

## SPARK SERIES 2024 ARTIST PROFILES

Live art

Contemporary dance

Transdisciplinary performance

By 303-associated artists

+ an Emerging Artist Showcase curated by MAI

May 27th – May 31st 2024, Montréal. 2-4pm.

## Welcome to Montreal!

Studio 303 is an artist-run organisation which supports artists engaged in critical and experimental practices in dance and interdisciplinary performance. During the FTA festival, we host **SPARK Series**: an initiative that connects you in a personal, informal and refreshing way, with artists revitalising the Montreal underground scene. This year's series features one gathering and four informal sharings of work by some extraordinary local artists. Each of these makers has a singular practice, deserving of your attention. All events take place in our sunny downtown studio, at 2pm.

We open Monday May 27th with a showcase sensory based works by **Moe Clark + Victora Hunt**, and **Adam Kinner + Christopher Willes**.

Tuesday May 28th, **7Starr** and **Mona El Hussein** present excerpts from rigorously personal pieces, each approaching embodied histories in their own dynamic way.

Wednesday May 29th, **Charlie Prince + Olivia Tapiero** will share an excerpt of their performance installation *concerto* and **Mycelium** will present the science fairy-tale *BORBORO*.

On Thursday May 30th 303 will host works curated by our peers at Montreal, arts interculturals. These include excerpts from works that explore the significance of the dancing body as meaning maker, by **Nicole Jacobs**, **Natsumi Sophia Bellali** and **Cai Glover**.

On Friday May 31st, we host **Art as Political Tool**, a performative discussion around how art can be mobilised within the realm of the political in our milieu.



Sasha Kleinplatz  
SPARK Series curator

# CALENDAR: SPARK SERIES

Monday, May 27th	Tuesday, May 28th	Wednesday, May 29th	Thursday, May 30th	Friday, May 31st
<p><b>2 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.</b></p> <p><b>Moe Clark + Victoria Hunt</b> <i>kiwâsênaw kê-kitocik : luminous thunder</i></p> <p><b>Adam Kinner + Christopher Willes</b> <i>Manual</i></p>	<p><b>2 p.m. to 4 p.m.</b></p> <p><b>7Starr</b> <i>Retraced</i></p> <p><b>Mona El Hussein</b> <i>Creatrix</i></p>	<p><b>2 p.m. to 4 p.m.</b></p> <p><b>Charlie Prince + Olivia Tapiero</b> <i>concerto</i></p> <p><b>Mycelium</b> <i>BORBORO</i></p>	<p><b>2 p.m. to 4 p.m.</b></p> <p><b>Nicole Jacobs</b> <i>Alone in the Living Room</i></p> <p><b>Natsumi Sophia Bellali</b> <i>Salam Tata</i></p> <p><b>Cai Glover</b> <i>Disorder</i></p>	<p><b>2 p.m. to 4 p.m.</b></p> <p><b>Performative Discussion</b> <i>An artist-led public Conversation around Art as Political Tool</i></p>

Studio Showings Gathering

@ Studio 303, 372 Ste-Catherine W., #303 • FREE — BY DONATION



# Moe Clark + Victoria Hunt

Experimental Performance



© kimura & byrd

## Contact

moe.clark@gmail.com  
victoria.l.hunt@gmail.com  
weatherbeings@gmail.com

## Scale/type of venue

Work in progress

Established in 2019, *Weather Beings* is a 2Spirit performance collaborative co-founded by Métis vocalist/performance artist Moe Clark and Māori choreographer/dancer/dramaturg Victoria Hunt. *Weather Beings* examine the intersections of Māori whakapapa and Métis wāhkōhtowin (kinship systems), asserting a critical position to reclaim, restore and rematriate feminine and queer knowledge into our cultural and creative practices. As collaborators, *Weather Beings* navigate thresholds between what is 'known', what is withheld or 'unknown,' and what is being dreamt into being. In essence, we activate creative practices that refuse violent linearities by dreaming backwards into the future. Encoded in this dreaming are Te Reo Māori and nêhiyawêwin languages, where old words create new worlds.

Monday May 27, 2 p.m.

# Moe Clark + Victoria Hunt

## Work

### *kiwâsênaw kâ-kitocik : luminous thunder*

55 minutes

Skyworld has been occupied by a corrosive hunger. In a salient twist of tongue, these infestations are met with light and thunder. Hine-te-uira brings light, kihci piyêsiwak summon thunder. Bear witness to the upside down dreaming as Weather Beings invoke cosmic kinships, striking with numinous agitation and ecliptic lament.

