

Vancouver
International
Dance
Festival

Feb 27- March 25

V I D F
2 0 2 3

Program

Info & Box Office:
VIDF.CA
604.662.4966



A MESSAGE FROM PREMIER DAVID EBY

As Premier of British Columbia, it is my pleasure to welcome everyone to the 2023 Vancouver International Dance Festival (VIDF).

For over two decades, this festival has served as a vital link between Vancouver and the international community of artists, showcasing evocative and thought-provoking dance expressions from around the world and our own backyard. It is wonderful to see the VIDF continue to thrive and support a wide range of contemporary dance. This year's impressive lineup, featuring local performers alongside dancers from Montreal, Toronto, Europe and Asia, is a testament to the VIDF's dedication to highlighting diverse voices and styles.

I want to express my gratitude to everyone at the VIDF Society for their unwavering commitment to supporting contemporary dance and for their hard work in bringing this festival to life. I also want to extend my deepest appreciation to the dancers, directors and choreographers for sharing their invaluable artistic expression and talent. As you gather to experience the power and beauty of contemporary dance, let us also celebrate the diversity and richness of our vibrant multicultural province.

Please accept my best wishes for a memorable and enjoyable experience at the 2023 Vancouver International Dance Festival.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "David Eby".

HONOURABLE DAVID EBY, K.C.
PREMIER OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Vancouver International Dance Festival

PRODUCERS' NOTE

Welcome to the 23rd edition of the Vancouver International Dance Festival.

We begin by acknowledging that the 2023 VIDF takes place on the unceded ancestral territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səl'ílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations and we thank them for sharing their land with us.

Producing an international dance festival is a challenge at the best of times. In 2020, we managed to present only 8 of 31 shows before the COVID-19 pandemic shut us down. In the 2020-21 fiscal year we were unable to present any in-person shows, but did present 8 livestreamed shows by Kokoro Dance, FakeKnot, Farouche, Ne. Sans Opera & Dance, Company 605, and Vidya Kotamraju. In 2021-22, we presented livestreamed shows by LamonDance, Josh Beamish/MOVETHECOMPANY, Marion Landers, Dance//Novella, and Company 605, as well as in-person shows by Alonzo King LINES Ballet, Holly Bright & Celestine Aleck, Company 605/German Jauregui, Manuel Roque, Daina Ashbee, Benoît Lachambre/Montreal Danse, Company 605, Rhodnie Désir, Olivia Shaffer, and tiger princess dance projects. Daina Ashbee's performances had to be cancelled after her



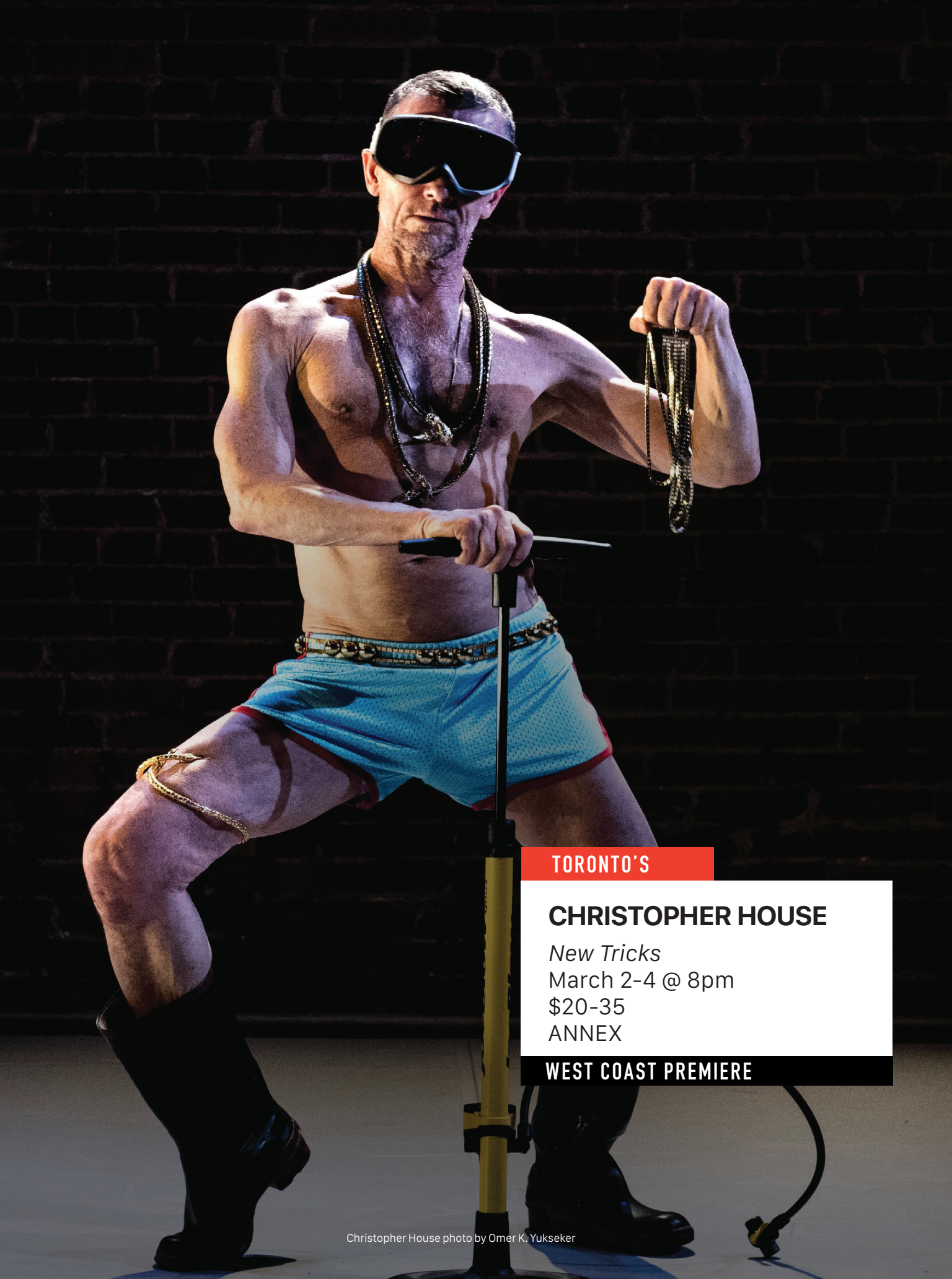
opening night when members of her company tested positive for the Corona virus. Attendance overall was poor compared to the pre-COVID years. Apparently, audiences still had lingering fear of Corona virus exposure despite Provincial Health Office's lifting of social spacing and masking restrictions.

