



**P!CASSO
PRO**

in partnership with the
Al Green Theatre
& Miles Nadal JCC

presents

TALKING MOVEMENT

a dancework-in-progress
choreographed by Miriam Rother with the ensemble

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 4:00 PM

**AL GREEN THEATRE
Miles Nadal JCC
750 Spadina Avenue**

wheelchair accessible, ASL Interpreters onsite

www.picassopro.org

Message from the Choreographer

Some languages, like French, change and develop according to a language academy whose members decide what new words will be added to the dictionary and how grammatical constructions will evolve. English on the other hand has no such governing body. If 'access' is used often enough as a verb then it becomes both a noun and an action word and if 'downsizing' comes to mean firing half your staff, then 'to downsize' it is.

Movement is like English, a living breathing and ever changing language. It is so dynamic that it was possible for 11 dancers, one choreographer, a project director, several sign language interpreters and a musician to create a dance piece in a movement language which is like no other—our very own dialect in which the artists are at home here and now. Come to think of it, talking movement is even better than talking English—especially if you love change and the unpredictable.

—*Miriam Rother*

The Ensemble

Melissa Addison-Webster | Sheila Boyd | Mark Brose | Wanda Fitzgerald
Durelle Harford McAllister | Anna MacLean | Heryka Miranda
Peter Owusu-Ansah | Jenelle Rouse | Ali Saedi | Luka Sidaravicius
and percussionist, Walter Maclean

For Picasso PRO

Choreographer: Miriam Rother
Artistic Principal: Rose Jacobson
Stage Manager: Jeryn Daly
ASL Interpreters: Erin Fremlin and Tara Everett

For the AI Green Theatre

Angie Stillitano, General Manager
Peter Fehlhaber, Technical Director
Michelle Alderson, Bookings Coordinator

Videography

Phil Pendry, DOP
William McQueen, Camera & Editor
Fireweed Media Productions

Talking Movement will run 45 minutes without intermission.

Biographical Notes

Melissa Addison-Webster (Ensemble) studied Expressive Art Therapy, Haliburton School of the Arts, has an Honours Bachelor Degree in History (Trent) and Honours Degree in Social Work (Lakehead). She has performed at Eight-to-Eight, From the Floor (Peterborough), and the fFIDA Dance Festival (Toronto). Melissa has collaborated with Picasso PRO since 2006 and was a founding member of the Getting in Group (G.I.G.) an exploration and performance at the Theatre Centre (Toronto). She is presenting for the second year at the H'Art School's Abled Artists Conference in Kingston Ontario this November.

Sheila Boyd (Ensemble) was born with spina bifida, club foot and scoliosis, but she has never let her disabilities be an obstacle to her goals. She is a singer and actor who has appeared in *Due South*, *Goosebumps*, *Exhibit A*, and the feature films *54* and *A Simple Wish* plus many cabaret theatre productions, sings the Canadian and American national anthems at hockey games and events and is an ACTRA Toronto Performers Diversity Advocate and Chair of ACTRA's AccessAbilities. Sheila most recently appeared in the *Obeah Opera* (b current/Theatre Archipelego) March 2012, Toronto.

Mark Brose (Ensemble) is a graduate of the Ontario College of Art, a musician, goldsmith, performer and longstanding Picasso PRO artist associate since its beginnings as the Dis This! Group. Mark is also as a disability rights activist. He made his choreographic debut in 1999 with *Slipping Ground*. Among other things he was co-creator of the film *in.clu.sion*, played Gordie Hull in the award-winning heist comedy *OOPS!* and performed in the Peggy Baker choreographed *Geometry of the Circle* at the Vancouver Olympiad and Abilities Festival, 2011.

Jeryn Daly (Stage Manager) A recent Trent University graduate, Jeryn has worked professionally for almost four years in the world of theatre. Although she dabbles in everything from acting to writing to designing, stage management is her first love. Past credits include ASM for Yvonne Chartrand and Maria Campbell's *Gabriel's Crossing*, ASM for Indigenous Performance Initiatives' *Anishinaabe Maanjiidwin IX and X*, SM for the Classic's Drama Group's production of Euripides's *Helen* and SM for Rulan Tangen's *Zhisodewe* and *Gaabinjigabaa'aang*. This is Jeryn's first time working with Picasso PRO.

Wanda Fitzgerald (Ensemble) is a playwright and actor, was President of Glenvale Players and studied theatre at York University and Seneca College. She performed in *OOPS!* (SummerWorks, 2006) and has had plays produced for New Ideas with Alumnae Theatre. Wanda directed and acted in the feature indie film, *Bad Wine*, performed in *The Dispute*, (Picasso PRO

2007), and produced her play *Common Criminals* in collaboration with Ryerson's Live Describe Team, 2008. She is an Access consultant, has participated in Picasso PRO programs since 2004 and maintains an arts and access blog, "Access Fitz."

