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# LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge this sacred land on which we are located, which is the territory of the Haudenosaunee, Ojibway/Chippewa, and Anishinabek Peoples. We recognize and deeply appreciate their connection to this land which is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties. We also recognize the contributions Métis, Inuit, and other Indigenous Peoples have made, both in shaping and strengthening this community in particular, as well as our province and country as a whole.

We recognize Indigenous land title as set out in the Royal Proclamation of 1763, which envisioned self-determination and self-government. The Truth and Reconciliation Report and Calls to Action recommend that all levels of government implement Indigenous rights in the original spirit of the treaties. Indigenous Peoples and allies for reconciliation view the treaties as a sacred obligation that commits both parties to maintain respectful relationships, and to share the lands and resources equitably.

Today, Simcoe County is still home to many Indigenous Peoples from across Turtle Island. We are grateful, honoured, and humbled to have the opportunity to live and work on this land.

Chi Miigwetch – Merci - Thank you.

# A WELCOME NOTE

Welcome to *Momentum*! Let us move and be moved.

*Momentum* is a mixed program contemporary dance performance that invites performers and audience members to acknowledge our stories. Through movement, we explore the powerful forces that shape our lives from grief to joy and everything in between.

This show is rooted in the belief that storytelling through dance is a way for us all to connect. Each piece in our program offers a glimpse into the human experience. These works are deeply personal and we hope that you can see yourself throughout.

As performers, we are bringing our truest selves to the stage. These choreographies are shaped not only by steps but by the emotions we feel and the stories we carry. In this way, *Momentum* becomes more than a performance it becomes a mirror.

We all carry stories and by sharing ours, we remember that we are not alone.

*Chrissy Baxter*

Outgoing Executive Director

*Aliyah Beckles*

Administrative Director and Co-Artistic Director

*Jaqui Brown*

Program Director and Co-Artistic Director

# 2025-2026 Company Performers



## Company Dancers

Billie Ainsley  
Chrissy Baxter  
Aliyah Beckles  
Breeanna Booth  
Jaqui Brown  
Kas Chiaromonte  
Hayley Ng  
Paul Moen  
Cecilia Vanderwerf  
Eligh Zimmerman

## Company Apprentices

Sheralyn Faria  
Lidia Mateus

## Guest Artists

Kimberly Dearmer  
Elsie Kretzschmann  
Laura MacDonald



# MEET THE CHOREOGRAPHERS

**Chrissy Baxter** earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Modern Dance from SUNY Brockport under the direction of Bill Evans, Mariah Maloney, Maura Keefe, and James Hansen. Since joining SCD in 2014, Chrissy has choreographed multiple works for the company, learned and performed many pieces from SCDs repertoire, was elected dancer representative to the Board of Directors (2015-2018), won an annual dedication award in 2016, and stepped into the role of Executive Director in 2018.

**Jaqu Brown** is a movement artist and dance teacher from Newmarket, Ontario. She earned a diploma in Performance Dance Studies and a Certificate in the Performing Arts from George Brown College. Additionally, Jaqui earned her degree in Psychology and Spanish from York University. Jaqui joined SCD in 2014. Alongside her work as a performer and choreographer, Jaqui has her own business as a photographer.

**Pilar Rae** joined SCD as an apprentice in 2023. They began dancing at the age of three and later trained as a competitive dancer at Collingwood School of Dance, where they competed from age eleven until graduating high school. During their training, they studied ballet, jazz, pointe, and contemporary/lyrical. Alongside their training, Pilar completed Cecchetti ballet examinations up to Grade 6 and currently works as a dance instructor. Pilar is currently in the final stages of their studies in Massage Therapy at the Royal Canadian College of Massage Therapy and is deeply passionate about movement, creativity, and continued growth as an artist and soon-to-be healthcare professional.

# MEET THE CHOREOGRAPHERS

**Aliyah Beckles** is a dance artist and Registered Kinesiologist that resides in Penetanguishene. She has trained with Allision Bradley, Sarah Lochhead, Carol Anderson, Helen Jones, Megan Andrews, Tracey Norman, and Susan Lee. Aliyah completed three years of her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance before ultimately switching programs and graduating with her BA Specialized Honours in Kinesiology and Health Sciences. Aliyah's choreographic works are informed by her own experiences and are reflective of the life stages she has worked through as a Black female identifying performer.

**Kasandra Chiaromonte** has danced for as long as she can remember, always drawn to music, movement, and rhythm. She has trained in a wide range of dance styles and performed across the province. After stepping away from dance to earn a diploma in Early Childhood Education from Georgian College and work in the field, she returned to dance in 2019. Since then, Kasandra has been actively creating and performing throughout Simcoe County. Dance has always been, and will continue to be, an integral part of her life.

**Paul Moen** is a passionate and accomplished dancer who began training and competing at a young age. Paul continued his artistic development at George Brown College, studying dance, singing, and acting. After college, Paul moved to Sweden to teach dance and further expand his practice. Since returning to Canada, Paul has continued to teach and perform, sharing his experience, talent, and love of dance with both students and audiences.

# MOMENTUM

## **Saint Honesty**

**Choreographer:** Pilar Rae

**Performers:** Breeanna Booth and Kasandra Chiaromonte

**Music:** *Saint Honesty* by Sarah Bareilles

This work was originally developed as a quartet during Pilar's apprentice creation period in Spring 2024. It was shown as a work-in-progress at the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration of Dance in May 2024. SCD is so excited to be remounting this beautiful work!

