

SUMMERWORKS 2021

PRESENTATIONS

NOWHEN (August 5 – 15, 3:00pm)

A Canadian Stage Production in collaboration with The Department of Theatre, School of the Arts, Media, Performance & Design at York University, presented in partnership with SummerWorks

In *nowhen*, York University Theatre and Canadian Stage MFA Candidate **Alison Wong** invites guests to explore, and “let go of *time*, and revel in *place*” in a two-part, auditory and nature-based experience set in High Park and featuring a compelling ensemble of performers –some current Theatre at York students– **Abriana Lashley, Cole Alvis, Djennie Laguerre, Hasib Rahim, Jiafan (Felix) Hao, Karolina Solovka**, and **Yasmine Amirkahni**

In Part 1 (Perspective), guests in small groups are invited to gather at one of seven different park entry points for an audio-guided journey into the park featuring of one of seven choreographed narratives adapted from stories of different perspectives.

In Part 2 (Presence), groups converge at the amphitheatre for a live performance, told through sound, movement, colour, and language. The performance culminates in both a meditation, and celebration, of a deepened relationship to both the physical and temporal realms.

TORONTO DANCE THEATRE TRIPLE BILL (August 28th, time TBA)

A triple bill of dance films by choreographers Charlotte Cain, Michael Rayson and Kurumi Yoshimoto. Awarded this year’s Winchester Prize from The School of Toronto Dance Theatre, these recent graduates adapt their creations to a digital platform and explore their relationships to distance. Featuring fellow School of TDT grads from around the globe, this program highlights emerging artists and celebrates SummerWorks’ ongoing partnership with The School of Toronto Dance Theatre. This presentation is the culmination of the 2021 Festival.

Artistic and Technical Mentors - Heidi Strauss and Jeremy Mimmagh

Subtle Fragmentations Underneath Silent Impurities - Michael Rayson

This dance film by Michael Rayson was developed through digging deeper into numerous curiosities about psychological connections and solitude, all while asking larger questions. With original composition from Christina Litt Belch, and collaboration with dance artists Lyla-Jean Bowman, Hannah Pilon, and Adèle Ross, the work explores past experiences of shame, emotional suppression, and societal perceptions, while seeking to offer an opening for internal discussion and a potential shift of perception.

En - [Kurumi Yoshimoto](#)

En (縁) is a Japanese word which means, fate or destiny.

This dynamic dance film explores the intersection of two lives, two cultures, and two languages, connecting by chance to share time and energy. *En* is a further development of *Awai*(間), created by Kurumi Yoshimoto in collaboration with Marina Méndez Juárez and Yael Zifroni. This film is inspired by the human experience, and the ways that fate and destiny connect us. *En* is a poetic exploration of the ways we can connect across barriers of distance, culture and language.

Where" is im from - Charlotte Cain

Where" is im from, created and performed by Charlotte Cain, explores spontaneity and impulse through movement. Recorded in separate segments at public locations, this film reimagines distance and connection with playful solitude.

"As a dancer, I am increasingly enthralled by the boundlessness of improvisation. With this, I explore the view of the city from my window, my balcony. Delving into feelings, thoughts, and observations, I experience participatory intimacy while simultaneously upholding an outside, observational distance."

LAB RESIDENCY WEEK 1: AUGUST 1 - 8

PROOF OF EXISTENCE

By Philip Nozuka

PROOF OF EXISTENCE is a multimedia solo performance by **Philip Nozuka** that uses his original music and audio commentary to respond to algorithmically suggested YouTube videos as a way to explore the practice of sharing and engaging with online digital content.

In transporting our often solo engagements with social media to a live and communal context, this work is asking: What needs to be seen right now? What is the quality of our attention when we are observing online? In a world where tech and media are often disembodied, individualist and inevitable, what can happen when we are digitally and physically present in a room together?

