

**BC MOVEMENT ARTS SOCIETY** [www.bcmovementarts.com](http://www.bcmovementarts.com)

Based in Sointula on Malcolm Island, BC Movement Arts Society is located within the unceded Kwakwaka'wakw territories of the 'Namgis, Kwakiutl, and Mamalilikala Nations and present professional local, national and international contemporary dance performances, creation residencies and associated outreach activities.

Founded in 2015 by Mary-Louise Albert and Michael Margolick, the BC Movement Arts Society (BCMAS) is committed to the development, understanding and enjoyment of dance in rural BC and to enhancing social interaction and well-being. In dance, we believe there is no substitute for live performance. Smaller rural communities are largely deprived of this opportunity. Bringing professional dance to these communities rather than expecting residents to travel long distances to see shows fulfills unserved demand and supports the local region by stimulating both cultural and economic growth. The artists we engage are at a very high professional artistic and technical level and are known to be committed to sharing and exploring their art with audiences and community.

**BCMAS has established an annual professional contemporary dance series held throughout the year** (now in its 3<sup>rd</sup> Season). The series has presented artists from Canada, Finland, England and the United States.

Our 2022/2023 presentation series included performances in:

- Sointula (Athletic Hall and Finnish Organizational Hall)
- Port McNeil (Gate House Theatre)
- Port Hardy (Civic Centre)
- Alert Bay/'Namgis Nation ( 'Namgis Laurence Ambers Memorial Recreation Centre)
- Campbell River (Tidemark Theatre)
- Bella Bella
- \*We plan to include Powel River as a destination

This ensures that audience from the other communities of the North Island Region (Port Alice, Woss, Port Hardy and Sayward) are able to attend shows without overnight stays or adhering to ferry schedules.

For our 2023/24/25 Seasons we also present with the 'Namgis T'sasala Cultural Group and the Heiltsuk a cultural sharing event in Bella Bella (and Prince Rupert for '24/'25) and 'Namgis Nation/Alert Bay in the nation's Big Houses.

BCMAS as well facilitates Dance Creation Residencies in Sointula year-round. Our 10-to-14-day residencies support professional dance artists, artistically and financially, in the creation of new work and engages with community through workshops and outreach that is free for participants from the region.

Dance activities in one's own community are fun, educational and contribute to social well-being. Our tickets are very inexpensive and/or by donation and our outreach activities are free.

Artists are chosen for their level of artistry and reflect a range of contemporary dance expression. They are multi-talented and appreciate the "unplugged" and "up-close" intimacy with our rural audiences, in particular in Sointula and 'Namgis Nation/Alert Bay.

Our region is economically depressed and culturally underserved. The main industries are fishing and forestry, both of which are struggling, with tourism an important seasonal industry which has been drastically impacted by Covid-

19. Bringing professional dance to these communities supports local business, stimulates both cultural and economic growth, supports inclusion and equity for rural communities and develops artistic engagement in non-urban settings.

**WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF:**

The Canada Council for the Arts; Canadian Heritage; BC Arts Council; Province of British Columbia; Regional District of Mt. Waddington; BC Touring Council.

## ARTISTIC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ADVISORS and BOARD BIOS

### **MARY-LOUISE ALBERT: Artistic & Executive Director and Co-Founder**

In March 2020, Mary-Louise Albert left her 15-year position as the Artistic Managing Director of the Norman Rothstein Theatre (NRT) and the multidisciplinary international Chutzpah! Festival. Now based full time in Sointula, she is growing the BC Movement Arts Society she co-founded, and the development of professional dance presentations, artists residencies and community outreach activities throughout rural BC.

A former professional dancer, she worked for 20 years nationally and internationally as a solo dance artist and as a company member with the Judith Marcuse Dance Company, Anna Wyman Dance Theatre, Karen Jamieson Dance Company as well as apprenticing with Les Grands Ballet Canadiens. Albert has performed work by choreographers such as Mark Morris, Crystal Pite, Lar Lubovitch, Robert North, Serge Bennathan, Allen Kaeja, Judith Marcuse, Grant Strate, Peter Bingham, Tedd Robinson, Judith Garay and Christopher House, to name a few. She has an extensive teaching background that includes Arts Umbrella, Sessional Positions at Simon Fraser University School for the Contemporary Arts, Harbour Dance Centre, Goh Ballet as well as adjudicating for dance festivals throughout Western Canada.

