



2018-19 Annual Report

propellerdance

Propeller Company and Guest dancers in *Frame of Mind*,
choreographed by Shara Weaver and all the dancers.
Photo: Andrew Balfour

THE POWER OF
POSSIBILITY



REAL

Actual and true; being in actuality or fact; genuine; authentic; free of pretense.

Surraya Aziz, Bella Bowes, Amelia Griffin in *Frame of Mind* choreographed by Shara Weaver



RELEVANT

Having a connection or bearing on with the matter at hand; current; pertinent.

Nicolas Benoit Mariaca, Amelia Griffin, Liz Winkelaar, Cee Ancheta, Renata Soutter in *Flesh and Spokes* choreographed by Renata Soutter

REKNOWN

Worthy of notice or consideration; extraordinary; conspicuous; exceptional.



Sylvain Bouchard and Surraya Aziz in *Frame of Mind*, choreographed by Shara Weaver
Photos: Andrew Balfour

A photograph of three dancers in a contemporary performance piece. The dancers are wearing dark, form-fitting, sleeveless tops and shorts. They are in dynamic, expressive poses. One dancer in the foreground is leaning forward, looking towards the camera. Another dancer behind her has her arm raised high. A third dancer is partially visible on the left, with her hands held out. The background is dark, and there is a bright yellow and orange light source on the left side of the frame.

Since 2007, our integrated dance company has been at the vanguard of Canadian dance. We are a recognized leader of innovative, inclusive creation and teaching practices.

Cee Ancheta, Bella Bowes, Amelia Griffin in *Flesh and Spokes*
choreographed by Renata Soutter.
Photo: Andrew Balfour

**Through the art of dance,
we are building a more
inclusive world that
reflects the diversity of
human experience.**

Genevieve Beaulieu and Jessie Huggett in *Frame of Mind*
choreographed by Shara Weaver.
Photo: Andrew Balfour



A message from the chair



“This is the way the world should be.”

That’s always the first thought that comes to mind whenever I go to Propeller Dance’s Annual Community Day – for a few hours, the performance venue transforms into a safe space where all bodies and minds are welcome.

That’s not something new – Propeller has been challenging people’s assumptions about dance and disability for 13 years! It’s the reason why, a few years ago, when Renata approached me, I jumped at the chance to be a part of the Board, and of this wonderful organization. It was an honour and a privilege to work alongside Bob Bowes who, even after leaving the Board, is one of Propeller’s most vocal supporters (thank you!).

When Bob mentioned that he was stepping down, and suggested that I might think of becoming Chair, my first thought was about how incredibly difficult it would be to follow in his footsteps – Propeller has come a long way from those early days, thanks in no small part, to Bob!

Today, Propeller has grown into an organization with an operating budget nearing \$500,000. Our reach continues to expand – from new company dancers, teachers, and creative and financial partners, to a new programming activity: company touring. We just completed a highly successful company tour to Toronto. With all this growth, comes the opportunity to do some work “backstage” to ensure we have the systems and processes in place to support our needs well into the future.

As part of that work, I’m happy to say that Propeller has completed its new strategic plan, designed to take us to the next level of success. We also have recruited a completely new Board of Directors, all of whom bring fresh insight and ideas to help Propeller grow, as well as implementing the supports that staff need to ensure that growth is sustainable.

We’ve accomplished a lot in the past 13 years, but we’re not done yet – here’s to the next 13 years and beyond!

Thank you to all of you – supporters, volunteers, funders, staff, and company dancers – for seeing the world the way it should be, and for helping make that a reality.

Fahad Sami

CHAIR OF THE PROPELLER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A message from the artistic co-directors

2018-19: A Year of Reflection and Ramping Up

This season we **reflected** on Propeller Dance's history of inclusive dance creation and education via an engaging and rich strategic plan. We were guided through the process by Inga Petri in consultation with artists, students, staff, audience and our board of directors.