Is it safe now to attend our dance performances? We think so. We have travelled in the past year to Montreal, London, England, Edinburgh, Scotland, Victoria, Toronto, Winnipeg, and again to Montreal to see dance performances and have remained healthy in each of those cities while seeing performances with capacity audiences.

Please join us at the 2023 VIDF. In the following pages, you can read about the provocative and evocative artists that we have invited to this year's festival.

Yours in dance,

Barbara Bourget
and Jay Hirabayashi



TORONTO'S

CHRISTOPHER HOUSE

New Tricks

March 2-4 @ 8pm

\$20-35

ANNEX

WEST COAST PREMIERE

CHRISTOPHER HOUSE

New Tricks is an intimate solo work created and performed by Christopher House. It uses costume, disguise, ritual and 44 years of choreographic research to explore new ways of being in the world in a veteran body. The work is personal and playful and is inspired by a desire to embody liveness, the ambiguity of gesture, the poetry of failure and inefficiency, the beauty of the ordinary, and a queering of both the body and the imagination. The work exists in relation to the space in which it is performed, unfolding through a series of episodes that invite the viewer to consider the specificity of each passing moment. Sound is run onstage by the performer.

ABOUT

Born and raised in St. John's, NL, Christopher House is a Canadian choreographer, performer, director, educator, and mentor. He has collaborated with many leading companies and artists including The National Ballet of Canada, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, Ballet BC, Cirque du Soleil, Kimsooja, Jordan Tannahill, Ame Henderson, The Hidden Cameras, Artistic Fraud of Newfoundland, and post-modern icon Deborah Hay. Since 2017, he has enjoyed spending more time teaching, choreographing, and performing in Newfoundland.

Christopher House's works have been performed in nineteen countries worldwide. In 2018, his retrospective program *House Mix* toured fifteen cities in Canada and two in Colombia. He was a resident choreographer and a leading dancer with Toronto Dance Theatre from 1979-2020, the last twenty-six years as Artistic Director. He created over sixty works for TDT, diversified the company's repertoire, and developed several programs in education, audience cultivation, and mentorship for young choreographers.

Created in residencies at Centre Q2, Citadel + Cie and the Banff Centre, *New Tricks* premiered at the Ross Centre for Dance in Toronto on March 24, 2022 and was subsequently performed at the Festival of New Dance in St. John's, NL. The soundtrack by Thom Gill is a series of covers of familiar tunes and of original music composed for the work. Gender-bending costumes are by Sarah Doucet and lighting is by Simon Rossiter. *New Tricks* was created with dramaturgical support from Tedd Robinson and Rosemary James with contributions from Ame Henderson and Jordan Tannahill.

Duration: 55 minutes

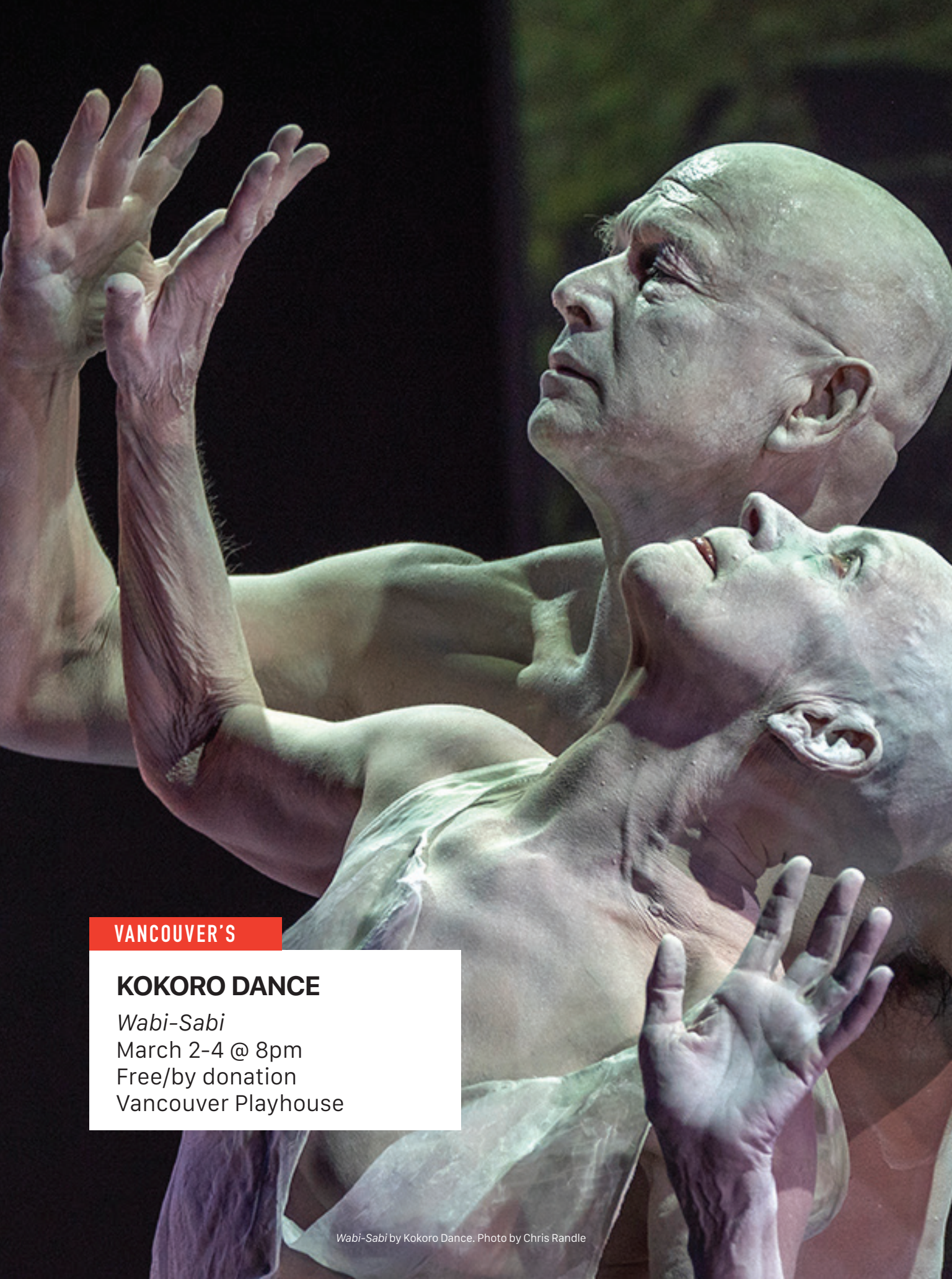
CREDITS

Choreography/Performance: Christopher House
Soundtrack: Thom Gill
Lighting: Simon Rossiter
Costumes: Sarah Doucet
Outside Eyes: Rosemary James & Tedd Robinson

Advisory: The performance includes brief periods of nudity.



SCAN TO LEARN MORE



VANCOUVER'S

KOKORO DANCE

Wabi-Sabi

March 2-4 @ 8pm

Free/by donation

Vancouver Playhouse

KOKORO DANCE

Kokoro Dance contemplates transience and imperfection in *Wabi-Sabi*, a duet choreographed and performed by Kokoro Dance directors, Barbara Bourget, and Jay Hirabayashi.

