

KAEJA

I AM THE CHILD OF...

31

TOUCHX



Photo by Drew Berry of Mio Sakamoto
and by Kevin Jones of Nickeshia Garrick & Karen Kaeja

Two world premieres
TOUCHX by Karen Kaeja
I AM THE CHILD OF... by Allen Kaeja & Bruce Barton
'CHILD' is a collaboration with Vertical City Performance

PART OF TORQUE International Contemporary Dance Series 2022
November 11 & 12 @ 7:30pm, Nov 13 @ 2pm
Harbourfront Centre Theatre

www.kaeja.org/k31

 Canada Council for the Arts / Conseil des arts du Canada
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  THE SCHOOL of Toronto Dance Theatre
  Pegasus Dance Studios

31 is supported by the Harbourfront Centre Technical Residency Program.

Welcome to '31'

43 years ago, we entered the precarious field of dance, interacting with a small but mighty force of independent artists through creation and discourse. Artistic thirst has kept us growing with new ideas, ways of listening, and interactions, against all odds. Our work Investigates the personal, interpersonal, relational, the socially relevant and the Holocaust.

Celebrating '31' years of Kaeja d'Dance has us looking back. Our journey has allowed us to explore the power of contemporary dance that speaks to audiences worldwide. Always humbling, it has been a gift to work and create with some of the most brilliant artists of our times who have shared with us their incredible artistry, voice, ideas and talent.

We are privileged to be in relationships with our collaborators, dancers, administrators, thinkers, leaders, community dancers, presenters, mentors, funders, volunteers and ultimately you, our audiences. We are thankful to you, to be here with you tonight, and to engage in this artful journey for over 31 years with you.

The performances that we are about to share with you this evening, bring together our life-long focuses in two different works, both of which engage in the concept of presence and absence - one of touch and the other of innocence. We hope '31' is a show that inspires and weaves a depth of reflection and resonance for you. We would love to hear from you after the show.

With love,
Karen and Allen



Land Acknowledgement

Kaeja d'Dance would like to acknowledge that we are situated upon traditional territories. Our artists, collaborators, staff and team are grateful to be creating art on this land that has been nurtured by recorded and unrecorded human activity for thousands of years. We honour and respect the traditional lands and waterways of the Wendat, Anishinabek Nation, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, and the Métis Nation.

We are in the 'Dish with One Spoon' territory - a treaty between these nations reflecting a commitment to share the territory and protect the land. We also recognize the enduring presence of diverse Indigenous peoples on this land.

About 31

Kaeja celebrates 31 years with two new dance works created by our Artistic Directors. Grounded in memory, Karen Kaeja's *TouchX* and Allen Kaeja's *I am the Child of...* investigate the complexity of our lived experiences. Community, perspective and a fascinating take on AR technology generate evocative worlds in this double-bill show. With over 25 collaborators, these works devise movement from deeply personal stories, examining the universal power of reflection, resilience, and the fragility of touch.

110 minutes, 20 minute intermission

Performance advisory:

TouchX: Haze, Partial Nudity

I am the Child of... : Mature Themes

About Kaeja d'Dance

Kaeja d'Dance is driven by a commitment to innovation in the performing arts through the expression of dance and gesture. We explore identity, personal stories and the complexity of the human experience by integrating the interconnected mediums of live performance, dance film, and community engagement. Kaeja provides platforms for and fosters the creation of new Canadian professional dance works which are featured locally and internationally that inspire connections between professional artists and the broader community.

Established in 1990, Kaeja creates award-winning contemporary dance performances for stage, film & communities that have toured the world for 30 years. We design large & small-scale events that integrate community & professional dance artists, site-specific work & audience inclusive arts practices. Kaeja is driven by two distinct artistic forces, Artistic Directors Karen & Allen Kaeja. Kaeja bridges their visions while the space between invites others in to be key collaborators. The Company has created 200+ works, performed, created & taught worldwide: the UK, Europe, China, Japan, USA, Mexico, Scandinavia, India & Israel among others. Alongside creation & performance, Kaeja has been committed to developing & exposing Canadian talent through festival platforms, training & mentorship. Kaeja has received 40+ national & international awards & nominations.

In addition to Kaeja's live performances, touring shows, residencies, commissions, and dance films, Kaeja also works to bring dance into communities through public space animations, community performance projects, inclusive exchanges with everyday people, appearances and dance education workshops. For more information, visit www.kaeja.org.

Thank You

From Karen, Allen, and the Kaeja d'Dance Team

Thank you to Nathalie Bonjour and Iris Nemani for inviting us into your programming and for making space for us both in the HCT residency program.

31 (*TouchX + I am the Child of...*) was developed with the generous support of many funders and partners over the years. Thank you to the Ontario Trillium Foundation, New Horizons Program, RBC Emerging Artists, University of Calgary / Kaeja d'Dance partnership SSHRC grant - Moving Connections and aging partnership: sharing danced memories to build meaningful relations led by Dr. Pil Hansen, TD Bank and the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre.

From Allen Kaeja

Allen would like to thank Bruce for his genius, gentleness and infinite patience; Karen for being my muse for over 30 years, her awareness, intensity and profound presence; all the dancers for their brilliance; Ian for his complete digital awareness; Simon for his illumination; Taylor, Hunter, Sumer, volunteers and the crew for their clarity, Kaeja team for their tirelessness and Harbourfront for their generosity in support for this inspiration. Allen would also like to thank Aniya and Mika for always being there.

Child has been in the creative process for over five years with many incredibly talented dance artists. Allen would also like to thank those who participated in the research: Drew Berry, Brayden Cairns, Caryn Chappell, Miyeko Ferguson, Ana Claudette Groppler, Sebastien Hirtenstein, Kunji Ikeda, Nyda Kwasowsky, Jocelyn Mah, Philip McDermott, Connor Mitton, Sylvie Moquin, Deltin Sejour, Katherine Semchuk, Kirsten Sullivan, Mateo Galindo Torres, Anya Tregubova.

From Bruce Barton

Bruce would like to express his gratitude to the entire remarkable I am the Child of... team. The design artists and technicians have been courageous, tireless, and endlessly innovative.

The artistry of the performers was matched only by their curiosity, patience, bravery, and openness to an unfamiliar and demanding process. And, after a decade of working together, collaborating with Allen has never been more exciting and enriching.

From Karen Kaeja

Thank you to Jordana Deveau for lovingly managing all the balls that bounced during the past few years with such fluency. And a never-ending thank you to Allen, Aniya and Mika Kaeja for always being there.

The development of TouchX has been graced by over 300 dance artists, collaborators and community participants in Toronto, Calgary and Japan. A heartfelt thank you for bringing your vulnerable and beautiful selves to my process. Every moment was meaningful and has helped me to understand more about the work, the creative process and myself. TouchX holds within it, the creative gestures and energy of the late Sallie Lyons, Jini Stolk and Shula Saltzman.

Support Kaeja

By supporting Kaeja d'Dance, you will help us engage fantastic artists and continue to create professional and community programming. Support us beyond our 31st year of dance making 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](#)

Stay in Touch

Subscribe to our E-Newsletter and follow us on social media for all the latest Kaeja news!

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A Note About *TouchX*

"*TouchX* has been in development for seven years. Quite honestly, a lifetime. The thought, memory, fragility and ephemeral nature of touch has led me down a multi-layered multi-sensory path of what remains in the body through wanted and unwanted touch, contrasted with when our hearts have been touched. The world of the work holds a fertile immediacy complexified by the intersection of sensation and agency of touch. The work aims to reveal the fragile implications of touch when humanity experiences its presence and absence. *TouchX* is also devoted to those who have deeply touched our lives..." – Karen Kaeja

TouchX Credits

World Premiere

Presented by

Harbourfront Centre

Concept, Direction & Choreography

Karen Kaeja

Created with and Performed by

Michael Caldwell, Brayden Cairns*, Nickeshia Garrick, Jessica Germano*, David Norsworthy, Mio Sakamoto, Yui Ugai**, Irma Villafuerte

Composer / Instrumentalist

Gregory Harrison

Lighting Design

Simon Rossiter

Set Design

Karen Kaeja and Sonja Rainey

Costume Design

Sonja Rainey

Dramaturgy

Pil Hansen, Shannon Litzenberger

Rehearsal Director & Project Coordinator

Jordana Deveau

Community Dancer Performers

Katie Ayer***, Peter Bannister***, Pieter Biessels, Susan Brown, Nancy Christie, Rajvi Dedhia***, Jane Deluzio, Lori Eisler, Lori Endes, Anne Fleming, Abigail Hanson***, Christine Jackson, Beata Janiec,, David Keshen, Juliana Klein, Leila Lessem, Ellen Moore***, Ella Parsons***, Mary Anne Quance, Camryn Reiksts***, Maya Santos O'Keefe***, Cari Shim, Margo Small, Harold Tausch, Patricia White, Phyllis Whyte, Angela Xu

Production Coordinator & Stage Management

Taylor Young

Assistant Stage Manager & Rehearsal Assistant

Briana Unger

Apprentice Stage Manager

Hunter Kennedy-Rullo

Assistant Lighting Designer

Theo Belc

Technical Coordinator

A.J. Morra

Vocalists

Frances Miller & Greg Harrison

Lyricist

Frances Miller in collaboration with Karen Kaeja

Musician

Amahl Arulanandam

Additional Vocalists

Company Performers

Wardrobe Assistant

Marianne Alas

Outside eye

Allen Kaeja

Photography

Drew Berry, Zhenya Cerneacov, Kevin Jones, Zahra Saleki, Omer Yukseker

Scribe & Video Documentation

Drew Berry

Process witnesses

Uche Ama, Blake Martin, Carmelina Martin, Sue Smith, Pamela Wong Shoebottom

* RBC Artistic Interns

** Understudy

*** Courtesy of The School of Toronto Dance Theatre

The services of Theo Belc were made possible through the Associated Designers of Canada Assistant Designer Program funded by the Government of Canada.

TouchX is supported by the Harbourfront Centre Technical Residency Program, and creative residency/development engagements with Decidedly Jazz Dance, Mukogawa Women's University - Japan and Atlantic Ballet Canada.

Dancers and collaborators during development

Meryem Alaoui, Anna Atkinson, Mary-Dora Bloch-Hansen, Zhenya Cerneacov, Caryn Chappell, Tavia Christina, Ana Claudette Groppler, Rodney Diverlus, Ganavya Doraiswamy, Aria Evans, Rachel Forbes, Luke Garwood, Mateo Galindo Torres, Merideth Grifferty, Roshanak Jaberli, Cheryl Lalonde, Jolyane Langlois, Suzanne Liska, Lukas Malkowski, Nikolaos Markakis, Philip McDermott, Sylvie Moquin, Sahara Morimoto, Jillian Peever, Matt Rogalsky, Nicole Rose Bond, Elke Schroeder, Katherine Semchuk, Kaitlin Standeven, Stephanie Tremblay, Naishi Wang, Kathia Whittenborn, Brendan Wyatt.

Partner organizations and dancers in out of town creation residencies

Decidedly Jazz Dance, Calgary (2018) - Julia Cosentino, Rodney Diverlus, Jason Owin F. G, Catherine Hayward, Kaja Irwin, Shayne Johnson, Tasha M Korney, Sabrina Naz, Kaleb Tek.

Atlantic Ballet Canada for Downtown Dances Moncton creation (2018) - community participants of 'Kindred Doves' - Nikita Dobrovolskaya and Stephanie Audet, Germaine Chandler, Shawn Clark, Fern Condron, Michelle Condron, Nora Cormier, Carole Gingras, Joanne LANDRY, Anne-Marie Lavigne, Anna Leger, Millie Poirier, Trish Taylor, Anna Watts

Mukogawa Women's University, Japan (2017) - Masuyo Higashide, Naoko Murakoshi, and students.

Ochre House writing retreat, Newfoundland (2018) - Rhoda Berlin, Louis Brown, Lori F Clarke, Jennifer Coffey, Alex Goodall, Debbie McGee, Lisa Porter, Ellen Reid.

Moving Connections Project

A Moving Connections workshop held in December 2019 was instrumental in the development of relational materials and the Heart Phrase of TouchX. Gestures were developed by each individual related to the desire to connect to someone they have not seen for a while. These gestures became the Heart Phrase that was offered and shared in free workshops during COVID for almost 2 years online, led by some of the dancers in the work. The Heart Phrase is named after the late Sallie Lyons who described her gesture as being "pulled from the heart".

Community participants for this creation process

Pramila Aggarwal, Nadia Alpert, Mary Barr, Linda Bayliss, Pat Beaven, Pieter Biessels, Jane Deluzio, Joanne Desjardins, Lori Eisler, Luisa Giacometti, Christine Jackson, Suzanne Jaeger, David Keshen, Ana Lima, Sallie Lyons, Mary Anne Quance, Brenda Somers, Jini Stolk, Harold Tausch, Dianne Taylor, Cylla von Tiedemann, Patricia White, Phyllis Whyte, Myriam Zitouni.

Community participants throughout the 7 years

*Not including the TouchX premiere performers and December 2019 Moving Connections Project: Hera Ashford, Linda Bayliss, Donna Croce, Loretta Faveri, Nadine Feldman, Fitzsimmons Frey, Luisa Giacometti, Liz Haines, Vivian Hall, Heather, Suzanne Jaeger, Candace Kumar, Lainie Magidsohn, Vera Maiil, Rachel Markun, Kelly Mullan, Zita Nayrady, Mary O'Connell, Katya Revenko, Shula Strassfeld, Ann Tutt, Gehan Udayanga, Raphaella Valeri, Tulin Valeri, Heddy Vargrate, Julianna Velocci, Anastasia Watson, Marilyn Weisdorf, Nancy Zingel

Further thank you to

School of Toronto Dance Theatre, Sandra Campbell, Kimberly Cooper, Jane David-Munro, Sasha Ivanochko, Monica Pain, Pamela Wong Shoebottom, George Stamos, Pegasus Studio, Susie Burpee, Sandra Campbell, Jane Davis-Munro, Yolanda Feratto, Christine Jackson, Myrna Koumarios, Lara Munro, Lia Munro, Margaret Powell, Beata Rasitsan, Lisa Roy, Tyler Shaw, Michelle Silagy, Elise Tigges, Aysha Terra Turgeon, the Harbourfront Centre team.

Moving Connections: In Touch is a film that was made as an early response to the pandemic in summer 2020 right after all *TouchX* rehearsal plans came to a halt.

[Watch Moving Connections: In Touch](#)

Be Part of Porch View Dances 2023!



Do you love community performance?

Get involved in *Porch View Dances* this summer - a beloved dance festival in Seaton Village now in its 12th year. Join us as a professional choreographer or dancer, community participant dancer or volunteer.

To find out more, please connect with Kaeja d'Dance via email at urban@kaeja.org

To learn more about Porch View Dances, [visit our website](#).

Photo of Karen & Allen Kaeja's choreography for Jim and Owen Adams (Porch View Dances 2018) by SVPhotography

I am the Child of... Credits

World Premiere

Presented by
Harbourfront Centre

A co-creation by Allen Kaeja and Bruce Barton

A collaboration between [Kaeja d'Dance](#) and [Vertical City Performance](#)

Concept, Choreographic Proposals and Co-Direction
Allen Kaeja

Dramaturgy, Textual Arrangement and Co-Direction
Bruce Barton

Created with and Performed by
Michael Caldwell, Rodney Diverlus, Aria Evans, Nickeshia Garrick, Karen Kaeja, Ethan Kim*, Geanderson Mello, Mio Sakamoto*

Augmented Reality and Digital Design
Allen Kaeja and Ian Garrett

Composer
Edgardo Moreno

Lighting Design
Simon Rossiter

Costume Design
Cara Johnson

Production Coordinator & Stage Management
Taylor Young

Augmented Reality and Digital Content
Toasterlab (Ian Garrett, Justine Garrett, Andrew Sempre, with support of Raechel Kula)

Assistant Lighting Designer
Theo Belc

Assistant Stage Manager
Hunter Kennedy-Rullo

AR lobby instructions
Sumer Jawaid and Stephanie Kim

Green Screen Videographer
Allen Kaeja

Green Screen Lighting Support
John Marsonet

Video Trailer
Olya Glotka

Photography
Drew Berry, Zhenya Cerneacov, Kevin Jones, Zahra Saleki, Omer Yukseker

Producers: [Vertical City Performance](#) and [Kaeja d'Dance](#)

*RBC Artistic Interns

I am the Child of... is supported by the Harbourfront Centre Technical Residency Program and Banff Centre for the Arts and Creativity: Performing Arts Residency Program.