Transitioning from professional dance at the age of 46, Albert won the nationally awarded Eric Bruhn Memorial Award from the Dancer Transition Resource Centre to attend the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT), School of Business, graduating with a Post Diploma of Technology in Business Administration and she holds an Advanced Arts and Entertainment Management Certificate from Capilano University.

She is the recipient of the 2011 Canada Council for the Arts' John Hobday Award for Excellence in Arts Management, one of two awarded nationally.

She was an appointed member of the City of Vancouver's first Arts and Culture Policy Council and was a member of the Board of Directors and Executive of Temple Shalom. She sits on a Program Advisory Committee for the BCIT School of Business and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Sointula Museum Historical Society where she recently Co-Directed and was a videographer for a 40-minute documentary video entitled Sointula: History & Memories.

### **ADVISORS:**

**ANDREA CRANMER (Artistic Cultural Advisor)** - Culture and Wellness Consultant and project teacher, Ms. Cranmer holds a Cultural and Art BC Teachers Certificate and is the leader and co-founder of the with the T'sasala Cultural Group. She has traveled globally with the group coordinates and delivers culture and wellness programs for all ages. She promotes and teaches Kwakwaka'wakw history and culture, language, history, traditional values, song, dance and offers cultural classes for all ages to learn about who they are and a sense of belonging. She is committed in particular to a responsibility to share, teach, learn, empower youth so that they are connected to an inner knowing of self. Her philosophy: "healthy healing, the foundation of change is to re- connect everyone with the wisdom of our Gway'ilas (our ways) and teach how to have balance in life with traditional teachings as the guide. To promote healthy communication, promote recognizing feelings, making them mentionable and manageable. Re-connecting everyone with their spirit gifts like humour, love, courage, healing, kindness, visions, forgiveness. I believe in the power of healing, feeling and letting go of old personalities which no longer serves us. Letting go of old trauma and pain. I believe in miracles and everyone has the power to heal and embrace life to the fullest.

She is the Co-Founder and Leader of T'sasala Cultural Group and Co-owner of Culture Shock.

<https://www.cultureshocklife.com/>

**LIVONA ELLIS (Artistic Programming Advisor)** - Livona Ellis was born in Vancouver on the unceded Coast Salish Territories. She completed her training at Arts Umbrella under the direction of Artemis Gordon. In 2010 she received her Dance Diploma and began dancing with Ballet BC. Throughout her eight years with the company she has been fortunate to perform works by world renowned artists such as Crystal Pite, Sharon Eyal, Lesley Telford, Johan Inger, William Forsythe, and many others. Independently she has collaborated with Jennifer McLeish-Lewis for the EDAM Spring Series and Rachel Meyer and Jennifer Mascall for Dancing on the Edge Festival 2019. Livona has performed in international

venues such as Sadler's Wells, Movimentos Festival Wolfsburg, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Fall for Dance NYC, and International Dance Festival Birmingham UK. She has created works for Dances for a Small Stage, Dance Deck Trois, Public Salon 2019, Contemporary Art Gallery Gala 2018, and Arts Umbrella Season Finale. In 2017 she received the Vancouver Mayor's Arts Award for Emerging Artist.

Livona has staged Medhi Walerski's "Prelude" on Staatsoper Hannover in Germany and was a guest artist with Konzert Theater Bern in Switzerland.

Livona rejoined Ballet BC for their 2020/21/22/23 seasons and is currently on faculty at Arts Umbrella. She has also been offered a residency at Left of Main in January 2021 and will continue her choreographic research towards developing a new solo work. Her work will also be seen in the BC Movement Arts Society's 1st and 2nd North Island Contemporary Dance Series. She will be working with Kidd Pivot in the fall of 2023.

