



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Citadel + Compagnie's 2019/20 season celebrates innovation,
collaboration and growth at The Citadel

From beloved remounts to world premieres, a new late-night festival to multi-disciplinary collaborations, Citadel + Compagnie's 20th season will animate The Citadel with its explosive and diverse line-up

TORONTO, ON – Citadel + Compagnie (C+C) is delighted to unveil its dynamic 2019/20 season. In addition to the 5th year of the company's signature performance series, Bright Nights, curated by Artistic Director Laurence Lemieux, the company will also expand its offerings to include three multidisciplinary bills co-curated by Charles C. Smith; Night Shift, a late night festival featuring innovative and thought-provoking dance by Toronto movement artists with co-curators Nova Bhattacharya and Jon Drops Reid; and a seven-part music series, produced by Not A Collective, all taking place at The Citadel: Ross Centre for Dance in Regent Park, Toronto.

In the fifth season of C+C's signature performance series, Bright Nights, audiences will have the chance to return to two beloved C+C works—Lemieux's *Les Paradis Perdus / Remix*, performed for the first time by Lemieux's children, Jimmy and Juliette Coleman, and resident choreographer James Kudelka's "profoundly moving duet" *Four Old Legs*. Already celebrated by the press and audiences alike, *Four Old Legs* features legendary ballerina, Evelyn Hart, who was nominated for a Dora Mavor Moore Award for her extraordinary performance in the work's premiere in 2019.

After a successful first season, *Citadel Dance Mix* will return with a triple bill by Toronto's Syreeta Hector and Christianne Ullmark, along with a remount of Nova Bhattacharya's *Red & Yellow*, performed by C+C dancers. Montreal's Sébastien Provencher will explore questions of masculinity in his work, *Children of Chemistry*, and Germany's Sabina Perry will premiere her trio *TALENT/SHOW* that investigates the ever-blurring line between art and entertainment. World premieres include Kate Hilliard's quartet, *this happened...* and Aria Evan's *In The Abyss*—a poignant look at what we all have in common.

C+C and Charles Smith's wind in the leaves collective will build on the success of their pilot season in 2018/19 and present three show runs blending spoken word, dance and music, with performances by Sashar Zarif, Aria Evans, Sheniz Janmohamed, and Atri Nundy.

"Our 20th anniversary season is exploding with talent and thought-provoking work that Citadel audiences are going to love," says Artistic Director, Laurence Lemieux. "From beloved remounts, to world premieres, we are thrilled to be expanding our offerings at The Citadel, animating the space with this diverse and vibrant line up."

In addition to Bright Nights, C+C will be presenting *Night Shift*, a new late-night event showcasing innovative and dynamic dance by Toronto movement artists. Curated in collaboration with Nova Dance and Making Moves Creative House, *Night Shift* is a unique platform that will provide performance opportunities for artists exploring any and all forms of dance. Taking place during the 2019 *Fall for Dance North* festival, *Night Shift* will open its doors beginning at 9pm, offering an exciting gathering place for the community following festival events.

The Citadel will also be building on the 2018/19 multidisciplinary pilot project by Not A Collective that features Toronto's emerging music scene. Curated by Juliette Coleman and housed at The Citadel, Not A Collective's seven 2019/20 shows will promote emerging multidisciplinary artists and provide exposure to featured musicians, photographers, filmmakers, graphic designers, and visual artists.

2019/20 CITADEL + COMPAGNIE SEASON

Tickets available in August 2019

More info at: citadelcie.com

NIGHT SHIFT

October 2-5, 2019

Twelve choreographers to be announced in August 2019

C+C Artistic Director Laurence Lemieux, Nova Dance's Nova Bhattacharya and Making Moves Creative House's Jon Drops Reid will co-curate 12 bold and innovative choreographers exploring any and all forms of dance. Taking place during the 2019 *Fall for Dance North* festival, *Night Shift* will open its doors beginning at 9pm, and be an exciting gathering place for the community following festival events.

In The Abyss

October 30-November 2, 2019

World Premiere

Choreography: Aria Evans / Political Movement

Working from the question "what do all humans have in common?" and the scientific fact and beautiful metaphor that we are all made of stardust, *In The Abyss* looks at the inescapable connections between the galaxies beyond us and our earth bound lives. It grapples at how to live with purpose and find meaning in the journey with honest explorations of loneliness, our search for connection as well as light-hearted, humorous observation.

wind in the leaves with allies and friends

November 15-16, 2019

Olga Barrios and Monica Gontovnic, wind in the leaves collective

An evening-long improvised piece blending poetic storytelling and music.

CITADEL DANCE MIX 2019

November. 27-30, December 4-7, 2019

Triple Bill: Includes one world premiere

Choreography: Nova Bhattacharya, Syreeta Hector, Christianne Ullmark

This second seasonal triple bill features some of Toronto's most dynamic and daring choreographers.

Bhattacharya's *Red & Yellow* is a meditation on finding solitude inside the multitudes. Originally created for Dancemakers in 2011, C+C is thrilled to be remounting this visually stunning quintet that is a poetic, metaphoric and humane expression of body and spirit.

Based on Hector's relationship to race, and her experiences in classical ballet, *Black Ballerina* is a powerful exploration of the nuances within one's identity, and the unconscious ways that we all try to fit in. Performed by Hector, *Black Ballerina* brings an unbridled energy to this triple bill.

close encounters in the fifth dimension is a world premiere by Toronto-based creator and dance artist, Christianne Ullmark. This work is a meditative experiment of arrivals and departures, and of meeting the 'self' and the 'other' somewhere in the middle.

Larry's Christmas Cabaret

December 14, 2019

Larry's Christmas Cabaret is Citadel + Compagnie's hilarious and quirky annual holiday tradition that sells out each year! This one-night only audience favourite celebrates the season with a not-to-be missed variety of local acts, festive cheer and a late-night bar to toast to the magic and merriment of the season.

this happened...

January 29-February 1, 2020

World Premiere

Choreography: Kate Hilliard

We communicate and then miscommunicate all the time. We say words, but our bodies betray their meanings. This is a performance that was written from the body as a way of distilling what has happened—a dance expressed through five separate chapters: subject, code, conversation, fracture, and memory.

wind in the leaves with allies and friends

February 13-14, 2020

Sashar Zarif, Aria Evans, wind in the leaves collective

Sashar Zarif will perform *HAQ*, a solo using Sufi poetries; and Aria Evans will present a duet exploring how we find our roots to become grounded in belonging, responsibility, vulnerability, and compassion.

Children of Chemistry

February 20-22, 2020

Toronto Premiere

Choreography: Sébastien Provencher

From a fashion show to a football field, from femininity to hyper-masculinity, *Children of Chemistry* confronts and questions. In a repetitive dance with popular and sporting references, Montreal's Provencher tackles stereotypes of manliness. Hailed as "poignant performance" this Toronto premiere will be a captivating piece that invites audiences to imagine the masculine through a different lens.

wind in the leaves with allies and friends

March 14-15, 2020

Atri Nundy, Sheniz Janmohamed, wind in the leaves collective

Atri Nundy and Sheniz Janmohamed will perform *Stones Speak to Me*, a multi-arts project involving dance, mandala-making and spoken word.

TALENT/SHOW

March 25-28, 2020

Canadian Premiere

Choreography: Sabina Perry

After four sold out shows in the first Bright Nights season, German-based choreographer Sabina Perry is back with collaborators Molly Johnson and Luke Garwood with *TALENT/SHOW*. A raucous evening of dance theatre, *TALENT/SHOW* explores the blurring lines between amateur and professional, entertainment and art, investigating success, failure and audience expectation.

Four Old Legs

April 2020 (dates TBA)

Choreography: James Kudelka

Deemed “a profoundly moving duet” by *the Globe and Mail*, C+C’s resident choreographer and Order of Canada appointee James Kudelka is remounting his already beloved new duet with cherished ballet icon Evelyn Hart and Zhenya Cerneacov. The piece that celebrates time, memory and experience, and is performed to a playlist from Chopin to Judy Garland to Talking Heads, garnered Hart a Dora Award nomination for outstanding performance. “Growing old is something better practiced by young people.”

Les Paradis Perdus / Remix

May 14-16, 20-23, 2020

Choreography: Laurence Lemieux

Inspired by childhood memories both fond and fearsome, *Les Paradis Perdus / Remix* is a world within a world. Originally created in 2005, the choreography has been revisited and reworked anew by Laurence Lemieux, and garnered two Dora Award nominations in 2016. This remount will feature original music and live performance by composer Christopher Butterfield, and performances by Lemieux’s children, dancers Juliette and Jimmy Coleman.

Not A Collective shows

Artists TBA

July 6, 2019

July 20, 2019

August 10, 2019

August 24, 2019

October 19, 2019

January 25, 2020

April 11, 2020

Tickets for Citadel + Compagnie’s 2019/20 season will be on sale at citadelcie.com in August.

Performances take place at The Citadel: Ross Centre for Dance, located at 304 Parliament Street, Toronto.

[About Citadel + Compagnie \(citadelcie.com\)](http://citadelcie.com)

Citadel + Compagnie is a Toronto-based professional dance organization with a mission to have a significant and lasting artistic impact on our society. Under the directorship of Laurence Lemieux, Citadel + Compagnie creates, curates and cultivates dance works and community collaborations on local, national and international scales from its home base in a former Salvation Army Citadel in the Regent Park neighbourhood of Toronto.

The company purchased The Citadel in 2007, and renovated it into studio, office, and theatre space. The Citadel: Ross Centre for Dance opened in 2012, providing a home for resident choreographer, James Kudelka, and artistic director, Laurence Lemieux's creative processes and intimate performances, while creating an open and welcoming space for artists to rehearse, create and perform and where the community can learn, communicate, and share. These strategic actions have re-energized both its neighbouring community of Regent Park, and the dance community at large.

Citadel + Compagnie encourages artistic risk and innovation through its performing arts series, Bright Nights, late-night showcase, Night Shift, and additional collaborations, and delivers accessible works of contemporary dance when touring outside The Citadel itself.

After nine years as artistic director of the National Ballet of Canada (1996-2005), James Kudelka was named C+C's resident choreographer in 2008. With C+C, he has revisited some of his greatest works and developed challenging new contemporary creations. Kudelka's presence at C+C has elevated the company's profile, and offered audiences a new platform to experience the work of one of the country's finest choreographers.

Artistic Director Laurence Lemieux continues to refine her choreographic vision, having created over twenty-five works including *Interiors*, *Les Paradis Perdus*, and *Looking for Elvis*. From explosive, intimate pieces like *Love me out of it* (which she performed with iconic Canadian punk band Teenage Head), to large scale works like *Jusqu'a Vimy*, that toured to France for the 100th anniversary of the battle, Lemieux continues to explore the extraordinary range of her choreographic voice through the company.

Under Lemieux's leadership, C+C has had a marked impact on the local community, offering free studio access to key neighbourhood initiatives: Toronto Police Force 51 Division's youth and hip-hop program, the Regent Park School of Music, and Toronto Council Fire's Indigenous dance program, First Fire. These collaborations have built lasting ties within the community, and as a result, The Citadel has become a sought-after safe space for youth to gather and explore their creativity.

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