The services of Theo Belc were made possible through the Associated Designers of Canada Assistant Designer Program funded by the Government of Canada.

For Kaeja d'Dance

Producer
Kaeja d'Dance

Managing Director
Adam Scime

Project & Communications Manager
Sarah Caraher

Administrative Support
Raeburn Ferguson

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Anti-Racism Consultant
Fiona Suliman

Disability Consultant
Brennan Roy

Marketing Assistant
Shajiba Sooriyakumar

Engagement Support
Sumer Jawaid

EDI Administrative Support
Stephanie Kim

Production Management Consultant
Simon Rossiter

Photography
Kevin Jones, Drew Berry, Omer Yukseker, Zahra Saleki

Videography
Drew Berry, Olya Glotka, John Marsonet

Graphic Design
Adriano Bertuzzo

Kaeja Board of Directors

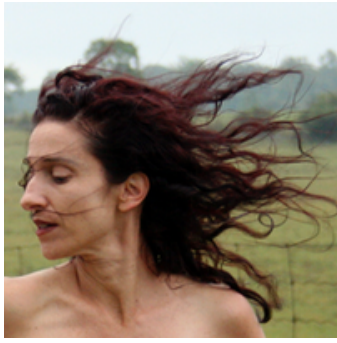
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Artistic Collaborators



Karen Kaeja, *TouchX* Concept, Direction & Choreography, *I am the Child of...* Performer

Karen Kaeja (she/her) is a Tkaronto born Ashkenazi. An award-winning choreographer and performer for stage and film, project instigator and mentor, she “paints portraits with moving bodies” TorStar and is “the mastermind behind *Porch View Dances*” TorStar. Karen is Co-Artistic Director of Kaeja d’Dance with Allen Kaeja, creating and touring live dance and film internationally. The heart of her research, choreography and critical writing for the past 30 years, concentrates on Touch, agency and body memory in a continuous state of rebalancing. Established in The Canadian Who’s Who, she has created over 50 works. Karen has received awards including the 2022 George Luscombe Mentorship Award, 2020 Dance Ontario Lifetime Achievement Award, CDA “I Love Dance” Community Award, and Paul D. Fleck Fellowship for Innovation. A finalist for the Toronto Arts Foundation Celebration of Cultural Life Award, the TAF Muriel Sherrin Award for International Achievement, TD Arts Diversity Award, NOW’s Best Local Choreographer and Best Dance Company, she is twice named one of NOW’s top 10 dance artists. A 7-time Dora nominee, her work *Crave* received 4 Dora’s, winning one. She was Stratford Festival’s first movement dramaturg for *Wendy* and *Peter Pan* and was the first resident dance artist for both MUN/Dance NL and the Guelph Dance Festival. Commissioned and presented by individuals and performance series around the world, she collaborates with and dances for many of Canada’s brilliant choreographers. www.kaeja.org



Allen Kaeja, *I am the Child of...* Concept, Choreographic Proposals, and Co-Direction

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 27 years of Holocaust inspired stage and film works. Overall, he’s created over 210 stage works and Choreographed/Directed 35 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, teaches Kaeja Elevations and Dance Film master classes worldwide. Allen was very excited creating with Director Keira Loughran, choreographing *Wendy / Peter Pan* until COVID closed Stratford Festival in 2020. Karen and Allen received the DanceOntario Lifetime Achievement Award and were Finalists for the TAF-2020 Celebration of Cultural Life Award. Allen and Karen recently created *Kitchen Dances* Web Series with Moze Mossanen and *In Case of Emergency*, celebrating eighteen dance artists in our community. The Kaeja’s will be touring to the USA, New Brunswick and BC in 2023.



Bruce Barton *I am the Child of...* Dramaturgy, Textual Arrangement and Co-Direction

Bruce Barton, Dramaturge, is the Co-Artistic Director of Vertical City as well as a playwright, dramaturg, director, and scholar. His stage plays have been produced across Canada on stage and CBC radio, been celebrated with multiple award nominations, and published. Bruce works extensively as a writer, dramaturg, and collaborator with physical theatre, devising, and dance performance companies such as Ghost River Theatre, Zuppa Theatre, Theatre Gargantua, bluemouth inc., and Kaeja d'Dance. He has also directed professionally for over two decades, most recently with Vertical City (*All Good Things*, *YouTopia*, *Trace*) Hopscotch Collective (*Swimmer [68]*), and Kaeja d'Dance (*Rogue Show*).



Marianne Alas, *TouchX* Wardrobe Assistant

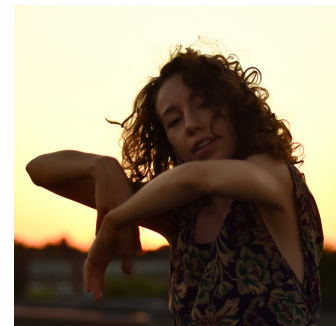
Marianne Alas is a textile artist, educator and culinary nutritionist. She has been making costumes, textile art and good food with community members for many years with organizations including Jumblies, Community Arts Guild, Arts4All and MABELLEarts.

She has done costume work for the Canadian Opera Company, Video Cabaret and the Luminato Festival. She teaches both textiles and cooking workshops. When not cooking or sewing she can be found growing vegetables in her backyard.