**REBECCA MARGOLICK (Artistic /Programming Advisor)** is a Canadian dancer and choreographer based in New York. Her multi disciplinary and solo works have been presented in France (La Galerie Chorégraphique), Costa Rica (Solos Hecho a Mano), Singapore (M1 Contact), Poland (Gdansk Solo Festival), Bulgaria (Azaryan Theater and Derida Dance), Israel (Machol Shalem), Mexico (Cuerpo Al Descubierto), and multiple cities across the U.S and Canada. She was named one of Top 25 to Watch in 2021 from Dance Magazine. Her currently touring solo Bunker + Vault won the Jury Prize for "best indoor choreographic work" at the 2019 Festival Quartiers Danse in Montreal. In the Summer and Fall of 2023 she will be in residence and/or performing her solo and duet work in Bulgaria, Croatia, Montreal, Istanbul, Mexico and New York City.

She received the 2020 New Directions Choreography Lab Fellowship at the Ailey School under the mentorship of Gus Solomons Jr. and was a Dance Artist in Residence at The Banff Centre for the Arts in December 2019. She was also a 2020/2021 artist in residence at the Dance Deck in Vancouver Canada. In 2020, Rebecca received the Conney Conference Fellowship to study the archives of the Clara de Hirsch Home for Working Girls at 92nd St Y and presented her research at the 2020 Conney Conference. She was a 2017 GPS Fund Movement Research Artist in Residence at Derida Dance Center in Sofia Bulgaria, and a 2015/16 LABA Fellow at the 14th St Y in NYC.

She has been commissioned to create works on the Ailey/Fordham BFA Program, Michiyaya Dance, DancePORT Derida, Ballet BC's Performance Project, University of Costa Rica and Frabique des Arts, Carcassonne France. She has been commissioned by the Oregon Ballet Theatre to create a new work for the company, premiering in June 2024.

She is currently rehearsal director and dancer with Chuck Wilt's UNA Productions, and was a dancer with Sidra Bell Dance New York from 2012-2016. Freelancing, she has worked with a number of artists including Kayla Farrish, Allen Kaeja, Patricia Norowol, Jerome Bel (The Show Must Go On), Derrick Belcham, Emily Terndrup, Maya Orchin, Shay Kuebler, and Barak Marshall, among others.

Rebecca graduated from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts with a BFA in Dance, and prior to that trained at Arts Umbrella in Vancouver. She is a proud member of Dance Artists National Collective a collective of freelance dancers organizing for safe, equitable and sustainable working conditions in the United States. [www.rebeccamargolick.com](http://www.rebeccamargolick.com)

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

### **ARTEMIS GORDON – Profession: Director of Dance, Arts Umbrella.**

Lauded as an artistic and pedagogical authority in Dance, Artemis Gordon was named

Artistic Director of the Arts Umbrella Dance program in 1992 after graduating from the National Ballet School's Teacher Training Program. Since then, she has developed the program to be internationally recognized for producing graduates who are dancing in companies around the world such as Ballet BC, Nederlands Dans Theatre I & II, Batsheva Dance Company, and many others. Artemis has toured the Arts Umbrella Dance Company to Holland, Italy, Japan, New York, and Montreal and fostered collaborations with Nederlands Dans Theatre, Yokohama Ballet, Spellbound Contemporary Dance, Joffrey Ballet School, and L'Ecole supérieure de ballet du Québec. In 2015, Artemis secured the affiliation between Ballet BC and Arts Umbrella, extending the impact of international choreographers in Vancouver and increasing opportunities for young dancers in Vancouver. Her vision extends beyond dance, preparing students with skills to navigate their lives with discipline, rigour, and innovation. She is an advocate for expanding and sharing the importance of dance, through BCMAS, to all British Columbians.

**PAMELA ROSA – Profession: Co-owner and Co-Founder of Harbour Dance Centre**

Founder and co-owner of the internationally known Harbour Dance Center (HDC) located in Downtown Vancouver. Pamela Rosa has been entrenched in the dance world from a young age. After completing her first tour at 14, Pamela continued to perform and tour in various productions over the years and hone her skills at the same time, which she largely accomplished in Vancouver, Los Angeles, and in New York. It was in New York that she spent time training with the highly acclaimed Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, in addition to dancing at Broadway Dance Centre and Steps. In Canada, she has performed in several shows at the Arts Club Theatre, the Vancouver Playhouse, Barkerville's Theatre Royal, and more. She was also a guest artist for the since defunct GYRUS dance company, based out of Vancouver. She has performed and choreographed for a variety of Canadian and US film productions, notably holding a recurring role as a dancer on CBC's Paula Anka Series. Today, Pamela's main dedication is continuing to provide top tier dance training for beginners and seasoned professionals alike; in a relaxing, authentic, and fun atmosphere out of HDC.