We are pleased to share with you our commitments for the coming years:

- Develop capacity to undertake touring of Propeller's works in repertory
- Codify and publish our Propeller Dance teaching and creation methodology
- Build capacity to deliver the emerging choreographer's program on a three year cycle
- Explore opportunities for digital strategies.

We launched into the 2018-19 fall season with both an engagement tour to North Bay presented by Ontario Dances and Capitol Theatre and a performance at the Ottawa Art Gallery.

Our artistic focus for the Company was creating a NEW full length company work from the creative lens of mental health lived experience. *Frame of Mind* made its world premiere at the Great Canadian Theatre Company, along with an opening community art project *Picture This* with dancers from The Royal and Psychiatric Survivors of Ottawa. The production was the result of Co-Artistic Director Shara Weaver's year-long research process of Mad art and Dance Aesthetics, with Lindsay Eales (Edmonton, AB) revealing new inclusive creation methods for the company. Artistic Associate Liz Winkelaar facilitated a **responsive** post-show chat. We felt the production could have benefited from a longer run, as there was **resounding** interest in the work.

Back in the studio, we **revitalized repertoire** *Flesh and Spokes* (Soutter) and *Spasticus* (Winkelaar) in preparation for a confirmed Toronto tour in 2020 to the Fleck Dance Theatre at Harbourfront presented

by Danceworks. Three new guest dancers were brought on board through audition or invitation —Cee Ancheta, Nicolas Benoit Mariaca, and Geoff Dollar. Professional development is essential for developing company dancers' skills and Propeller Dance offered company training classes all season in theatre, gyro and power chair dance, as well as an intensive with artist David Bobier exploring vibrotactile arts.

We completed two firsts – producing our first dance film ever, entitled *Circuit*, thanks to video artist Ed Hanley; and publishing our first art photography book *The Wild Life* by Jake Morrison (available for purchase).

Shara Weaver
and **Renata Soutter**
Artistic & Executive
Co-Directors
Photo: Andrew Balfour

Sylvain Bouchard, Amelia Griffin, Jessie Huggett, Liz Winkelaar and Bella Bowes in *Living the Desirable Life* choreographed by Renata Soutter.
Photo: Andrew Balfour





On the education/dance training side of Propeller, Assistant to the Artistic Co-Directors Amelia Griffin started developing a new work for Young Audiences to tour schools in 2019-2020.

We invested in an immersive teacher training for our dance teachers to **refresh** their skills. We had a **remarkable** team of integrated dance teachers: Kira Zanyk-Davey, Allison Burns, Geoff Dollar, Genevieve Beaulieu, Moni Hoffman and assistants/ dance partner specialists Sylvain Bouchard, Randi Schmucker, Emily St-Aubin, Bella Bowes, Jessie Huggett, Jenn Abrams. 133 recreational dance classes were held over one year for children, youth and adults culminating in a year end showcase.

On the HR front, our Board of Directors completed a successful **renewal** and succession process. Bob Bowes retired from the board as chair and we recognized his deep commitment to Propeller at our *Frame of Mind* production. We are so grateful to Bob for his caring support and leadership of Propeller over the many years of his service.

Karen Lemieux and Shara Weaver in *Picture This* choreographed by Shara Weaver, Surraya Aziz, and members of the Psychiatric Survivors of Ottawa and The Royal. Photo: Andrew Balfour

Fahad Sami became our new board chair, Julia Huffman supported our fundraising efforts all season as board director, Natasha Harwood and Genevieve Cimon continued as directors and Lisa Whittleton was recruited. Recently, Robin Bowes and Heather Daley have also joined our board and we are thrilled with the mix of expertise and are eager about their new addition of skills in arts administration, fundraising and marketing. We were very sorry to see our General Manager Julea Boswell retire but are thrilled she is following her dream of focusing on her visual art career! Julea assisted us greatly in bringing Propeller to its next level. Our Engagement & Admin Coordinator, Jaime Horn did a fabulous job of growing both our number of individual donors and active volunteers, leading our first donor recognition event as well as a multitude of other tasks.