Philip Nozuka - Creator/Performer

Jill Connell - Dramaturge/Outside Eye

Kevin Matthew Wong - Projection Designer/Producer Consultant

Malik Nashad Sharpe - Choreographer/Movement Coach

The Pop-up Experience: Rainbow on Mars

By Devon Healy & Nate Bitton

Rainbow on Mars is a sensory reclamation of blindness encountered through the allegory of Plato's Cave. This is a large scale, narrative-driven, physical piece depicting the journey both into and of blindness. *Rainbow on Mars* dramatizes the journey from our usual grip on eyes that are blind as

flawed/damaged to experiencing the beauty in blindness. This show is one for the senses; it will ignite and stimulate audience members through the sensory rich language of sounds, smells, touch. We invite the audience into blindness making use of movement, sound and narration as a way to immerse audiences in blindness as opposed to simulating it.

Join **Devon Healey** and **Nate Bitton** throughout *The Pop-Up Experience: Rainbow on Mars* as they explore creating a movement score for the world of the larger project. This score will exist both as physical choreography, and also as story-integrated immersive descriptive audio, accessible to audiences with all expressions of blindness and sight

During this Lab Residency Devon and Nate will be working in collaboration with co-conspirator **Mitchell Cushman**, acclaimed National Ballet choreographer **Robert Binet**, multidisciplinary designer **Melissa Joakim** and performer **Cynthia Jimenez-Hicks**.

Devon Healey - Playwright

Nate Bitton – Director

LAB RESIDENCY WEEK 2: AUGUST 9 – 15

Connected as we are

By Sorrel Muggridge & Laura Nanni

Sorrel Muggridge & Laura Nanni are interdisciplinary artists who have been working with each other since summer 2006, often with an ocean between them—Sorrel in England, Laura in Canada. Their collaborative works deal with journeys, distance, and translation of space.

Individually, their practices have always responded to preoccupations with human geography and site specificity. Collaboratively their works explore how people understand and connect with their surroundings; and how we can build and communicate a shared sense of place.

Sorrel and Laura transform records of actions and experiences into installations that can be appreciated as maps, abstract forms, and narratives of the journeys. They also create artworks that connect audiences in separate locations sharing a journey at the same time. While moving through their different environments together, landscapes intertwine.

Swim

By Pandemic Theatre

It's an 8km swim from Güzelçamlı, Turkey to the Greek Island of Samos. That's 160 lengths of an Olympic sized swimming pool. *Swim* is a new creation in-development by **Jivesh Parasram** and **Tom Arthur Davis** that imagines the effects of migration on the self. Originally conceived as a performance event with a live endurance swimming audience component, *Swim* is being reimaged as a walking meditation/audio play for the SummerWorks Lab.

Jivesh Parasram & Tom Arthur Davis - Co-Creators
David Mesiha, Gavan Cheema, Tim Carlson - Collaborators

Switching Queen(s)

By Switch Collective

Switching Queen(s) emphasizes collaboration, improvisation, street-based performance, ancestry and eldership, and radical love, to affirm and uplift the true histories of our neighbourhoods and communities, and imagine decolonial and liberatory futures.

Join **Switch Collective** as part of this Lab Residency as they ask “*What can we learn from histories of QTBIPOC, poor, sex worker, Mad/disabled resistance in Parkdale? How can art-making exist as an accomplice to radical organizing of the present moment? What seeds of survival and resilience, what liberatory futures are already taking root within us?*”

Jody Chan - Collective Member
Sedina Fiati - Collective Member
daniel jelani ellis - Collective Member
Anna Malla - Collective Member
Hazel Moore - Collective Member
Naty Tremblay - Collective Member

The Pop-Up Experience: The Children of the Bear

By Todd Houseman

The Children of the Bear is the story of a young family growing up in a low income neighbourhood in central Alberta. The confined walls of the family's living room quickly give way to a world of Knights and Wizards—just like the video games into which the family regularly escape—creating an expansive free-ranging immersive parable. Audiences are invited to explore simultaneous storylines, making choices and discoveries as they unravel the kingdom's complicated colonial history and lore.

Throughout *The Pop-Up Experience: The Children of the Bear* Todd will be working in collaboration with co-conspirator and site-specific theatre veteran **Louise Casemore**, director **Mitchell Cushman**, Stratford Festival fight choreographer **Anita Nittoly** and a team of designers. Join them during this Lab Residency as they explore the aesthetic fantasy world that the larger project will exist within, and the mechanics behind the operation of the branching narrative.