**LAURIE ROWAN – Profession: Audiology Leader**

Laurie has had a long, successful health leadership career in Audiology. She holds a Masters Degree in Audiology and was the Professional practice leader with BC Provincial Health Authority-BC Children and Women's Hospital. Her commitment to inclusion and collaboration has resulted in a world class provincial hearing screening and intervention program for all newborns and their families in BC. Her passion for the importance of equal access to live performance is a passion of hers and aligns with BCMAS.

**DR. MICHAEL MARGOLICK –Profession: Wind energy developer/Energy Economist**

Michael has a 35-year career in sustainable energy and climate change, serving as a policy expert and wind energy developer, primarily in the European offshore. He has consulted for large and small corporations and utilities, all levels of government in Canada, international organizations such as the World Bank and NGOs such as the David Suzuki Foundation. He has a B.A. from Cornell University and a Ph.D. from the University of BC, both in mathematics. He has been practising Tai Chai for over 40 years and is a Certified Yoga Instructor.

**BRENDA JAMER – Profession: Registered Clinical Counsellor**

a Registered Clinical Counsellor (RCC #0932) and Associate at Tapestry Counselling Centre Inc., in East Vancouver and specializes in trauma informed care/somatic integration/directed mindfulness. As well, she has 20 years experience in public health and education settings, most recently co-managing the CIHR funded Centre for the Study of Gender, Social Inequities and Mental Health, Faculty of Health Sciences at Simon Fraser University. An advocate for equal access, she has facilitated outreach work relating to anti- oppression and has worked in reproductive health in Indigenous health communities in rural and remote areas of Northern BC. As a registered clinical counsellor, she utilizes her extensive yoga knowledge/breath work as a way to embody therapy practise in the form of somatic healing.

**MARY- LOUISE ALBERT – Ex office Board Member**



# BALLET KELOWNA

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3

@ 7:30 pm

Tidemark Theatre – Campbell River

**Cerebral and abstract. Enthralling and playful.**

The Daily Courier



**BC MOVEMENT  
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**For tickets visit:**

**[tidemarktheatre.com/events](http://tidemarktheatre.com/events)**

**250.287.7465**

**more info visit:**

**[bcmovementarts.com](http://bcmovementarts.com)**

dancer: Kelsey Hanna

photo: Emily Cooper



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presented by

BC **MOVEMENT**  
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# OURO Collective

**fusion of hip-hop, breaking, b-boying, waacking, & contemporary dance**

*"visually arresting... fresh, engaging"* Dance International



**Sointula**  
Athletic Hall

**THURS. MARCH 9: 7:30 PM**

**FRI. MARCH 10: 2:00 PM & 7:30 PM**

**Alert Bay**

**'Namgis Lawrence Ambers Memorial Rec. Ctr.**

**SAT. MARCH 11: 7:30 PM**

**TICKETS**

\$10 - \$15

**CALL: 604.970.3206**

**EMAIL: [movementartsbc@gmail.com](mailto:movementartsbc@gmail.com)**

**[www.bcmovementarts.com](http://www.bcmovementarts.com)**

photo: Abhishek Joshi



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# GRASS IS GREEN

by UNA Productions



An evening-length work blending contemporary dance, drag performance, and live music.

Performed with exquisite artistry by  
six dancers and drag queen/live cellist/live pianist, Rose Nylons.  
This highly physical and exuberant dance, embodies a cycle of rebirth,  
intimacy, and moments of communal joy, grief and connectivity.