While maintaining a healthy accumulated surplus, we did see an annual deficit this season due to growing artistic opportunities along with admin requirements to support our artistic activity. We grew our private foundation base, while maintaining strong,

core operating grant support at all three levels of government. As we move toward our 13th season, we will need to grow our funding resources and administrative team to **realize** our artistic goals.

We continue to be **recognized** as a reputable leader in integrated dance and disability art creation in Canada and nurturer of future dance artists with and without disability in Canada. Thank you sincerely to our talented company dance artists and students, collaborators, friends and audience members. Propeller Dance's **rare** ability to move audiences through innovative dance while at the same time growing the arts community through engagement is thanks to all of you.

Sincerely,

Shara Weaver and

Renata Soutter

ARTISTIC & EXECUTIVE CO-DIRECTORS

1,600+

engaged through performances & community events

14

artists with disabilities and/or Deaf employed

35+

guest artist collaborators

20

rehearsals for community collaboration participants

290

participated in post-show talk backs

81

students in

133

dance classes

240

participants in special workshops

5th

season as artists-in residence at GCTC

WE CONTINUED OUR EXCELLENT LEADERSHIP ON ACCESSIBILITY BY 3 SHOWS PRESENTED WITH:

- live audio description
- ASL interpreters
- personal support workers
- assisted listening devices
- sensory seats for people who are Deaf or low hearing



Frame of Mind

A Propeller Dance production

Presented by the Great Canadian Theatre Company
June 19th, 20-21st, 2019

Directed by Shara Weaver

Choreographed collaboratively by Shara and all the dancers

Music Composed and Performed by Jesse Stewart

“The choreographic elements were beautifully woven together and extremely innovative....very moving work...”

Sioned Watkins – dance artist

Dancers Jenn Abrams, Surraya Aziz, Genevieve Beaulieu, Sylvain Bouchard, Bella Bowes, Robert Chartier, Geoff Dollar, Amelia Griffin, Jessie Huggett, Frank Hull, Moni Hoffman, Alan Shain and dancers from the Psychiatric Survivors of Ottawa and The Royal.

All Photos: Andrew Balfour





PERFORMANCES & EVENTS

Spasticus and **Picture This** performance at
Ottawa Art Gallery

**Community Day Propeller student
performance** at Glebe Community Centre
Performance at North Bay City Hall
presented by Ontario Dances

Recreational program class recital at
Nepean Creative Community Centre

Frame of Mind 3-show run at Great
Canadian Theatre Company

Panel discussion at Community and
Connection Symposium (OAG) and the
Association Des Theatres Francophones du
Canada

**HARP People's Press-Antigonish
reception performance** at Impact Hub
Year-long community arts collaboration
with Psychiatric Survivors of Ottawa and
The Royal

**“Your dancers embrace
diversity and challenge our
thinking in profound ways
that are honest, artistic and
heartwarming”**

audience member



Adam Fritz, right, is given a dance instruction by Bella Bowes.
Photo: Gary Young



Sarah Best
Photo by Alvin Sim

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Mentored Artistic Associate, company dancer Liz Winkelaar

Offered 22 company classes with 4 guest artists for dance and theatre professionals

Offered 1 intensive workshop on vibrotactile arts with David Bobier

Trained 12 artist-educators in Propeller's unique teaching methodology

Taught 81 students in 133 recreational dance classes for children, youth and adults at community centres and Centennial public school

Completed phase one development stage of a new young audience work for grades K-3 entitled *The Land of Dreams*

Inspired 35 participants with a dance workshop for Association Integration Sociale D'Ottawa

Offered 20 high school students an integrated dance workshop at De La Salle High School

Taught dance workshop at Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Ontario Network symposium

Offered 50 participants a dance workshop at *Tales and Tunes* Ottawa Public Library program

Engaged 175 students with dance workshops during engagement tour to North Bay at:

PADDLE centre, Capitol Theatre, St. Joseph Schollard Hall Catholic Secondary School, Chippewa High School, Widdlefield Secondary School

Presented a works-in-progress version of a new young audience work at Ottawa Public Library to 70 audience members.

“Propeller Dance has provided Sarah an opportunity to explore new movements. I will never forget when Sarah learned how to “bop” while watching another student who used a wheelchair.”

Children's class parent



SPOTLIGHT ON PROPELLER

North Bay Nuggett features Bella Bowes and Sylvain Bouchard during engagement tour to North Bay

Renata Soutter finalist for mid-career dance professional award by the Ottawa Arts Council

Liz Winkelaar invited to write article in Stance On Dance blog

The New Ottawa Critics features Propeller Dance on Creating Accessible Arts Spaces

Shara Weaver writes article on Myths of Integrated Dance for *The Dance Current*



Our Supporters



Conseil des arts du Canada Canada Council for the Arts



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CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO
an Ontario government agency
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



Great Canadian Theatre Company



Crabtree Foundation

Five B Family Foundation

Danbe Foundation

Harry P Ward Foundation

Financial Report

Income

	2017-2018	2018-2019
Government grants	\$291,009	\$281,679
Private sector revenue	\$92,414	\$81,555
Earned revenue	\$30,345	\$44,116
Total revenues	\$413,768	\$407,350

Expenditures

Artistic fees	\$204,184	\$215,305
Administration	\$98,698	\$107,629
Programming expenses	\$49,575	\$58,015
Marketing	\$18,098	\$18,072
Fundraising and development	\$12,505	\$10,920
Facility operating expenses	\$11,454	\$17,385
Production	\$29,760	\$27,959
Total expenditures	\$424,275	\$455,285

Excess (deficiency) of income over expenditures	\$(10,507)	\$(47,935)
Balance, beginning of year	\$107,283	\$96,776
Balance, end of year	\$96,776	\$48,841

Detailed financial statements are available on request.



We create, perform and teach contemporary dance that showcases the exhilarating power and beauty of diverse voices, bodies and minds.

Board of Directors

Fahad Sami (chair), Natasha Harwood, Julia Huffman, Genevieve Cimon, Lisa Whittleton

Artistic & Executive Co-Directors

Renata Soutter and Shara Weaver

Company Dancers

Sylvain Bouchard, Bella Bowes, Robert Chartier, Jessie Huggett, Amelia Griffin, Moni Hoffman, Liz Winkelaar

Artistic Associate & Artist Representative to the Board

Liz Winkelaar

Guest Artists & Creative Collaborators

Jenn Abrams, Surraya Aziz, David Bobier, Geneviève Beaulieu, Geoffrey Dollar, Wanda Fitzgerald, Ed Hanley, Frank Hull, Robyn Mackie, Jess Preece, Benoit Roy, Emilio Sebastiao, Alan Shain, Jesse Stewart

Musicians

Angel Araos, Mike Essoudry, Mark Rehder, Dominique Saint-Pierre

Dance Teachers

Geneviève Beaulieu, Sylvain Bouchard, Allison Burns, Geoffrey Dollar, Monica Hoffman, Emily St-Aubin, Kira Zanyk-Davey

Dance Partner Specialists and Teaching Assistants

Jenn Abrams, Genevieve Beaulieu, Bella Bowes, Maggi Monoogian, Jessie Huggett, Randy Schmucker

Operations

General Manager: Julea Boswell

Engagement & Admin

Coordinator: Jaime Horn

Bookkeeping Services: Sandi Bonini and Assoc.

Social Media: Jaime Horn

Special Thanks

Propeller extends a huge thanks to the many, many dedicated and valued Propeller artists, collaborators, production staff, friends, fans, donors and volunteers who have generously contributed their time, creativity and financial support towards another successful year of propelling the art of integrated dance forward.