LAB RESIDENCY WEEK 3: AUGUST 16 – 22

Field of View

By Freya Björg Olafson

In their project *MÆ-Motion Aftereffect*, **Freya Olafson** addresses the impact of consumer technologies associated with XR. YouTube monologues provide the infrastructure for this work, recounting experiences with VR in live gameplay, open worlds, and 360 pornography; others explore consciousness through describing psychedelic drug trips, and outlining the how-to's of lucid dreaming, out of body experiences and astral projection. These intentionally divergent monologues address technology, psychedelics, and metaphysical explorations as methods to expand the perception of reality, time, and space.

Join Freya through her Lab Residency to see aspects of *MÆ-Motion Aftereffect*, as they are re-imagined, explored, and shared via digital platforms.

LEGacy Circus

By Erin Ball & Vanessa Furlong

Vanessa Furlong and **Erin Ball** live in different provinces and have not been in the same space together since the end of 2019. They are used to creating in the same space, touching each other, moving together on the same aerial apparatus. Join them during their Lab Residency week as they explore their curiosities around technology and distance, to discover: can they find a way to create together while being apart?

Softness is a blessing

By Dainty Smith & Ravyn Wngz

Softness is a blessing is an exploration by **Dainty Smith** and **Ravyn Wngz** of softness as it pertains to Black femininity. It is an exploration of Black femme grief, rage and faith and hope, and about allowing for Black women to be fragile and soft in a world that demands of them and expects strength, sexuality and stoicism.

The Pop-up Experience: PORTAL

By Me Time

Be the first to experience *PORTAL*, an immersive systems update for your human software. Using patented R.A.V.E. technology, tune your frequency to infinite love in just 11 minutes of solo embodied exploration.

This is the latest innovation of The R.A.V.E. Institute, founded by techno-futurist **Me Time** in partnership with Outside the March to cultivate human potential and social change through ritual dance experiences. Join them during *The Pop-Up Experience: PORTAL* in collaboration with new media artist **Karl Skene**, intuitive choreographer **Jaz Fairy J** and co-conspirator and OtM founding member **Amy Keating**, as they offer an opportunity for participants to experience a customized, ritualized solo dance experience.

Applications open on the next Full Moon - July 23rd at 10:36pm. Join the movement at www.theraveinstitute.com. Your dancefloor awaits.

Me Time's work on this project is also supported by the Wildseed Centre for Arts and Activism, and TO Live's explorations initiative.

Note: Due to the one-to-one nature of the project, please note there is limited availability.

LAB RESIDENCY WEEK 4: AUGUST 23 – 29

burn, burned

By Syrus Marcus Ware & Rodney Diverlus

Rodney Diverlus & Syrus Marcus Ware will convene with their collaborators during the SummerWorks Lab Residency for *burn, burned*.

Now a long running and continuously conceived project, *burn, burned* is created in collaboration with **Ravyn Wngz, Brayden Cairns, Chenise Mitchell, Dedra McDermott, and Julia Consentino.**

burn, burned is a sensory and psychic exploration of the precise moment when the revolution is over. With systems and structures smouldered around them, activists and organizers pick up the pieces of their communities and of themselves and begin to figure out how to work and live together, anew.

An aspect of burn, burned for SummerWorks Lab Residency, will be made visible – akin to smoke from a distant fire – closer to the event.

The Pop-Up Experience: A New Black Poet

By Jordan Laffrenier

A New Black Poet is a love letter from the living to the dead. It centers Elijah, whose true interest lies in poetry and the way language can define the universe. Through a series of monologues and songs, Elijah takes us through a life dedicated to craft and the important lessons he learned from his heroes.

Join **Jordan Laffrenier** for *The Pop-Up Experience: A New Black Poet* as he experiments with setting poems by Langston Hughes to music, and the immersive potential of modeling this piece off a series of academic lectures. During this Lab Residency Jordan will be working in collaboration with co-conspirator, multidisciplinary composer and musician **Beau Dixon**, co-director **Aaron Jan** and choreographer **Shakeil Rollock**.