## Other offerings

Cultural Mediation/ workshop in-situ (gallery, museum, other traditionally “non-performance” venues):

A ritual in precipitation listening (first presented in 2022 at Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney)

An audio-sensory participatory work that participants embody. A performance installation that expands on queer, two-spirit (2S) or takatâpui embodied resurgence. Dreaming backwards into the future, Weather Beings activates cultural knowledge through body-voice creations to refuse hierarchies of power. Using body weather provocations and sonic landscapes.



Moe Clark



Victoria Hunt

© Nang Kuitles

# Adam Kinner + Christopher Willes

Performance



© David Wong

## Contact

info@christopherwilles.com  
adamkinner@gmail.com

## Website

<https://www.christopherwilles.com/manual>

## Scale/type of venue

One-on-one performance, occurring covertly  
in a public library setting (location to be  
shared on ticket confirmation)

Adam Kinner and Christopher Willes create performances that explore unusual states of sensory awareness. Their work is often staged in public spaces, and informed by an interest in immersive sound, listening, audience perspective, and the possibilities of participatory art. Their previous collaborative work, *Listening Choir*, toured extensively in Canada and was presented at Fierce Festival in Birmingham in 2017. Their latest work, *MANUAL*, created in collaboration with the Montreal-based dance artist Hanna Sybille Müller, has been presented at festivals in Montreal, Vancouver, Glasgow, and Yokohama.

Monday May 27, 2 p.m.

# Adam Kinner + Christopher Willes

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## Work

### **Manual**

40 minutes

*MANUAL* is a one-on-one performance that transforms a public library into a space of sensory encounter and heightened awareness. Staged covertly during public hours, participants arrive on site with instructions to meet a guide, and from there they are led silently through a series of tiny actions following written notes and immersive audio in headphones. They walk through the space and listen together. They look at books and read to each other. Sounds and images found in the library combine and blur. And as the piece progresses the materials they encounter come to form a manual for slowing down. Intermingling with the daily life of the library, *MANUAL* proposes a performance that develops through the act of listening and reading with another person. Through a slow and careful process, this piece stages a quiet meditation on the library as a space of shared attention.

## Press

*“When I reopened my eyes at the start of the performance, it already felt like something had shifted, that I’d transitioned into a different way of being...”*

– A sensory experience within a public space, Elspeth Wilson, Disability Arts Online, 2023.

## Other offerings

Public workshop, ancillary to the performances, which is co-facilitated by the authors of *MANUAL*. The workshop invites participants into direct exploration of content and strategies from *MANUAL*, through a blend of somatic practice, collaborative performance strategies. The facilitation draws from the artists’ backgrounds in sound, experimental music, and dance, and the format oscillates between experimentation and discussion.



Adam Kinner

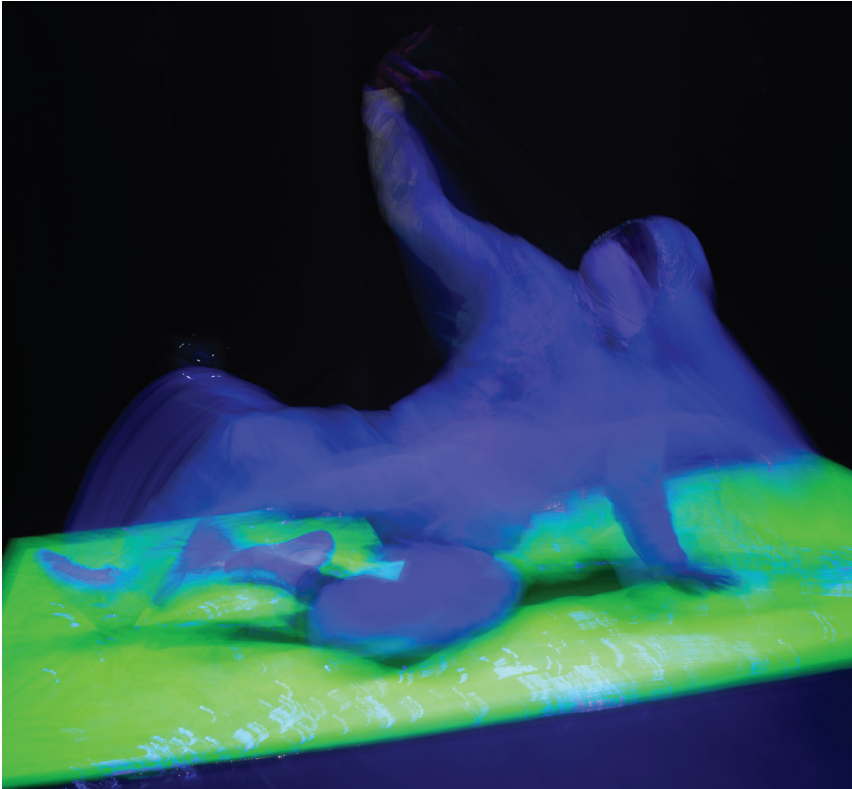


Christopher Willes



# Vladimir Laurore

Dance



© David Wong

## Contact

[info@7starr.com](mailto:info@7starr.com)