Thank you to our many individual donors:

Paula Agulnik • Danielle Allard • Katherine Arnup • Larry and Myrna Baker • Natasha Bakht • Genevieve Beaulieu • Kathleen Best • Bob and Lynda Bowes • Janet Campbell • Ms. Lorraine Carson • Jennifer Cayley • Paul Chehowski • Fran Cherry • Gail Christy • Eric Coates • Sean Coyne • Clark and Joyce Davey • Rosamaria Durand • Pamela FitzGerald • Miriam Ginestier • Tony Gaston • R. Fern Goldman • Bill & Claire Graham • Martha Guy • Natasha Harwood • Ida Henderson • Bernadette Hendrickx • Catrina Hendrickx • Elizabeth Hoffman • Karin and Ed Horn • Julia Huffman • Ken Huffman • Judy and Ian Hunter • Rajiv Kalsi • Andy Lunney • Robert Bigras and Kathryn Lusk • Elizabeth Mackinnon • Beth and Ross Macleod • Bruce Montador • Yves and Lise Morneau • Nevan Patel • Brenna Rivier • Fahad Sami • Karen Schultz • Kate Seally • Donna Sharkey (In memory of Alessandra Sharkey) • Carol Shipley • Colin and Helen Soutter • Uta and Martin Soutter • Lys Stevens • Gerard and Shanti Stuber • Heather Sword • Regina Traczyk-Jurjonas • Teresa Tsang • Donald Verniest • Jennifer Ward • Feliks Welfeld • Herb Westman • Jo and Jay Weston • Liz Winkelaar (In memory of Leo O'Keefe, Ronald Burns) • Robin Wint • Kira Zanyk Davey •

IN MEMORY OF STEVEN DOLLAR

Ivan Bloom • Blaise Cathcart • David Dollar • Jean and John Dollar • Ann Peacock • Pilates Space • Liz Winkelaar •

Special thank you to Randi Cherry and Tony Gaston

for the donation of costumes and fabrics from the estate of Anne Marie Gaston

Thank you to Asha Jain and Beth Mitchell for your ongoing efforts in raising money for Propeller through Celebration Dances!

Thank you to our amazing volunteers:

Jenn Abrams • Christina Bailey • Nicolas Benoit • Genevieve Beaulieu • Stephanie Bradford • Bella Bowes • Bob Bowes • Lynda Bowes • Rob Chartier • Sarah Chenevert • Genevieve Cimon • Paul Dupont • Elizabeth Emond Stevenson • Alana Gin • Jenny Grenville • Gillie Griffin • Huffy Griffin • Natasha Harwood • Bernadette Hendrickx • Moni Hoffman • Karin Horn • Sue Horvath • Jessie Huggett • Julia Huffman • Ameerah Koffi-Wills • Alyssa Louw • Will McIntyre • Stephanie Nadeau • Maude Pelland Tessier • Ali Rainer • Mark Rehder • Charles Robb • Munita Sharma • Fahad Sami • David Sims • Genevieve Sirois-Leclerc • Bronwyn Steinberg • Monica Song • Emily St-Aubin • Sally Thomas • Arden Usin • Lisa Vadeboncoeur • Linda Vanderlee • Kirsten Van Houten • Jordan Veritis • Lisa Whittleton • Liz Winkelaar • Robin Wint • Kira Zanyk Davey •





Coming Up!

Our 2020-21 season will feature new creations by **Emerging Choreographers with Disability**.

In partnership with Ottawa Dance Directive and the Great Canadian Theatre Company, we look forward to bringing these new dances and voices to life! Propeller Dance's Emerging Choreographer's program for artists with disability was the first of its kind in Canada!

Join the movement!

Creative dance classes for children, youth and adults. Classes offered Fall, Winter and Spring

Find out more:
propellerdance.com/classes
info@propellerdance.com

propellerdance

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