**SOINTULA - Athletic Hall**

**Thursday APRIL 27 @ 7:30 PM   Friday APRIL 28 @ 7:30 PM**

**ALERT BAY - Lawrence Ambers Rec. Ctr.**

**Saturday APRIL 29 @ 3:00 PM**

**PORT HARDY - Civic Centre**

**Sunday APRIL 30 @ 7:00 PM**

**CAMPBELL RIVER - Tidemark Theatre**

**Tuesday MAY 2 @ 7:00 PM**

**[www.bcmovementarts.com](http://www.bcmovementarts.com)**

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# Ne. Sans Opera & Dance

*"fresh and extraordinarily thoughtful work"* The Washington Post

## SOINTULA

Thursday, May 25 *and* Friday, May 26 @ 7:30 pm

Athletic Hall

## PORT MCNEILL

Saturday May 27 @ 2:30 pm

Gate House Theatre



Ted Littlemore



Ben Defaria & Will Jess



Kate Franklin



Ben Defaria

## TICKETS

### Sointula

email: [movementartsbc@gmail.com](mailto:movementartsbc@gmail.com)

604.970.3206

### Pt. McNeill

[www.eventbrite.ca](http://www.eventbrite.ca)

604.970.3206

also available at the door for all shows

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**Ne.Sans Opera & Dance**  
**CAMPBELL RIVER Tidemark theatre**  
**SUNDAY MAY 28 at 7:00 PM**



Ben Defaria photo by Chris Randle

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**[www.tidemarktheatre.com](http://www.tidemarktheatre.com)**  
**(250) 287-7465**

**\$22.50 to \$30.50**

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Hałcístut Language House Post is working in collaboration with the Kaxla Society Cultural Team and hosting a cultural event with the Kwakwaka'wakw - Tsasala Cultural Group from Alert Bay and the Ke'tit Village (Wuikinuxv) dance group from Rivers Inlet.  
Everyone is welcome.



CULTURAL SHARING

## GVÁKVA'ÁUS HAÍŁZAQV

With guest nations Namgis and Oweekeno

**Thursday, May 11th**

10:00-12:00 Opening - Haítzaqv

12:00-1:00 Brown bag lunches

1:00-3:00 Cultural Sharing

Kwakwaka'wakw - Tsasala Cultural Group and  
Oweekeno Dance Group (Wuikinuxv)

3:00-5:00 Break

5:00-6:00 Community Kitchen

6:00 Special Presentation

Language Revitalization and Heiltsuk Kaxla Society

6:00-8:00 Cultural Sharing- Haítzaqv

### BC MOVEMENT ARTS SOCIETY

is proud and honoured to be presenting and  
travelling with the Tsasala Cultural Group for this

**WONDERFUL CULTURAL SHARING with the  
'NAMGIS, OWEKENO and HEILTSUK NATIONS  
in BELLA BELLA**



**ARE YOU 55 + ? DO YOU IDENTIFY AS FEMALE ?**

Would you like to attend an **EATING MEETING**  
and discuss all things good and sort of bad about ...*G-d forbid* ... **AGING?**

if **YES!** then join performer, choreographer, comedian

**Tara Cheyenne Friedenber**

(BC Movement Arts' March Resident Artist)

in a fun gathering with good food, as Tara leads a discussion  
to support research for her next project on what we all just *love* to talk about ... **AGING!**

**YOUR HOSTS**

Myrna Williams, Ivana MacDougall, Mary-Louise Albert

**We're FULL!** *thanks for signing up!*

**When**

Monday, March 13 @ 2pm to 4pm

**Where:**

Myrna's House - 410 4th St., Sointula  
to reserve - call or email Mary-Louise

cell: 604.970.3206

email: albertmarylouise@gmail.com



Thank you to



# BC MOVEMENT ARTS SOCIETY

SEE YOU IN THE FALL!



Alexis Fletcher

Thank-you to all our  
1st Season performers



Maria Nurmella  
Ville Oinonen

Company 605



T'Sasala Cultural Group



Livona Ellis



Thank-you to guest performers:

Emma Garriott

Betty Carlson & Kathy Gibler

Jim & Ivana MacDougall

Vera Newman & Frank Smith

Andrea Cranmer



Amber Barton



Rebecca Margolick

Chelsea Edwardson



# BC Movement Arts Presents

## Livona Ellis & Rebecca Margolick Fortress (duet)+ 4 Solos

Tues. Dec. 21 @ 8pm

Wed. Dec. 22 @ 8pm

Thurs. Dec. 23 @ 8pm

**Sointula - Athletic Hall**



The performances include a new solo, *HARBOUR* that honours the strength and courage of past women held dear, and is a tribute to the upcoming **50th Anniversary of the Sointula Museum.**

For this moving solo *HARBOUR*, performer and choreographer **Rebecca Margolick** will be joined onstage by **Betty Carlson** and **Kathy Gibler** who will beautifully integrate into this intimate dance, the heartfelt words of two of the original Sointula Finnish women **Katri Riksman & Olga Myntti.**  
(dramaturgy direction: Tammy Hampel)

**To reserve your seat**  
email: **movementartsbc@gmail.com** or call: **604-970-3206**

\$15 (\$5 for children 17 & under)

limited seating (all seats are single chairs) - proof of vaccination & masks required

**[bcmovementarts.com](http://bcmovementarts.com)**



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duet photo: Faviola Perez

# COMPANY 605

Lisa Gelley  
Josh Martin

BC <sup>MOVEMENT</sup>ARTS SOCIETY

MARCH 23 - 27

performances in

Sointula  
Pt. McNeill  
Alert Bay

Details Soon!

photo: David Cooper



Upcoming  
Creation Residency Dance Artist  
**AMBER FUNK**  
February 28 to March 8, 2022  
[bcmovementarts.com](http://bcmovementarts.com)

604-970-3206



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photo: Richie Lubaton





# COMPANY 605

Saturday March 26 @ 7:00 pm

## Alert Bay

'Namgis Lawrence Ambers Memorial Rec. Centre

\$15 (adults) \$5 (13 to 17 yrs) or by donation

special opening guest artist presentation *with*  
**Vera Newman & Andrea Cranmer & Rebecca Margolick**



Josh Martin

*featuring*

**Lisa Gelley**  
**Josh Martin**



photos: David Coope

## TICKETS

**movementartsbc@gmail.com**    **604-970-3206**

vaccine passport & masks required

*for more info visit*

**bcmovementarts.com**



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# REBECCA MARGOLICK & LIVONA ELLIS

## *Fortress + 4 Solos*

Tuesday June 7th @ 7:30 PM

Campbell River - Tidemark Theatre

Thursday June 9th @ 7:00 PM

Alert Bay - 'Namgis LAM Recreation Centre

Friday June 10th @ 7:30 PM

Port McNeill - Gate House Theatre

Saturday June 11th @ 7:30 PM

Sointula - Athletic Hall

CHOREOGRAPHY BY

Livona Ellis

Rebecca Margolick

Peter Bingham

Allen Kaeja

**TICKETS**

**[bcmovementarts.com](http://bcmovementarts.com)**

**604-970-3206**

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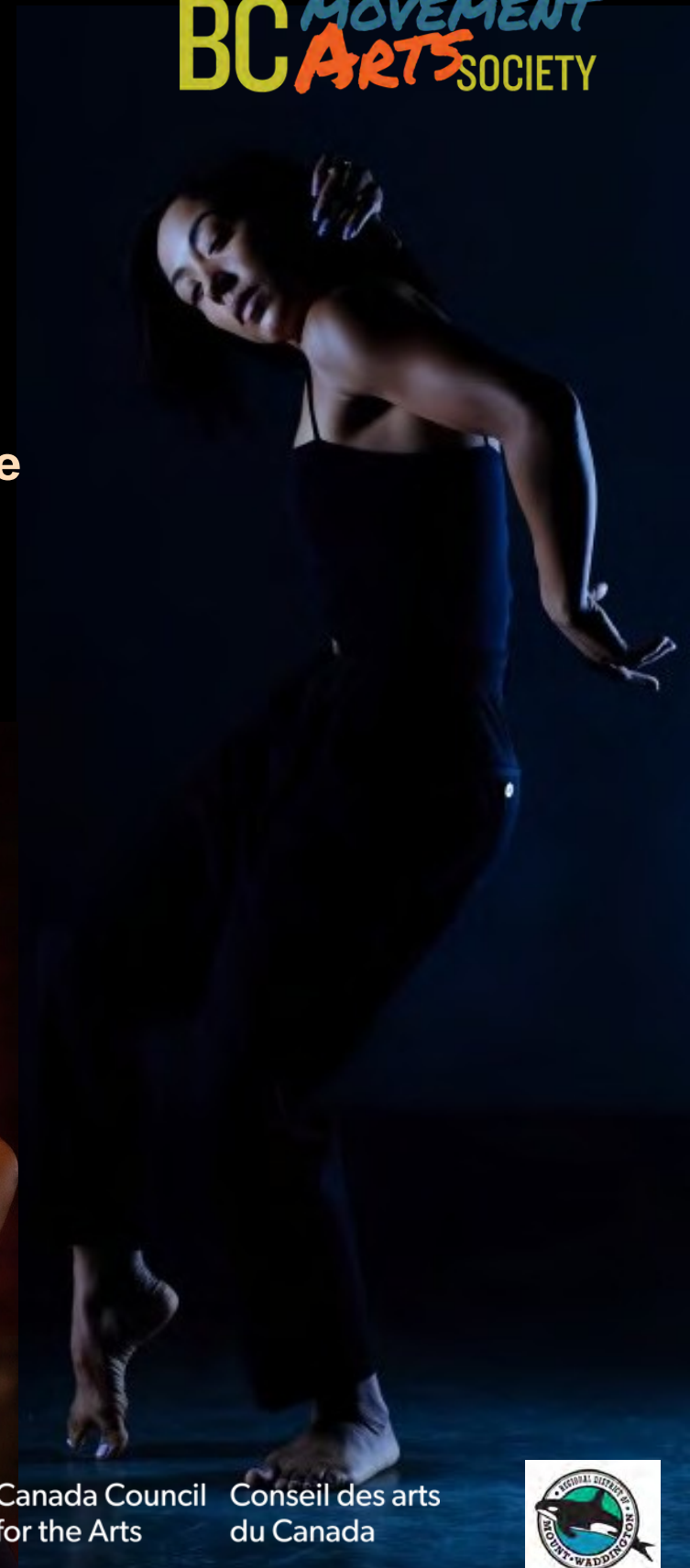


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# FORTRESS + 4 SOLOS

## Rebecca Margolick & Livona Ellis

THURSDAY JUNE 9th @ 7:00 PM

ALERT BAY

'Namgis Lawrence Ambers Memorial Rec. Centre

Opening Guest Artists:  
T'sasala Cultural Group

*a wonderful evening of dance stunningly performed!*

**CHOREOGRAPHY BY**

Livona Ellis  
Rebecca Margolick  
Peter Bingham  
Allen Kaeja

**TICKETS BY DONATION**

*at the door - or you can reserve by*

**email:** [movementartsbc@gmail.com](mailto:movementartsbc@gmail.com)

**phone:** 604-970-3206

**[bcmovementarts.com](http://bcmovementarts.com)**

duet photo: Faviola Perez

# From Finland **THE DAYS**

North American premiere

**Maria Nurmela & Ville Oinonen**

choreographed by Theo Clinkard

*innovative contemporary dance beautifully performed*

with special community guests

**SOINTULA**

**FRI. JUNE 17 @ 7:30 PM**

**SAT. JUNE 18 @ 7:30 PM**

**PORT MCNEILL**

**SUN. JUNE 19 @ 7:30 PM**

**ALERT BAY**

**TUES. JUNE 21 @ 7:00 PM**



**TICKETS**

**604-970-3206**

**movementartsbc@gmail.com**

for info on all North Island dates of The Days visit

**[www.bcmovementarts.com](http://www.bcmovementarts.com)**



photo: Viktor Dimitrev



presents  
from Finland

Maria Nurmella & Ville Oinonen

## *The Days*

North American premiere - choreographed by Theo Clinkard



### SOINTULA - FO HALL

Friday, June 17 @ 7:30 pm

Saturday, June 18 @ 7:30 pm

Sunday, June 19 @ 7:30 pm

### ALERT BAY

"NAMGIS LAWRENCE AMBERS REC. CTR.

Tuesday, June 21 @ 7:00 pm

with special community guests!



**TICKETS:** \$0 - \$15

to reserve

email: [movementartsbc@gmail.com](mailto:movementartsbc@gmail.com)

phone: **604-970-3206**

tickets also available at door  
but reservations advised & appreciated!

for more info visit

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



presents

# Alexis Fletcher & Amber Barton

with special guest artist  
singer/composer  
**Chelsea Edwardson**



Alexis Fletcher - photo by David Cooper



Amber Barton - photo by Richie Lubaton

## **SOINTULA - Athletic Hall**

**FRI. JULY 22 @ 8:00 pm**

**SUN. JULY 24 @ 2:00 pm**

**TICKETS**

email: [movementartsbc@gmail.com](mailto:movementartsbc@gmail.com)

or call: 604-970-3206

\$5 - \$15

## **PORT MCNEILL - Gate House Theatre**

**SAT. JULY 23 @ 7:00 pm**

**TICKETS**

[www.eventbrite.ca](http://www.eventbrite.ca)

or call: 604-970-3206

**FOR MORE INFO VISIT**

**[www.bcmovementarts.com](http://www.bcmovementarts.com)**

masks respectfully requested



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**Contemporary Dance**  
performances  
residencies  
workshops

movementartsbc@gmail.com  
1-604-970-3206

**Artistic Director: Mary-Louise Albert**

**www.bcmovementarts.com**

Sointula, Malcolm Island, BC

photo: Rebecca Margolick





The BC Movement Arts Society was founded and directed by Mary-Louise Albert. (Submitted photo)

## The BC Movement Arts Society: Uniting urban and rural in the North Island

The BCMAS also supports the development of professional dance artists through creation residencies



## **WRITTEN BY DEBRA LYNN**

In addition to fishing, camping, hiking and kayaking, the North Island has lately become a hub for professional contemporary dance performances featuring nationally and internationally renowned dance artists.

The BC Movement Arts Society (BCMAS), founded and directed by Sointula resident Mary-Louise Albert, presents a series of four to six dance performances throughout the year in Sointula, Alert Bay, Port McNeill and—in the upcoming season—Campbell River. Some of the performers involved have even come from places like New York and Finland. The non-profit society is subsidized by The Canada Council for the Arts, Canadian Heritage, the BC Arts Council and the Regional District of Mount Waddington. The BCMAS is one of the few dance societies in Canada that is based in and serving a rural/remote area.

Albert worked as a professional dancer for 20 years, as an independent dance artist and as a company member with the Judith Marcuse Dance Company, Anna Wyman Dance Theatre and the Karen Jamieson Dance Company.

She has also apprenticed with Les Grands Ballet Canadiens. After retiring from dance at age 45, Albert went to business school earning a Post Diploma of Technology in Business Administration from BCIT and an Arts & Entertainment Certificate from Capilano University. Thereafter, she worked as Artistic Managing Director of the Norman Rothstein Theatre (NRT) and the multidisciplinary international Chutzpah! Festival, based in Vancouver, for 15 years. After buying a home in Sointula in 2013, she “piggybacked” the

launch of the BCMAS while still working in Vancouver—which involved a lot of travel and working remotely. In February of 2020 she moved to Sointula full time and devoted herself exclusively to BCMAS with help from a team of supporters, including dance artists Rebecca Margolick and Livona Ellis as artistic and program advisors, Andrea Cranmer as cultural and artistic advisor from the ‘Namgis First Nation and the society’s non-profit board.

Albert aims to help resolve the “inequity of access” to professional level cultural experiences outside urban areas. She wants North Island residents to be able to “see something” without the extra expense of travel and taking time off work.

The BCMAS also supports the development of professional dance artists through “creation residencies.” Albert invites dance artists to Sointula to spend time working and creating dances. They are paid a per diem, offered accommodation and are given what Albert calls “a lovely space to work” in the halls of Sointula. She says, “All the works that you see have been created before and needed studio space, so this is a really lovely way for dance artists to come and work on their own work and work on a piece.”

Although the residencies are for the benefit of dance artists’ own creative development, there are fringe benefits for North Island residents.

While they are here, the dancers often provide free outreach programs for children and youth in the community. The local economy also gets a bit of a boost through venue rentals, travel and purchases.

The BCMAS's last show of the season—before it restarts again in September—will take place Friday, July 22 at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, July 24 at 2:00 p.m. at the Athletic Hall in Sointula, and on Saturday, July 23 at 7:00 p.m. at the Gate House Theatre in Port McNeill. The program will feature dance artists and choreographers from Vancouver, Alexis Fletcher and Amber Barton.

They will be joined by special guest artist, Chelsea Edwardson, who is a musician, composer and singer. Each dancer will be performing a solo that they created, followed by a musical set by Edwardson and then a finale that involves improvisation.

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