## **Temporary**

**Choreographer:** Jaqui Brown

**Performer:** Jaqui Brown

**Music:** *Hymn 1* by Leopold Ross, Nick Chuba, *When We're Older* by James Blake

A conversation between one's logical brain and emotional brain.

## **Break the Silence**

**Choreographer:** Paul Moen

**Performers:** Breeanna Booth, Sheralyn Faria, Lidia Mateus, Cecilia Vanderwerf, and Eligh Zimmerman

**Music:** *Break the Silence* by Francois Mulder

*"It took me quite a long time to develop a voice,  
and now that I have it,  
I am not going to be silent." - Madeleine Albright*

This piece is about the idea of finding your voice and the different paths you take to get there.

## **Non Linear**

**Choreographer:** Kasandra Chiaromonte

**Performers:** Billie Ainsley, Kasandra Chiaromonte, and Paul Moen

**Music:** *Le quai* by Colin Vallon, Patrice Moret, & Julian Sartorius, *Creation* by Collapse Under the Empire

A person's healing journey is non-linear, as it moves both forward and backwards at any given time. This piece explores a person on different timelines (past, present, and future), and how each version is equally important in the journey.

Our own thoughts, stories, and patterns often limit us. Our bodies carry these around tirelessly throughout the human experience.

What happens when we look into the true reflection of ourself in the mirror? What happens when we no longer believe these limiting stories we hold on to? What happens when we love the little child within each of us with our whole heart?

**Special Note:** *This work has been tremendously influenced by a collection of my own personal healing experiences, and vulnerability. Big love and appreciation for my guide and mentor, N.W.*

## **Integration**

**Choreographer:** Chrissy Baxter

**Performer:** Chrissy Baxter

**Music:** *you not the same* by TileKid, *Solitude* by M83, Felsmann + Tiley, *Present* by Lloyd Vaan

*"In healing, we walk in circles  
Returning to old ground  
With a new way of seeing."*

This piece is my physical practice of releasing what no longer serves me. With each step I move toward peace and embrace each step as the path forward.

## **Disassembling**

**Choreographer:** Chrissy Baxter

**Performers:** Breeanna Booth, Jaqui Brown, Paul Moen, Hayley Ng, and Eligh Zimmerman

**Music:** *I See Fire (Instrumental)* by Ed Sheeran

This work explores the relationship between movement, music, and shifting shapes that assemble and disassemble.

The central movement phrase was developed in SCD's open classes in Spring 2016 and shared as a work-in-progress at the MacLaren Art Centre in September 2016.

## **Grace Note**

**Structured Improvisation:** score facilitated by Chrissy Baxter

**Performers:** Jaqui Brown, Billie Ainsley, Paul Moen, Cecilia Vanderwerf, Kimberly Dearmer, Laura MacDonald, Hayley Ng, Lidia Mateus, and Sheralyn Faria

**Music:** *St. Thomas* by Sonny Rollins

**Grace Note** is a structured improvisation created in response to the *Grace Note* sculpture by Lyn Carter and Carl Tacon. The work was first performed as part of *Animations*, a series of structured improvisations presented at the MacLaren Art Centre in September 2024.

The *Grace Note* sculpture is a gestural line in space that captures a flourish of upward movement, a joyful, orange, aerial twist. Our improvisation mirrors this sense of joy, with dancers moving along the sculpture's pathway, tracing its contours with different parts of their bodies, and coming together to create a moving **Grace Note** shape.

## **10 Minute Intermission**

## **The Chasm**

**Choreographer:** Aliyah Beckles

**Performers:** Kasandra Chiaromonte and Aliyah Beckles

**Music:** *I Love You* by Son Lux, *Rosyln* by Bon Iver and St. Vincent, *Goodnight, I Love You* by Take Care

*The tether is severed,  
The chasm between mind and body deepens,  
The tether cannot be repaired,  
The mind rejects what the body accepts,  
The tether frays more every day,  
The chasm between mind and body deepens,  
The tether cannot be reattached,  
The mind and body cannot close the chasm,  
The tether is severed,  
The chasm is endless.*

It is commonly accepted that we get over grief. We do not.

All we can do is move forward, but we never forget.

The universe claims us all one day. We hope it's not too early, or too late. Eventually we all rejoin the fabric that is our universe, willingly or not. The fabric that is woven with threads of time, sorrow, joy, and grief. It's an endless chasm that calls us home. This chasm is never ending time, sorrow, joy, and grief.

This choreography is an honest exploration of grief through movement.

## **These Weary Bones**

**Choreographer:** Aliyah Beckles

**Performers:** Billie Ainsley, Chrissy Baxter, Aliyah Beckles, Kasandra Chiaromonte, and Elsie Kretszschmann

**Music:** *Gilded Lily (Slowed + Reverb)* by Cults, *Gilded Lily* by Cults, *Nanou2* by Aphex Twin, *Goodnight, I Love You* by Take Care

*These weary bones*

*These weary bones*

*They prop me up*

*And I call them home*

These Weary Bones demonstrates the reluctance we may feel to share our grief with our community. While we know in our hearts that community is what helps us heal, often we worry about placing too much weight on those around us.

*These Weary Bones* follows a small group beginning to accept help and share the weight of grief with one another as they explore its waves.

Their journey is one of reluctance to acceptance, coming to the realization that connecting with community is the only way to get through personal tragedy.

## **Artist Talkback**

A 10-15 minute artist talkback will be held following the show featuring our choreographers. This is an opportunity for our audience and our choreographers to be in dialogue, asking and answering questions about ***Momentum***.

Simcoe Contemporary Dancers gratefully acknowledges our funders and sponsors:

