Program. Having seen and experienced the transformative power of making art, she became an expressive arts therapist so she could accompany others on that path. In addition to her private practice, she continues as a voice coach, mostly with dancers, as her somatic training and embodied approach seem to support their work. What a pleasure to work with Sara Porter – lucky me! -- and how amazing to be part of Porch View Dances, which is such a perfect way to celebrate dance and community.



Christine Moynihan

Christine Moynihan has spent the past forty years actively working in the performing arts – as an actor, producer, technician, administrator and executive director. From 1976 – 1988, she worked as an actor in theatres across Canada. She was the Artistic Producer of Equity Showcase Theatre (EST), from 1988 – 2002 and the Executive Director of the Dance Umbrella of Ontario (DUO) from 2002- 2012. She has received both the Brenda Donoghue Award for Outstanding Service to the Theatre Community and The Harold Award, also for Outstanding Service to the Theatre and Dance Community. In 2016, she was the Rehearsal Director and Production Manager for the Art Monastery Project in Caramanico, Italy and, while there, she created The Wild Boars project.



Kiké Otuije

Kiké is a queer, non-binary, Nigerian visual artist whose work focuses on telling black, queer stories through portraiture as well as examining visuals of queer Africans within and outside the diaspora. A proud plant parent who enjoys cooking, working out as well as biking around the city, Kiké loves being active and moving and being in touch with their body and that's why they're very happy to explore this in a new and exciting way in this project!

PVD10 Production Team



Michael Caldwell (Curator & Production Director)

Michael Caldwell is a Toronto-based choreographer, performer, curator, director, producer, and arts advocate. He has performed/collaborated with over 50 of Canada's esteemed creators/companies, performing across North America, Europe, Asia, and Australia, earning two (2) Dora Mavor Moore Awards for outstanding performance in dance. His choreography has been commissioned/presented throughout Canada at major festivals, in traditional venues and in site-responsive and community-engaged contexts. Caldwell is a two-time K.M. Hunter Charitable Foundation Artist Award finalist. He is the Executive Producer at Fall for Dance North in Toronto, and Associate Artistic Director at Festival of Dance Annapolis Royal in Nova Scotia, and sits on the national board of directors at The CanDance Network and the Dancer Transition Resource Centre.



Karen Kaeja (Porch View Dances Founder & Concept)

Karen Kaeja is grateful to have developed a career in the arts in Canada, where the language of gesture is her form of inner expression. She is an award-winning choreographer, performer, mentor, community builder and project instigator. "The mastermind behind Porch View Dances" Toronto Star, she invites collaborative relationships between dancers, everyday people and the body. Co-Artistic Director of Kaeja d'Dance with Allen Kaeja, she develops performance platforms that celebrate dance artist's practices and inspirations. Her awards include the Dance Ontario Lifetime Achievement Award, the CDA "I Love Dance" Community Award and the Paul D. Fleck Fellowship for Innovation, with finalist nominations including the TAF Celebration of Cultural Life Award, TAF Muriel Sherrin Award for International achievement, 7 Dora Mavor Moore nominations, CDA Innovation Award, NOW's Best Local Choreographer and Best Dance Company. She has created, collaborated, and been commissioned for over 70 works and has toured internationally with DanceWorks, Toronto Outdoor Art Fair, DanceWeekend, Harbourfront Centre, NAC #CanadaPerforms livestream, The Bentway, Tangente, L'agora, Canada Dance Festival, Banff Centre, Guelph Dance Festival, Dancing on the Edge, Springboard Dance, Vancouver East Cultural Centre, Yukon Arts Centre, Fall for Dance North IDD, Dusk Dances, Ottawa Dance Directives, Older and Reckless, Arangham Dance (India), EDge Dance Company (UK), Mukogawa Women's University (Japan), Guetcha Guaritcha, MOCEAN, Bouchardanse, Ballet Jorgen Canada, Blue Ceiling Dance, Jaz Fairy J, Judith Thompson's Rare Theatre and Annika Olund (Sweden). Karen is featured in films for CBC, BRAVO!, Bravo!FACT, American Dance Festival, Sundance, TIFF, TV documentaries, Gemini nominated Bravo! Freedom series, permanent collections at the MoMA, the Jewish Museum (New York) and Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial (Israel). She is Artistic Advisor for Jaberri Dance Theatre and is engaged with dancers and performance series around the world, and continues to dramaturg and perform for many of Canada's brilliant choreographers. www.kaeja.org



Allen Kaeja (PVD Film Director and Camera, Porch View Dances Co-Developer and Maurycy: PVD Tour Guide 2012-2020)

Allen Kaeja is an internationally recognized and award-winning Choreographer and Dance Film Director. The child of a refugee and Holocaust survivor, Allen has created 47 Holocaust inspired stage and film works. Overall, he's created over 180 stage works and choreographed 30 films. Co-Artistic Director of Kaeja d'Dance with Karen Kaeja, Allen's stage and film works have been featured in commercials, films and festivals around the world. He has received numerous national and international commissions, and teaches Kaeja Elevations and Dance Film master classes worldwide. Allen and Karen, just before the pandemic, completed performing/teaching in Japan, Singapore, China, Israel, across Canada, Mexico, USA and the UK. Allen was very excited creating with Director Keira Loughran, choreographing Wendy and Peter Pan until COVID closed The Stratford Festival. They have recently received the Dance Ontario Lifetime Achievement Award and were FINALISTS for the Toronto Arts Foundation's - 2020 Celebration of Cultural Life Award. Maurycy recently retired to a far away land. Allen and Karen are creating for their upcoming 31 anniversary in 2022.



Raeburn Ferguson (Kaeja Managing Director)

Raeburn holds a degree in Theatre from York University, a certificate in Entertainment Law from Osgoode Law school and a post-grad in Arts Management from Centennial College. After beginning to train in dance, acting and singing at a young age Raeburn naturally found herself on stage and spent the first few years of her career performing. She then found herself in the director and choreographer's chair and has since transitioned into an arts management career while enjoying theatre creation and dance as a passion project and hobby with her own indie theatre company, Truesight Collective. Raeburn was the Co-Executive Director of Theatre Ontario until October of 2019. When the organization folded the board of directors offered her the opportunity to take over the largest program Theatre Ontario produced yearly, and she accepted the challenge. She now runs Next Generation Showcase, a yearly event that allows post-secondary acting graduates the opportunity to audition and connect with the industry. Raeburn has served on several non-profit boards and was also the President of a community theatre group. Recently, Raeburn was a pre-production assistant for HenryG20, a production that will be part of the Luminato Festival this year. She is passionate about the arts and creating opportunities to connect people through the joy and energy of live performance.



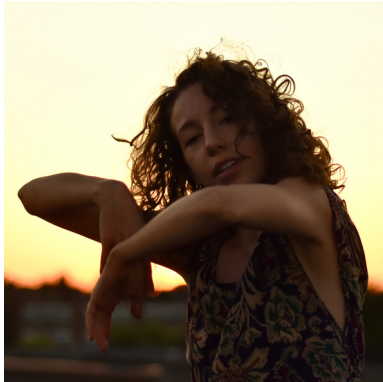
Sarah Caraher (Kaeja Project and Communications Manager)

Sarah is an arts manager with a background in musical theatre performance and arts education. She is a graduate of St. Clair College's Music Theatre Performance Program, Capilano University's Bachelor of Performing Arts program, and Centennial College's Arts Management Program. Previously, Sarah has worked as an Artist Educator with Young People's Theatre and in Marketing and Communications with GhostLight, Driftwood Theatre, and DAREarts. As a performer, she played the title role in Nicholas Lloyd Webber's world premiere musical The Little Prince with Theatre Calgary.



Yolanda Ferrato (Operations Associate)

Yolanda is an arts leader who has been working in Toronto for the past six years, after nearly a decade as a freelance theatre artist in London, UK. She is passionate about mentorship and community building and advocates for arts and culture spaces as part of healthy urban environments. She is a member of TAPA's Advocacy Committee and Groundstory's Advisory Committee and of World on a String Fiddle Toronto.



Drew Berry (Reminiscent Reel Co-Director, Camera & Editor)

Drew Berry is a Toronto-based dancer, thespian, photographer, musician and teacher. She has been working with Kaeja d'Dance since 2016 in various roles including: resident photographer/ videographer, scribe, dancer, certified KE assistant and teacher, marketing and development intern, and assistant stage manager. Drew is a company member with Rock Bottom Movement having performed in five full-length works and participated in multiple respected residencies. Other collaborators include: Portal Dance, Emma Kerson, Nico Al Ajillio, Irma Villafuerte, Kate Hilliard, and Alias Dance Project. Drew is also on faculty in the dance department 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 X University.



Joanna de Villa (Communications Assistant)

Joanna de Villa is a Filipino, Toronto-based artist and arts manager with a background in theatre performance. Currently, she is a B.A. candidate at the University of Toronto, earning a Specialist in Arts Management and a Major in Theatre and Performance Studies. She is also an alumni of Wexford Collegiate School for the Arts, graduating from their Drama Focus, Voice, and Musical Theatre program. In addition to being a leader in a number of student organizations, Joanna has interned at Prologue: Performing Arts, and is also a Marketing Associate at Russo Richardson Productions, an international theatre company that specializes in producing virtual performances.

Kaeja d'Dance Staff and Board

Co-Artistic Directors - Karen & Allen Kaeja
Managing Director - Raeburn Ferguson
Project & Communication Manager - Sarah Caraher
Operations Associate - Yolanda Ferrato
Production Assistant - Drew Berry

Communications Assistant - Joanna de Villa
Original Tour Guide for PVD - Maurycy: Allen Kaeja
Board of Directors - Lori Endes (President), Amanda Baloukas (Secretary), Warren Viegas (Treasurer), Christine Jackson, Lori Pacan

Thank You

We'd like to thank not only those who made this 10th Anniversary event possible, but also everyone who has supported Porch View Dances since its creation in 2012. Over the past ten years, there have been a multitude of incredible artists, collaborators, staff, friends, families, and volunteers who have contributed their time, dedication, and belief to PVD. To the Street, Bike, and Hub Squads, the neighbours, the families, our board, and to everyone who has given their time to support Porch View Dances, thank you. Without you, all of this would not have been possible. We apologize to anyone we have missed in the list below; it is but a small snapshot of some of the treasured people who have gathered to make PVD what it is over the years.

Thank you to over 500 individuals who made PVD happen:

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