Durelle Harford-McAllister (Ensemble) has participated in Picasso PRO workshops and performance pieces. for the past 5 years. She studied with Dora Mavor Moore at New Play Society, has a Masters in Drama and spent most of her career working as a teacher developing performances with students and other teachers. She is also an actor and member of ACT 2 STUDIO . Picasso Pro has given her the opportunity to be involved in her particular community working towards accessibility for both performers and audiences. She is proud to be involved in this movement piece.

Rose Jacobson (Artistic Principal) was Cross Cultural Director and founder of disability-arts programs and services at the Toronto Theatre Alliance, 1993-2003 before launching Picasso PRO as a long-term art-driven performing/media arts project in 2004. Related advocacy initiatives include a Disability-Arts Summit between artists and funders/ASO's supported by the Canada Council (CCA) Equity Office 2005, REAC Advisor/CCA 2006-07 to bring disability arts perspectives to the table; co-authored a research paper on Deaf and disability arts with Geoff McMurchy 2011 (see: CCA website). Rose is a graduate of the Bezalel Academy of Art & Design in Jerusalem (1978). She spent the first twenty years of her professional career as a painter, installation artist and instructor before making a lateral shift into the performing arts.

Walter Maclean (Percussionist) has studied percussion, congas and bongos, traditional hand drums and fusion-drum kit with renown musicians Nippy Noya in Holland, Adja Addy in Ghana and Rick Gratton in Toronto. He toured and recorded throughout Europe with such groups as Black Gospel Pearls, Oloye, Tony Hurdle Septet, and more while he was living in Berlin. In 1995 Walter came to Canada where he was able to perform, record and tour with a variety of artists from different genre's such as jazz, blues, reggae, funk and traditional African music. He has performed at the African Guitar Summit, the Winnipeg Folk Festival and the Hillside Festival to name a few. Walter is currently a member of the Creole Drummatix – the musical ensemble of Ballet Creole and regularly performs with Donne Robert and Tikisa. Walter teaches percussion workshops in schools and drumkit at the "Awesome Academy of Music" in Toronto.

Anna MacLean (Ensemble) is delighted to be part of Picasso PRO's Talking Movement Project. She loves exploring dance and theatre as grounds for learning, community building and personal growth. Hailing from Nova

Scotia, Anna was an active member of Halifax's vibrant theatre community, taught dance and drama at Neptune Theatre School, and has a degree in Theatre Studies from Dalhousie University. Dancing is her life-long passion: www.dancefoodforthesoul.com.

Heryka Miranda (Ensemble) is a dance artist and community worker whose approach is deeply founded in sacred dance, indigenous spirituality, expressive arts and dance/movement therapies. She is delighted to be collaborating with Picasso Pro as a dancer and body work consultant. Her experiences with Picasso Pro have been an essential part of building her confidence and capacity as a professional dance/theatre artist and choreographer. Heryka is co-founder and artistic director of *ReVeAL* Dance Creation – an integrated dance and performance-based collective for people with mixed abilities in Toronto.

Peter Owusu-Ansah (Ensemble) was born in Ghana, attended Scarborough Training Centre and George Brown College; in 2005 Pete began his association with Shakespeare Link Canada/UK, which is moving towards a Deaf/hearing production of *Romeo & Juliet*. Pete has been a core artist with Picasso PRO since 2006; he performed the role of the Prince in ASL in Picasso PRO's production of *The Dispute* June 2007. Pete was recipient of an Unsung Heroes Award, City of Toronto, December 2010 and is also an avid painter, photographer and videographer.

Miriam Rother (Choreographer) is a Canadian born, Israeli trained dancer, choreographer and teacher. Since 1975 she has worked in Canada, Israel, Malawi, Thailand, Hungary, Switzerland and Kenya. In 2000 and 2001 she directed two dance/physical theatre pieces for Picasso PRO: *E.merge(n)cy*, performed in SummerWorks in Toronto 2000, and *Hold on Me*, a revue with seven performers presented at the KickstART Festival, Vancouver 2001. From 1999 to 2004 Miriam lived in Geneva Switzerland where she co-founded Danse-Habile, an inclusive dance company and non-profit disability-arts association. After three and a half years in Kenya she returned to Geneva and served as Danse-Habile's artistic and general director. During her stay in Nairobi, Miriam founded and was the first artistic director of Pamoja Dance Group, an inclusive company of 11 dancers living with disability and three non-disabled dancers. Miriam now divides her time between Africa, Europe, Toronto and Israel where she is involved in integrated work in the cross-cultural sphere. www.pamojadance.org; www.danse-habile.ch

Jenelle Rouse (Ensemble) is a teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing children in London, Ontario, with a Bachelor of Education/OISE, Honours BA from York and a specialized Deaf Teaching Diploma from York (2006-2008) She

has been involved with Picasso PRO's movement-based work since 2006 including Master Classes with Josette Bushell-Mingo In January 2012 she attended the International Association of Blacks in Dance Conference (IABD) hosted by Dance Immersions at the invitation of Vivine Scarlett who also provided ASL interpreters. Jenelle was the only Deaf participant at the conference.

