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Company Biographies

Susanna Hood (Choreographer/Performer)

Susanna Hood is a compelling and virtuosic performer in dance and music. She began her career as a member of the Toronto Dance Theatre from 1991 through 1995. Independently, she has performed the works of various Toronto choreographers, created singing/dancing roles with Autumn Leaf Performance, acted on film for filmmaker Philip Barker, created music for the dance works of Louis Laberge Coté, Rebecca Todd and Eryn Dace Trudell, collaborated extensively with composers John Oswald and Nilan Perera, and performed widely as an improviser both in dance and music. Her collaborative projects as well as her own choreography and music compositions have been presented throughout Toronto, nationally, and internationally on stage and in film since 1991. In the fall of 1998, she was one of two recipients of the **K.M. Hunter Emerging Artists Awards in Dance**. In June of 2006, Susanna received a **Dora Mavor Moore award** for Outstanding Performance in Dance for her performance in hum's latest creation, ***She's gone away***.

Nilan Perera (Composer/Musician)

In the past 19 years, Nilan Perera has been active in some of the most forward looking, influential and radical Canadian ensembles including NOMA, Bill Grove's Not King Fudge, Handslang and the Excalceolators. He has also performed and recorded with John Butcher, Evan Parker, Vinnie Golia, Don Preston, Mary Margaret O'Hara, Glen Hall, John Oswald, Sarah Peebles and Michael Ondaatje. His decade-long association with guitarist/composer and iconoclast Rainer Wiens has led him into the world of dance/theatre as composer/performer/instrumentalist with Wiens and Jan Komarek in Sound Image Theatre and, most recently, with Susanna Hood's **hum**.

Rebecca Picherack (Lighting Designer)

Rebecca Picherack designs lights for dance, theatre and installations. She has received eight Dora nominations and two awards for her work in independent theatre. Companies include DNA, Volcano, Tarragon, Factory, Theatre Passe Muraille, Theatre Centre, Mammalian Diving Reflex, Nightwood, Blyth Festival, Theatre Smith Gilmour, Nightswimming, Nation of Aslan, Moriah Productions, Mirvish Productions and Resurgence Theatre. In the dance community Rebecca has collaborated with Learie McNicholls, Michelle Sereda, Darryl Tracy and Heidi Strauss, Susanna Hood, Yvonne Ng, Hope Terry and Michael Du Maresq. Rebecca is also a director.

Lorenzo Savoini (Set Designer)

Most recently, Lorenzo designed the set and lighting for ***The Thirteenth One*** for the Blyth Festival and the set for ***Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*** for the Stratford Festival of Canada. He has numerous set, lighting and costume design credits with the Stratford Festival, Neptune Theatre, Theatre Aquarius, Theatrefront, and The Grand Theatre. He holds an MFA from UBC and undergraduate degree from the

University of Guelph, where he blended everyday elements with surreal touches on the mini-thrust stage.

Jennifer Tarver (Director)

Winner of the 2006 **Pauline McGibbon Award** and the 2002 **John Hirsch Directors Award**, Jennifer is an acclaimed Canadian director known for pushing the theatrical envelope. She has a passion for international scripts and has been directing, adapting, devising and independently producing new work in Toronto for the last seven years.

Jennifer is the founder and artistic director of Theatre Extasis: a physically based company focused on devised works and new adaptations of existing texts including the Dora nominated **History Play and Not Faust**. Her company's most recent work, **That Time** - a series of short plays by Samuel Beckett, was nominated for eight Dora Awards winning four of them including best director and best production. This season she will be directing **Thom Pain** at the Tarragon Theatre, Benjamin Britten's **The Rape of Lucretia** for the University of Toronto Opera department and Sarah Kane's **Crave** for Nightwood Theatre. Recent credits include, Benjamin Brittan's **A Midsummer Night's Dream** for the Royal Conservatory of Music and Susanna Hood's **She's Gone Away** at The Theatre Centre, **Love's Labour's Lost** (York University) **L'Enfant et les Sortilèges** by Ravel, **The Turn of the Screw** by Benjamin Brittan and Mozart's **The Magic Flute** (Royal Conservatory of Music), **Angels in America** (George Brown Theatre School), **The Zoo Story** (Summerworks) and **Echoes** (Queen of Puddings Music Theatre).

Jennifer is the Associate Director at the Theatre Centre, leading their new work development program.

Heather MacCrimmon (Costume Designer)

Heather MacCrimmon designs costumes for film, theatre and, primarily, contemporary dance. She is currently dividing her time between Toronto and Germany (where she works with Fabrik Potsdam). Among the many choreographers she has worked with, she frequently collaborates with Serge Bennathan (Dancemakers), Marie-Josée Chartier, Claudia Moore, Sarah Chase, Yvonne Ng, Julia Sasso, Heidi Strauss, and Susanna Hood.

Her film credits include *The Uncles*, directed by Jim Allodi and Phillip Barker's *Soul Cages*. Her theatre highlights include working England's Theatre de Complicité (*The Chairs*) and the clown duo Mump and Smoot.

Katherine Duncanson (Outside Eye/Ear)

Interdisciplinary artist Katherine Duncanson is involved in the creation and performance of dance, music and theatre with an ever expanding array of dance artists, theatre artists, performance artists, visual artists, writers, musicians and clowns, and has been a member of the interdisciplinary collective, Urge, since 1995.

Currently creating a body of solo work that integrates text, extended voice, movement and song, Katherine also enjoys her work as a music educator, voice teacher, creative facilitator and yoga instructor.