Kokoro Dance's *butoh* expression gives recurring attention to the seven aesthetic principles of Zen philosophy: *kanso* — simplicity; *fukinsei* — asymmetry or irregularity; *shibumi* — beauty in the understated; *shizen* — naturalness without pretense; *yugen* — subtle grace; *datsuzoku* — freeness; and *seijaku* — tranquility. These terms are encompassed in a world view contained in the words *wabi* and *sabi* — the acceptance of transience and imperfection.

ABOUT

Barbara Bourget began dancing 67 years ago at the age of 4 as one of Mrs. Mossing's tap dancing Mossing Dolls. Jay was a late starter at the age of 30, 46 years ago, becoming a member of the Paula Ross Dance Company at the age of 31.

Barbara and Jay Hirabayashi were Co-artistic Directors of EDAM, with Peter Bingham, Ahmed Hassan, Lola MacLaughlin, Jennifer Mascal, and Peter Ryan from 1982 to 1986 before forming Kokoro Dance. Since then, they have created over 200 dance works and given more than 1,000 performances. In 2000, they initiated the Vancouver International Dance Festival that has presented over 300 artists/companies in 733 performances. Starting in 2015, Barbara and Jay created a cultural hub, KW Studios, that continues to support performing artists in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. In 2022, they were inducted into the Dance Collection Danse Hall of Fame for their work with Kokoro Dance and the Vancouver International Dance Festival.

The choreography in these *Wabi-Sabi* performances consists of a structured score within which Barbara and Jay have the freedom to improvise. Each performance will be unique. The music, by Joseph Hirabayashi, lighting by Hina Nishioka and Gerald King, costumes by Tsuneko Kokubo, and projected photography by Jay Hirabayashi were conceived independently from the choreography. Each collaborator intuitively understands Kokoro Dance's aesthetic choices through decades of working together on Kokoro's creative projects.

Duration: 50 minutes

CREDITS

Performed and choreographed by Barbara Bourget and Jay Hirabayashi
 Lighting by Hina Nishioka and Gerald King
 Costumes by Tsuneko Kokubo
 Projected photography by Jay Hirabayashi
 Composer and all music except strings: Jo Hirabayashi
 Cello: Peggy Lee
 Violin: Meredith Bates
 Upright Bass: James Meger



SCAN TO LEARN MORE



V I D E O 2 0 2 3

La Otra Orilla photo by Vanessa Fortin



VANCOUVER'S

KOKORO DANCE

Wabi-Sabi
March 2-4 @ 8pm
Free/By Donation
Vancouver Playhouse



TORONTO'S

CHRISTOPHER HOUSE

New Tricks
March 2-4 @ 8pm
\$20-35
ANNEX



MONTREAL'S

LA OTRA ORILLA

DEBORDEMENTS
March 8-11 @ 8pm
\$15-20
KW Production Studio



ITALY'S

ALESSANDRO SCIARRONI

Save the last dance for me
March 10-15
\$15-20/Free
Performances & Workshops



JAPAN/NELSON'S

ICHIGO-ICHIEH

Birthday Present for Myself
March 17-18 @ 8 pm
\$30-35
Shadbolt Centre for the Arts



JAPAN'S

TAKETERU KUDO

The Foot on the Edge of Knife
March 15-18 @ 8pm
\$20-35
ANNEX



UK/INDIA'S

AAKASH OEDRA COMPANY

Samsara
March 22 - 25 @ 8pm
\$40-70
Vancouver Playhouse



GABRIOLA ISLAND'S

DAINA ASHBEE

J'ai pleuré avec les chiens
March 22-25 @ 8pm
\$20-35
Scotiabank Dance Centre



VANCOUVER'S

VISION IMPURE

being
April 20-21 @ 7pm
April 22 @ 4pm
\$15-20
Livestream

WE'RE GRATEFUL FOR ALL OUR SUPPORTERS, WHO TOGETHER, MAKE THE VIDF POSSIBLE



SCAN TO DONATE

VIDF SUSTAINING BENEFACTORS

Linda Farris
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Gary Maier and Leslie Poole
Peter Dickenson
Aaron Smith

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Raminhos and Nick Short
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ITALY'S

ALESSANDRO SCIARRONI

Save the last dance for me

March 10-15

\$15-20/Free

Performances & Workshops

Various Venues

WEST COAST PREMIERE

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V I D F 2 0 2 3

JAPAN'S

TAKETERU KUDO

The Foot on the Edge of Knife

March 15-18 @ 8pm

\$20-35

ANNEX

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

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VIDF.CA

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