## Website

[www.7starr.com](http://www.7starr.com)

## Scale/type of venue

Flexible

Vladimir “7Starr” Laurore is a Canadian pioneer of krump and a multidisciplinary artist from Laval. In 2006, he became the co-founder of the first krump group in Canada, the Bzerk Squad. 7Starr works to promote and shine a light on this culture at home, in Quebec, and is the president of Montreal Krump Alliance (MKA) as well as the creator of the largest krump festival in the country, Gutta Zone Fest. He has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the Victor Martyn Lynch Staunton from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Gloria Mitchell-Aleong Award from the Black Theatre Workshop, the Prix coup de cœur at the Gala Dunamis, and the Prix découverte from the Montreal Dance Awards, for his significant work on this large-scale project. 7Starr released his first solo music album, titled “Diff Diff,” in 2020. His consistent efforts have drawn public attention, earning him interviews with CTV News, CKUT, and Télé-Québec. 7Starr continues to innovate and push krump culture in all its forms.

Tuesday May 28, 2 p.m.

# Vladimir Laurore

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## Work

### ***Retraced***

30 minutes

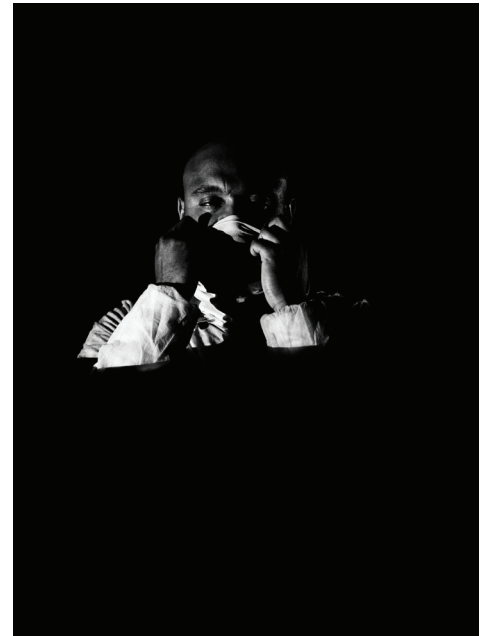
A piece exploring the essence of Krump. *Retraced* immerses us first into the most complex and minute components of this style. Choreographer and performer 7Starr shares his obsession with observing movement scientifically by presenting the growth of Krump towards its most extrapolated form. Intended as a dedication to all those who have influenced the performer's journey through meticulous and sharp discussions, *Retraced* seeks to delve into and decipher the mysteries of bodily movement in pursuit of absolute objectivity.

*Retraced* is an invitation into the molecular world of Krump through 7Starr's unique DNA. Following his research work alongside artists such as Gara Nlandu, Nindy Banks, and Charles Breard, 7Starr leads us to embody abstract microscopic bodies: he provides access to elements that are not visible to the naked eye and appear to function randomly, but which, from a macroscopic perspective, make perfect sense when united. This demonstration is carried out through various approaches and tools such as combos, animal work, floor work, the concept of the shapeshifter, as well as the lighting design orchestrated by Jon Cleveland.

7Starr hopes to deepen the research approach to Krump by applying it to a scientific context. His interest in exploring new digital technologies to make the experience more immersive and multidimensional is explained by the innovative nature of this artist who seeks to challenge conventional practices associated with his art.

## Other offerings

Dance workshop, Krump history workshop, cultural mediation.



Vladimir Laurore

# Mona El Hussein

Dance



© Roxanne Ross

## Contact

[monahusseini9@gmail.com](mailto:monahusseini9@gmail.com)

## Website

[www.monaelhusseini.com](http://www.monaelhusseini.com)

## Scale/type of venue

Theatre

Mona El Hussein is a dancer and visual artist, based between Montreal and Cairo. She completed her dance education at the Cairo Contemporary Dance Center (CCDC) in Egypt and studied International Business and Contemporary Dance at Concordia University. Her pieces have been performed in Egypt, Germany, Italy, and Canada. In 2023, Mona premiered *Creatrix*, a dance duet with her mother, and published *Family Portraits*, a visual art series and a graphic memoir at the MAI (Montréal, Arts Interculturels). She is currently developing *Monday or Tuesday*, a dance solo performance, and *Rabbit Manzel // House Goddess*, a visual art series.

Tuesday May 28, 2 p.m.

# Mona El Husseini

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## Work

### **Creatrix**

60 minutes

*Creatrix* explores how stories are transmitted, shared, and told through the body across generations. Where do we meet and where do we part? How do we collaboratively give voice to our shared past? This dance duet between Mona El Husseini and her mother, Hala Farahat, interweaves improvisation, gestural interpretation, abstracting the Egyptian Baladi dance, and storytelling. While Mona is an artist, her mother Hala is a medical doctor, science teacher, and a mother of three who is not trained in dance. Where their opposing worlds meet, they search together for the common denominator across art and science, motherhood and girlhood, past and present. Together, they engage in a dance that delves into their family history, seeking to better understand themselves and each other by connecting with their ancestors. Through heirlooms, photographs, and letters handed down through the generations, they contemplate the past, exploring their origins and current positions in life.

## Press

*“My mother always says she wants to write her memoir, so may this dance count as a prelude.”*



Mona El Husseini

© Mona El Husseini

# Charlie Prince + Olivia Tapiero

Dance / Concert / Performance



Charlie Prince (1991) is a Lebanese dance & performance artist. His interests are rooted in the intersection of the political and the poetic body, and the many profound resonances this may create. His transdisciplinary choreographic works have been presented in several major festivals and theatres – including Impulstanz SPRING Festival, Dansmakers Amsterdam, Rencontres chorégraphiques internationales de Seine-Saint-Denis, Vancouver International Dance Festival, Oktoberdans, Fabricca Europa and Beirut International Platform of Dance. Charlie holds a Bachelor of Music from McGill University in Montréal with a minor in Religious Studies – and continues to engage as a composer in his artistic practice.

© lamayon

## Contact

[charlie-prince@hotmail.com](mailto:charlie-prince@hotmail.com)

## Website

[www.charlie-prince.info](http://www.charlie-prince.info)  
[www.oliviatapiero.com](http://www.oliviatapiero.com)

## Scale/type of venue

Theatre and/or in-situ museum setting,  
minimal lights

Wednesday May 29th, 2 p.m.

# Charlie Prince + Olivia Tapiero

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## Work

### **concerto**

60 minutes

A body floats through a synthetic landfill beneath a suspended cello. A Mozart piano concerto slows down to the point of disintegration. Incantations are whispered and sung. Traces on a wall generate cavernous sounds of a world succumbing to its own collapse. There is no pianist.

Both a gutted concert and a living installation, *'concerto'* stems from a decade-long intermittent collaboration between writer Olivia Tapiero and choreographer Charlie Prince. The two artists become at once technicians, performers and witnesses. Their gestures unfold in a suspended time, giving way to a profound meditation on the cost of grace, and what it means to mourn the world as the world mourns itself.



Charlie Prince

© Paul Sixta



Olivia Tapiero

© Clara Houeix

# Mycelium

Experimental Theatre / Puppetry / Performance

Mycelium is an interdisciplinary cheap/low/dirt artist who dabbles in stage stuff & radio (Audio Smut, CKUT). It focuses primarily on magic, ecosexuality & puppets.



© David Wong

## Contact

[mmmyceliummm@gmail.com](mailto:mmmyceliummm@gmail.com)

## Website

IG: @mmmyceliummm

## Scale/type of venue

Adaptable, but must have access to follow spot

Wednesday May 29, 2 p.m.

# Mycelium

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## Work

### ***BORBORO***

45 minutes

1996: singer-songwriter BARBARA dies.

1999: rockstar BORBORO is ejected out of the Enchanterotic Forest, goes through a portal into our dimension, and begins his miserable life of vagrancy & degradation. Can he find his way back and repent, or will he forever be Rape Haunted?

*BORBORO* is science-fairytale which explores the consequences of childhood sexual abuse without the use of confession.

### Other offerings

Currently working on research-creation. Will have first attempts ready by early june. Translator and production aid otherwise, looking for all types of gigs in the arts!



© Mycelium



# MAI Emerging Artist Showcase

This year, Montreal, arts interculturels offers 3 emerging artists the opportunity to benefit from 6 months of personalized accompaniment that provides them with studio residencies, mentorship in their discipline of their choice, and participation in showcases to meet presenters.

MAI would like to give a special thanks to Studio 303 for generously accepting to integrate our showcase in their SPARK series.



## Nicole Jacobs

### Dance

**Contact** nicolejacobs@hotmail.ca **Website** <https://www.amxse.com/>

**Scale/type of venue** Indoors/intimate spaces/audience at stage level

Nicole Jacobs is a member of Curve Lake First Nation and Tiohtià:ke (Montréal) based dance artist. She earned her BFA in contemporary dance at Concordia University and has since worked with creators including Theatre Junction, A'nó:wara Dance Theatre, Corpuscule Danse, and Ange Loft. Nicole's work has been presented at the St. Ambroise Montréal Fringe Festival (2022), Festival Quartiers Danses (2023), and Here&Now Festival (2024). Her current research explores the intersection between contemporary dance and acrobatics. She creates emotionally immersive works through the merging of disciplines, drawing on her fascination with lighting design and her training in theatre and circus arts.

### Work

***Alone in the Living Room*** (40 minutes)

*Alone in the Living Room* is a solo journey through the nuanced experiences of grief, solitude, self-confrontation, joy, and the absurdities that unfold within the intimate confines of our own living spaces. The performers' movements navigate the boundaries between beauty and the grotesque, fluidly transitioning amidst the linear and contorted. Light and darkness serve as central choreographic elements, shaping a universe that perpetually distorts and reconfigures. Here, we are compelled to question the elusive divide between reality and the illusion of our own experiences, illuminating the intrinsic contradictions that exist within each of us.

### Other offerings

Light exploration and movement workshops

## MAI Emerging Artist Showcase



© Marie-Ève Dion

### **Natsumi Sophia Bellali**

#### **Dance**

**Contact** [ns.bellali@gmail.com](mailto:ns.bellali@gmail.com)

**Website** <http://natsumisophiabellali.com>

#### **Scale / type of venue**

Work is versatile in scale, has been presented in a small gallery space, and a large outdoor festival stage.

Natsumi Sophia Bellali was born in Montreal, and graduated from The Ailey School in New York. She worked with MICHİYAYA Dance, and the Mark Morris Dance Group. She began to discover her artistic voice during the creation of *Calling: a dance with faith with Ping Chong + Company*, presented at the LaMaMa Moves! Dance Festival.

She then created her first work, *Salam Tata*, and just completed a residency at the Scotiabank Dance Centre in Vancouver for her second. Bellali has also been an associate choreographer for *Virgin Voyages*, and will soon be performing in the comédie musicale: *TOOTSIE* at Espace St-Denis.

#### **Work**

***Salam Tata*** (38 minutes)

What is it to be a child of immigrants in Montreal? *Salam Tata*, a dance theatre solo work, illustrates this complex identity through a phone conversation with an aunt in Morocco, juxtaposed over challenges faced within a western society. Based on personal reflections, the work invites the audience to travel through the emotional journey of understanding ourselves, our origins, and choosing what place to occupy in the world.

#### **Other offerings**

Open-discussions/guided-reflection workshops on cultural identity & navigating mixed ethnicity in a western society

# MAI Emerging Artist Showcase



© David Wong

## Cai Glover

### Dance

**Contact** [caijohndaviesglover@gmail.com](mailto:caijohndaviesglover@gmail.com)

**Website** [afichuturning.com](http://afichuturning.com)

### Scale/type of venue

Theatre

In an ever-going discovery and study of dance, Cai Glover has been training, performing and creating in the art form for over 25 years. From 2012 to 2022 Cai was working as a dance interpreter and choreographer for Cas Public and has been a part of 8 creations for the company. Most recently Cai has been developing his own expression in poetry and in a language of movement putting the dancing body to task in a search of an embodied expression of poetics through the transposition of language into movement under the name of his company, A Fichu Turning.

### Work

#### *Pulses of Being: Disorder*

*Disorder* explores the duality of meaning behind the conception of order in the lives of Cai Glover and Pierre-Olivier Beaulac-Bouchard; the roles they have been ordered to play by way of their respective identification with being d/Deaf and hard of hearing. There is a duality between the two sides of Cai Glover's deafness; a hearing aid that lends a human sweetness to the cacophony of life, and a cochlear implant that provides an excessive and adequate amount of stimuli reflecting the chaotic world we live in. Pierre-Olivier, meanwhile, is caught in a family web that demands a condition of normalcy from an artist that refuses to be communicatively and expressively stifled. We intend to explore how the written word comes into contact with a spatial language (ASL, LSQ) at its border of meaning; where does the literal sit still next to the flight of a signed language? Still yet, where does language fall short of the poetic body? A dancing body; meaningful and signifying beyond the grasp of language but within the grips of feeling.



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Thank you to RBC Emerging Artists Project for their support