Ali Saeedi (Ensemble) arrived in Canada in 2007 from Iran and has volunteered for two film projects both behind and in front of the camera while at George Brown College. He also participated in a Cross Cultural Acting Group which confirmed his acting, comedic and physical theatre potential. Ali has done some ASL script writing for OuterCreations and is eager to learn all facets of professional theatre and film practice. Ali joined Picasso PRO in 2010 and has been a leader in propelling our Deaf/hearing work forward.

Luka Sidaravicius (Ensemble) is Brazilian born and quite involved in the queer/trans "youth" arts scene in Toronto. He has done video (Inside Out 2007) and performed drag/theatre/spoken word at various venues and projects (Buddies in Bad Times, Hard and Able, LadyFest, Trigger Fest, Pride, Gladstone etc). Luka also writes and organizes events and performances nights. Luka has some dance experience with ballet; more recently, he danced as part of a project called *GenderPlay* with choreographer Kathleen Rea.

VERY SPECIAL THANKS

Luis Alcobia, Mayahuel Tecozautla, Eunji Kim, Wes Ryan, Shara Weaver, Barbara McDougall, Vivine Scarlett, Soheil Parsa, Hilary Buttrick, Grant Carmichael, Joanne Bigham; Kat Germain, Aaron Talbot, Kat Leonard, Rebecca Singh, William McQueen, Phil Pendry, Tara Everett, Erin Fremlin, Jini Stolk, Shana Hillman, Anahita Azrahimi and Creative Trust; Kazumi Tsuruoka and Windmill Line Co-op; Lindsay Woods and Lower Ossington Theatre [LOT]; Cody Neville and Ballet Jorgen; Fringe Festival Creation Lab, Angie Stillitano, Peter Fehlhaber, Michelle Alderson, Maytal Kowalski and Al Green Theatre; Harriet Wichin, Director of Programming MNjcc; Sanjay Shahani and Ontario Trillium Foundation; Elizabeth Sweeney, Sheila James, William Lau and the Canada Council for the Arts.

Music Credits

"Rise And Fall" composed by the group *Barasa and Friends* – Nairobi, Kenya
Craig Armstrong from the album "As If To Nothing"

ABOUT PICASSO PRO

Picasso PRO was formed to facilitate genuine opportunity and integration for artists with disabilities and Deaf artists in the performing and media arts. It springs from the passionate conviction that artists with disabilities and Deaf artists belong on Canada's stages and screens, among our audiences, professional staffs, teachers, cultural leaders and change makers. We offer fully accessible workshops, collaborative creation projects, strong artist support, exchange and skills development for, by and with Deaf artists, artists with disabilities and allied artists. We are equally intent on introducing other teachers, producers and directors to a contemporary vocabulary for change and direct artistic experience working in integrated and culturally specific environments.

Program Vision

Picasso PRO strives to act as an agent of social change. We utilize our pivotal role in connecting local, regional, national and international artists through activities that strengthen communities and practices in Ontario and Canada. We ground our activities in advocacy and a strong commitment to artists' creative, professional and human rights. We support professionalism and professional recognition for artists practicing within Deaf and disability arts.

Who Makes it Happen?

To do so, we work within an integrated network of arts practitioners—Deaf, hearing, with and without disabilities. A field of specialists, community leaders, professional and emerging artists, access experts and volunteers collaborate to design, research, create, instruct, advocate and undertake various aspects of our programming in cooperation with the Artistic Principal, artist associates of the collective and our advisors.

www.picassopro.org



MASTER CLASS WITH MIRIAM ROTHER

**in conjunction with our TALKING MOVEMENT performance,
November 11th**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH, 2012
2:00-5:00 PM**

**Windmill Line Co-op
121 Scadding Avenue
10th floor Recreation Room**

A small group of dance/movement practitioners interested in integrated and Deaf/disability-led dance have been invited to come together with members of the ensemble under Miriam's direction to share in our process and experience a taste of the way we create inclusive dance language and movement together. We hope that it will also lead to possibilities for future collaboration and exchange.

ASL Interpreters will be onsite and part of the process. Fully wheelchair accessible.

For enquiries, contact Rose Jacobson (jacobsonr@sympatico.ca)

**P!CASSO
PRO**



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