Theo Belc, 31 Assistant Lighting Designer

Theo Belc (they/them) is a production freelancer based in Toronto. They graduated from the Performance Production Program at Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly Ryerson), where they focused their studies in lighting design and scenic arts. Their motivation lies in using their multi-disciplinary interests to engage, support, and create meaningful stories that contribute to the Toronto arts scene. Recent works: Assistant lighting designer, *Fall for Dance North (2022)*; Assistant Lighting Designer, *"Svaha" - Nova Dance (2022)*; Lighting Designer, *"Winchester Prize Showcase" Summerworks Festival (2022)*; Technical Director, *"LEAK" Sara Porter Productions (2022)*; Festival Lighting Designer, *Paprika Festival (2022)*; Set Designer, *"Killing Time" Mixtape Productions (2022)*;



Drew Berry, *TouchX* Scribe & Video Documentation, 31 Photography

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: Jaber Dance Theatre, Guelph Dance, Portal Dance, Emma Kerson, Nico Contreras, 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 Toronto Metropolitan University.



Brayden Cairns, *TouchX* Performer

Brayden Jamil Cairns is a Toronto based artist who is interested in creation that can be enjoyed by all walks of life. He enjoys binding dance and lived experience to create challenging works of art, drawing from different forms of media such as design and film. Many of his 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 in a weird world.



Michael Caldwell, *TouchX + I am the Child of...* Performer

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 performance 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. Michael is a two-time K.M. Hunter Charitable Foundation Artist Award finalist. He serves in leadership, as Creative Director: Programming at Generator in Toronto, and as Associate Artistic Director at Festival of Dance Annapolis Royal in Nova Scotia. Previously, Michael played a pivotal role in the growth and development of Fall for Dance North, serving as Executive Producer for nine years. In addition, he acts as a consultant with various arts organizations and as a mentor to many emerging artists/curators in the Toronto arts community. With a bachelor's degree in film/art history from Syracuse University in upstate New York, and professional dance training at The School of Toronto Dance Theatre, Michael now serves as Vice President on the board of directors at The CanDance Network.



Jordana Deveau, *TouchX* Rehearsal Director and Project Coordinator

Independent dance artist, gardener & seed saver Jordana Deveau (she/her) is a first generation settler based out of Tkaronto, Canada who works as an interpreter, producer, educator, administrator, rehearsal director and project coordinator. She is Co-Artistic Director of JDdance, a multifaceted dance theatre collective that she co-founded with Jesse Dell in 2009. Jordana is the co-author with Donna Krasnow, Ph.D., of "C-I Training: Conditioning with Imagery for Dancers". She has trained in Toronto, Guelph, Vancouver, New York and Vienna, and performed in the U.S., Europe and across Canada interpreting works by notable choreographers including Carol Anderson, Julia Aplin, Peggy Baker, Sidra Bell, David Earle, Sylvain Émard, Kate Franklin, Margie Gillis, Louis Laberge-Côté, Andrea Nann, Roger Sinha, Holly Small, Santee Smith, and Gerry Trentham.



Rodney Diverlus, *I am the Child of...* Performer

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.



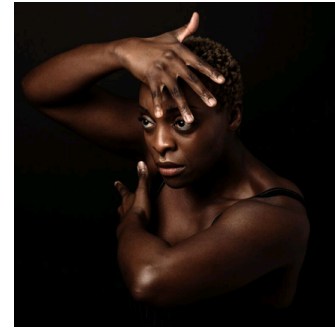
Aria Evans, *I am the Child of...* Performer

Aria Evans is an award-winning, queer, Toronto-based interdisciplinary artist working in dance, theatre and film. Aria is a certified Intimacy Coordinator and draws on their experiences of being multiracial to capture meaningful social and cultural themes through their interactive art. With a large-scale vision, collaboration is the departure point to their work created under their company POLITICAL MOVEMENT. As an active speaker, facilitator and curator, Aria advocates for inclusion and the representation of diversity, and uses their artistic practice to question the ways we can coexist together. www.politicalmovement.ca Photo Credit: Bliss Thompson



Ian Garrett, *I am the Child of...* Augmented Reality and Digital Design

Ian Garrett is a designer, producer, educator, and researcher in the field of sustainability in arts and culture. He is producer for Toasterlab, a mixed reality performance collective. He maintains a design practice focused on ecology, accessible technologies and scenography. He is also the director of the Centre for Sustainable Practice in the Arts and Associate Professor of Ecological Design for Performance at York University.



Nickeshia Garrick, *I am the Child of...* Performer

Nickeshia Garrick is a settler on the stolen land of Tkaronto and has performed on this land for over 25 years. They are unapologetically a Black, Queer Artist, who believes in the healing power of breath through raw emotion and movement and teaches this breathwork at the Toronto Film School. Along with teaching at TFS, Nickeshia is a Certified Personal Trainer and Pilates Instructor and often offers free and discounted sessions to the IBPOC LGBTQ2S+ community in Toronto. Nickeshia holds their BFA in Dance from Simon Fraser University (Vancouver) and is a Dora Mavor Moore, winning and multi-nominated artist.



Jessica Germano, *TouchX* Performer

Jessica Germano (she/her) is a contemporary dance artist based in Tkaronto. Jessica completed her BFA in performance dance at The Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly Ryerson) in 2016. Since graduating, she has worked closely with internationally acclaimed choreographers including Belinda McGuire Dance Projects, Johannes Wieland, and Michel Getman. Jessica was Peggy Baker Dance Project's RBC Emerging Artist Intern (2018/2019), she is a current artist/collaborator with Wild Rabbit Dance (Jane-Alison McKinney), and member of Nostos Dance Collectives (2017-present). In 2020, Jessica joined Valletto Dance Company (NYC/TX) under the direction of Valeria Gonzalez to collaborate and perform in a virtual performance 'MOON' featuring female-identifying dance artists from across the globe.



Olya Glotka, *I am the Child of...* Video Trailer

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.



Pil Hansen, *TouchX* Dramaturg

Pil Hansen is a dance/devising dramaturg, a founding member of Vertical City Performance, a Professor of performing arts at the University of Calgary, and the President of Performance Studies international. Her artistic, community, and scholarly work examines memory, perception, and relational connection through/in creative processes. Over the past two decades, she has dramaturged more than 30 works. Her latest books are *Performance Generating Systems in Dance: Dramaturgy, Psychology, and Performativity* (2022), *Performing the Remembered Present: The Cognition of Memory in Dance, Theatre, and Music* (2017), and *Dance Dramaturgy: Modes of Agency, Awareness, and Engagement* (2015). Current artistic collaborators include: Kaeja d’Dance and Battery Opera Performance. Past artistic collaborators include: Toronto Dance Theatre, Theatre Replacement, and Public Recordings.



Gregory Harrison, *TouchX* Composer/Instrumentalist

Toronto-based percussionist and Dora-nominated composer Gregory Harrison (Grej) is emerging as one of Canada’s finest talents in contemporary music. His extensive resume spans artists and groups including Jeremy Dutcher, Cirque du Soleil, Video Games Live, R. Murray Schafer, and Fred Penner. He has performed extensively internationally at notable venues such as Massey Hall, NPR Tiny Desk Concerts, the JUNO’s, and The Kennedy Center. Described as a “percussion & electronics wizard” (Bob Boilen - NPR Music), Harrison’s performative and compositional style merge his classical music background with his passion for electronic music. In recent years, Harrison's commissions have been coveted by Kaeja d’Dance, ProArte Danza, Toronto Dance Theatre, Human Body Expression, Architek Percussion, Fifth Wind Quintet, CCDT, Dr. Morris Palter (University of Arizona), Popular Demand Pictures Inc., NB Tourism, and Division 85 Films. Harrison is also co-founder of his groups Mear and Taktus marimba duo.



Cara Johnson, *I am the Child of...* Costume Designer

Cara Johnson is a Costume Designer, Sewing Instructor and Seamstress. She attended York University’s Theatre Production Program, where she graduated with a BFA (Bachelor of Fine Arts) with Honours. Since graduating she has worked on the wardrobe team for CBC’s *Battle of the Blades* (Season 5&6), as well as on other film and tv shows. She designed a circus show in Dubai and has worked in a variety of places as a seamstress and designer for dance, theatre, film and television. Many thanks to Allen Kaeja and all of the dancers for collaborating and developing these wonderful creations!



Hunter Kennedy-Rullo, *TouchX* Apprentice Stage Manager, *I am the Child of...* Assistant Stage Manager

Hunter Kennedy-Rullo is a Toronto-based Production Manager/Technical Director going into his final year of Performance Production at Toronto Metropolitan University. Recent Credits include: Production Manager for Harabogee & Me (Shakespeare in Action), Technical Director for I & You (Terra Firma Festival) Insert Clown Here (Terra Firma Festival), Production Manager for Hookman (Toronto Metropolitan University)



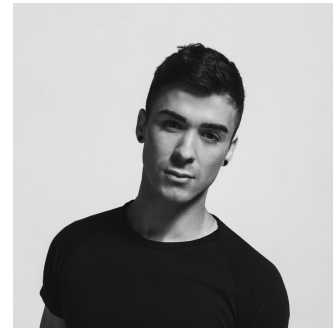
Ethan Kim, *I am the Child of...* Performer

Ethan is a Toronto based artist, born and raised in Mississauga, Ontario. He is a graduate of Ryerson's Performance: Dance program, and has danced in various performances and films, in and outside of Toronto since then. In addition to dance, Ethan is an experienced singer, musician, composer, filmmaker, and has performed in many musical theatre productions. This interest in multiple forms has led to a choreographic practice that merges artistic worlds. Ethan wishes to create engaging works to provide intrigue and entertainment for people of all backgrounds.



Shannon Litzenberger, *TouchX* Dramaturg

Shannon Litzenberger is an award-winning contemporary dance artist, choreographer, director, programmer, facilitator and producer based in Toronto. She creates imaginative performance experiences that come to life at the intersection of dance, theatre, literary, and visual art. Recent works include World After Dark (Harbourfront Centre), Everyday Marvels (Gardiner Museum), Before You Wake/Field Guide for the Missing (Gros Morne Summer Music), Animal Farm (Soulpepper), Cage (Soulpepper), HOMEbody (Winchester Street Theatre) and Life Songs (PorchView Dances). She is the recipient of the Jack McAllister award for accomplishment in dance, a Chalmers Arts Fellow, and a twice-shortlisted finalist for the prestigious KM Hunter Award. Her most recent work World After Dark was nominated for a 2019 Dora Mavor Moore Award. www.shannonlitzenberger.com



Geanderson Mello, *I am the Child of...* Performer

Geanderson Mello is originally from Brazil, he studied ballet at the Brazilian Conservatory of Dance. Looking to grow as an artist, he began his modern dance education at The School of Toronto Dance Theatre (STDT) where he graduated in 2017. Through STDT, he has worked with Allen Kaeja, Paul-Andr e Fortier, Sasha Ivanohko, Kate Alton, Sharon B. Moore, Christopher House, and other renowned choreographers. In 2018 he attended B12 Research or Die, in Berlin, Germany. There he had the opportunity to learn from Iztok Kova , Olivia Ancona, Francisco C rdova and Scott Jennings. He performed selected En-knap Composing Principles by Iztok Kova . He also performed a piece by Roberto Olivan through Alias Dance Project. Currently, he is working on a creation by Kaeja d'Dance "I'm a Child Of...", premiering in 2022. Geanderson, is a co-director of Millo Dance Projects, founded in 2020. In December 2021, they successfully launched a series of short dance film screenings called Nightfall.



Frances Miller, *TouchX* Vocalist

Frances Miller is a songwriter and vocalist living in Toronto with experience working in commercial projects, dance and independent film. She is a member of the 77-person band CHAOS, a project that has been featured in Billboard Magazine. Miller's band Mear recently completed a visual album with the support of the Canada Council for the Arts. Miller is a PhD candidate at York University where her work focuses on interpersonal synchrony and entrainment in community music making.



Edgardo Moreno *I am the Child of...* Composer

Edgardo Moreno is a Hamilton based composer that has been commissioned for projects in Canada, Venezuela, Colombia, Mexico, Sweden, Argentina, England and USA. He has written scores for films produced by CBC, Bravo, City TV, NFB, OMNI, Ontario Arts Council, History Channel, TVO. He has worked extensively with contemporary dance choreographers creating sound design and musical scores. He is presently working in creating video and live sound pieces that are part of his Fireflyproject. His Film Double Exposure has screened in various film festival across Canada and will be part of exhibitions in Ontario in the coming months.



A.J. Morra, *TouchX* Technical Coordinator

Based in Toronto, A.J. is a graduate of the Technical Theatre Program at "X" University, and has enjoyed an active career as a Technical Director, Production Manager, and Stage Manager for contemporary dance, circus, and theatre. Selected credits include three seasons with Toronto Dance Theatre, and assorted projects with Groundling Theatre Company, Zero Gravity Circus, Dreamwalker Dance Company, Kaeja d'Dance, Soundstreams, and Signal Theatre.



David Norsworthy, *TouchX* Performer

David Norsworthy (he/him) is a Tkarón:to/Toronto-based dance artist, choreographer and arts educator of mixed Japanese immigrant/British settler descent who is “an exceptionally lucid performer, impressive and articulate” (Globe and Mail). A graduate of The Juilliard School, he delights in asking questions, and believes deeply in the transformative power of dancing. David has performed with dance companies and collaborated with dance creators in Canada, USA, Sweden and Australia, and his choreographic career has included independently produced full-length works, international tours, and commissioned projects for companies, universities and schools. David is the grateful recipient of the Living Arts Centre’s Ron Lenyk Award and was one of three finalists for the Toronto Arts Foundation’s Emerging Artist Award. David is a Co-Founder/Co- Director of TOES FOR DANCE, a Board Member of CanAsian Dance, and a part-time Rehearsal Director for Norrdans, a contemporary dance company in Sweden.
www.davidnorsworthy.com



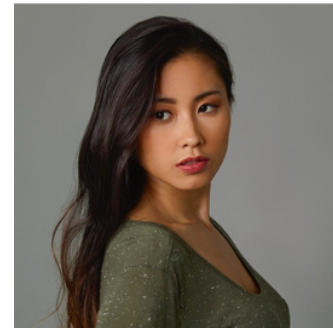
Sonja Rainey, *TouchX* Set and Costume Design

Sonja is a Dora-nominated set and costume designer as well as a community-based artist. She has designed for theatre, puppetry, opera, film and spectacle events and has had work produced in Canada, the U.S and as part of the Prague Quadrennial. Her approach is tactile and experiential, responding to the ideas and themes at hand to create objects, and immersive environments that blend forms and materials to move toward the questions and stories that lie below the surface.



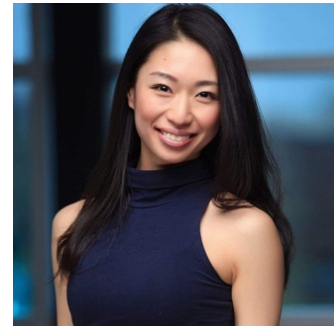
Simon Rossiter, 31 Lighting Design, *TouchX* Production Management Consultant

Simon Rossiter (lighting design) is an award-winning lighting designer who has collaborated on more than three hundred productions with a variety of companies throughout Canada, including more than two hundred original designs. Simon has received nine Dora Mavor Moore award nominations for Outstanding Lighting Design, receiving the award three times, and has twice been nominated for the Ontario Arts Council's prestigious Pauline McGibbon award in design. Image Description: Seated in front of a dark black and green doorway, Simon Rossiter has slightly messy hair and a short beard.



Mio Sakamoto, *TouchX + I am the Child of...* Performer

Mio Sakamoto is a Toronto based performer, choreographer, and dance educator originally from Japan. She has performed (selected) *Crépuscule* by Marie-Josée Chartier, *October Sky* by Paul-André Fortier, *XTOD - SOLO DANCE XCHANGE* for Xtraordinary Japan Tour by Kaeja d'Dance, and *Mani.Deux* by Northfoot Movement for its premier at Fall for Dance North in 2019. Sakamoto's choreographic work (selected), *Submerge*, *reverie* (dance film), *Where Do We Go?* (dance film), *Systematic*, *Oblivious or Naive*, and *Cater To You*, were presented in Canada and Japan. She has recently choreographed for a new 30 min film project, *Know Not What* by Bow Echo Collective. She was Kaeja Elevation Choreography Assistant for the *Wendy & Peter Pan* production of the Stratford Festival in 2019/2020. In 2020, she received the RBC Newcomer Arts Award by Neighbourhood Arts Network (Toronto Arts Foundation). In 2021, she was selected for the first year-long Artist in Residence of Kaeja d'Dance.



Yui Ugai, *TouchX* Performer

Yui Ugai was born in Hiroshima, Japan. She majored in drama at high school and studied dance and music at Kobe University. Yui obtained professional ballet RAD training and she was awarded a prize for excellence in dance by Dance Dance Magazine in 2008. Yui holds BFA in Dance from York University and is completing her MFA degree at York University's Department of Dance in Toronto. During her study, she has received seven scholarships and awards. She has danced and toured nationally and internationally with Kaeja d'Dance, The Toronto Blue Jays, Limitless Productions, The Parahumans, The Little Pear Garden Dance Company, Ballet Creole, Kashe Dance Company, Anima Inc. (Mexico/Peru) and many more. In Japan, she produced the annual dance event, "Dance Kotoen" sponsored by Nishinomiya City in order to support youth dance artists and the community since 2011.



Irma Villafuerte, *TouchX* Performer

Irma Villafuerte is a Central American dance artist and educator based in Tkaronto. She is a first-generation daughter of refugees from Nahuat-Pipil Territory Kuskatan (Place of Jeweled necklaces), post-colonial El Salvador. She is a graduate of George Brown Dance;. Her experience and training extend to Latin American and Caribbean dances, and Cuban Contemporary technique. She is a 2021 Toronto Arts Foundation Emerging Artist Finalist. Since 2017, she has embarked in a choreographic development through residencies with TDT Emerging Voices, Aluna Theatre, Dance Makers Peer Learning Network and George Brown Dance. Her artistic mission is embodying cultural, social-political and migrant narratives of marginalized and racialized communities. As a daughter of refugee parents, her passion for social justice, human rights, and political art making, is the driving force for creation in Irma's choreographic and performance work, leading her to incubate her solo on her historic memory "nudoDESnudo". She recently on the faculty at Casa Maiz' Semillas Latinas summer camp for Latin American children since 2013 as a dance instructor and choreographer; as of late, she is also a new member of the faculty of the Theatre Department at Randolph College for the Performing Arts as a Voice, Text and Movement educator. She's had the honor to perform, train and create in various arts festivals and workshops across the Americas and overseas, such as Night Shift 2020 Presented by the Citadel & Compaigne, Fall for Dance North's Open Studio, The Rhubarb Festival, DanceWeekend Ontario, Aluna Theatre's Panamerican Routes Festival, RUTAS and Caminos Festival, Panamania 2015, La 12 Bienal de la Habana 2015 for (IN)DISCIPLINAS, Vanguardia Dance Projects Festival, Danza Corpus Annual Open Space Temporada in Matanzas, Cuba, International Dance Meeting by Danza Libre in Guantanamo, CounterPulse Performing Diaspora in San Francisco. She has been part of choreographic works by Santee Smith (Kahawi Dance Theatre), Alejandro Ronceria, Roshanak Jaberri (Jaberri Dance Theatre), Victoria Mata, Kaeja D'dance, Aria Evans (Political Movement), Ryan Lee, Derek Sangster, Tina Fushell, Arsenio Andrade, Sharon B. Moore, Jose Angel Carret (Danza Corpus), Esteban Aguilar (Danza Fragmentada, Cuba).



Briana Unger, *TouchX* Assistant Stage Manager and Rehearsal Assistant

Brianna's love of theatre and organized chaos was developed and nourished backstage of multiple community theatres in the Durham Region area. Her passion for stage management and technical theatre was strengthened at McMaster University while receiving an Honours Bachelor of Arts Degree in Theatre & Film and Sociology and later honed and solidified at The National Theatre School of Canada during the Production Design & Technical Arts program. This past year, Brianna has been stage managing in the Toronto area with Toronto Fringe's digital festivals, she's gone back to her more musical roots with Toronto Dance Theatre's 2022 season and has had the pleasure of collaborating with many artists on various other projects such as Just for Laughs in Montreal, Directors Lab North, and a workshop of a new musical Kabilang Buhay. Brianna has loved working with Kaeja Dance and is excited to be back where it all began: backstage.



Taylor Young, 31 Production Coordinator + Stage Manager

Taylor Young (they/them) is a Toronto-based Stage Manager and Production Manager, originally from Calgary, AB. They hold a BFA from X University in Performance Production. Some of their recent projects include: Production Manager, Paprika Festival (2019-2022); Stage Manager, Killing Time, Mixtape Projects (2022); Assistant Stage Manager, Acceleration 2022, School of Toronto Dance Theatre; Stage Manager, Ursa: A Folk Musical, The Uncommon Folk Collective at the Next Stage Festival (2022); Stage Manager, Citadel Dance Mix, Citadel + Compaignie (2021); Assistant Stage Manager, The Spectator's Odyssey – o'dell'Inferno, DopoLavoro Teatrale & TOLive (2021); Stage Manager, Night Shift 2021, Citadel + Compaignie; Production Coordinator & Assistant Stage Manager, Toronto Dance Theatre 2020/2021 Season; Stage Manager, hollow mountain, Rock Bottom Movement (Wildside 2020).

31 Years of Thanks

Thank you to the artists, collaborators, staff, board members, and advisors who have contributed to Kaeja over the past 31 years. 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 helped to make Kaeja what it is over the years. Thank you to:

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