

November 17, 2021

For Immediate Release:



149 Arts Society

**DanceHouse and 149 Arts Society Present**

**NEXT: New Dance in Development**

**Residency & Live Stream Sharing of Works in Progress from Emerging Canadian Creatives**

**December 15 at 4:00pm PT**

(Vancouver, B.C.) – DanceHouse and 149 Arts Society, with support from the National Arts Centre (NAC), have come together to envision a project in direct support of the dance community. On December 15, 2021, that vision will be presented virtually as **NEXT: New Dance in Development** – a residency and live stream sharing of works in progress from five emerging Canadian choreographers. Tickets are free and the presentation can be viewed from across Canada at 4:00pm PT, 5:00pm MT, 7:00pm ET, and 8:00pm AT at <https://dancehouse.ca/event/next-new-dance-in-development/>.

Through **NEXT: New Dance in Development**, these emerging creatives – **All Bodies Dance Project artists romham pàdraig gallacher** and **Lance Lim, Shion Skye Carter, Ralph Escamillan, and Zahra Shahab** – have been offered two weeks (November 29-December 13) of shared development time in the Fei and Milton Wong Experimental Theatre at SFU Goldcorp Centre for the Arts, a state-of-the-art theatre. Residency time includes access to technicians and all technical gear on site, allowing artists to begin experimenting with theatre resources which they would not easily have access to in the studio. Following the development period, artists will gather on Wednesday, December 15 at 4:00pm PT for a 75-minute, live stream sharing of their works in progress. Everyone is invited to join the live stream as we witness new works beginning to unfold, catching a glimpse into the next generation of contemporary dance in Canada.

**NEXT** has been made possible with support from Canadian Heritage through their COVID-19 support measure, *Canada Arts Presentation Fund Program, Support for Workers in Live Arts and Music Sector Fund*. Through this unique funding stream, the three partnering organizations have generated contracts with over 30 arts workers, choreographers and collaborators from across Canada, including dancers, designers, composers, technicians, and production and administrative personnel. And for many of these creatives, **NEXT** will be one of the first times they are back in the studio and back in the theatre developing new work since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

The **NEXT: New Dance in Development** emerging artists are:

#### [All Bodies Dance Project](#)

All Bodies Dance Project (ABDP) is an inclusive dance company located on the unceded territory of the Musqueam, Skwxwú7mesh, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. In our work, differences are regarded as creative strengths as we explore the choreographic possibilities of diverse ways of moving and perceiving. Our work straddles between labels of community-engaged and professional practice. We aim to dismantle assumptions, biases and default notions around contemporary dance, the theatre, and the dancing body. We offer accessible and inclusive dance classes for people of all abilities, genders, and backgrounds.

- [romham pàdraig gallacher](#) is an interdisciplinary artist who's been dancing/performing/scheming/creating with the ABDP since 2014. For romham, ABDP is an ongoing process of exploring the peripheries of their ever-changing

body; learning what new/awkward/beautiful creations and connections we can make with our tangled/disagreeable/inconvenient dancing bodies.

- [Lance Lim](#) is a disabled interdisciplinary artist who grew up in Strathcona, and his original movement background came from studying martial arts and Wu Shu. Lance joined ABDP in 2016 and performed in *TRACE*. He continues to be an active member of his local community and is passionate about dance, movement for everyone, and creating community dance.

### [Shion Skye Carter](#)

Shion Skye Carter is a dance artist originally from Tajimi, Japan, and is based in Vancouver, Canada, on the unceded, ancestral, and occupied traditional lands of the Coast Salish peoples. Through choreography hybridized with calligraphy, video and sculptural objects, her work celebrates the intersection of her ethnographic and queer identities in connection with her heritage. As co-founder of *olive theory*, an interdisciplinary duo with musician [Stefan Nazarevich](#), Shion collaborates to experiment at the intersection between embodied performance, installation art, and live sound.

### [Ralph Escamillan](#)

Ralph Escamillan is a queer, Canadian-Filipinx performance artist, choreographer, and teacher based on the unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh, and Səl̓ílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh Nations. He has trained in a breadth of dance styles such as Street, Commercial, and Contemporary – and has worked and toured with Company 605, Co. Erasga Dance, Kinesis Dance Somatheatro and Out Innerspace Theatre, apprenticed with Kidd Pivot (2014) and guest dancer for Ballet BC (2020). He is currently working with Wen Wei Dance and Mascal Dance. His second full length work, 'whip', premiered at MAI (Montréal, arts interculturels) early November 2021, and is in the process of developing a new work 'Piña' that draws inspiration from the traditional Philippine textile it is named after and the cultural significance surrounding it.

### [Zahra Shahab](#)

Zahra Shahab is an independent dance artist and choreographer living on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded Coast Salish territory of the Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and Səl̓ílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tseil-Waututh), and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nations. She is a graduate of the University of Calgary School of Creative and Performing Arts as well as the Modus Operandi Contemporary Dance Training Program. She has presented choreographic work and experimental films in Calgary at the Fluid Festival, Calgary Underground Film Festival, University of Calgary, and Alberta Dance Festival; in Vancouver at Dance in Vancouver, The Dance Centre's 12 minute max, Shooting Gallery Performance, Festival of Recorded Movement, PushOFF, and New Works Performance; Toronto at the Toronto Dance Theatre's Emerging Voices Program; and Mexico City's Movimiento en Movimiento.

**Media are invited to download artist images [here](#).**

For more information on **NEXT: New Dance in Development**, please visit <https://dancehouse.ca/event/next-new-dance-in-development/>.

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### **DanceHouse**

DanceHouse connects Vancouver audiences and the local arts community to the international world of dance by presenting exceptional companies that are recognized for their excellence, innovation, and international reputation. Since 2008, DanceHouse has presented vibrant and inspiring companies from Canada and around the world, in addition to offering a suite of engagement activities offering opportunities for members of the general public and the local artistic community to engage with the presented artists and their work. DanceHouse is proud to support NEXT and the work of emerging Canadian choreographers, whom we may see on future national and international stages. [www.dancehouse.ca](http://www.dancehouse.ca)

### **149 Arts Society**

Since 2010, 149 Arts Society has supported the growth of Vancouver's professional arts community through provocative and innovative co-presentations, and production of the annual emerging artist festival LAUNCH. Partnering with NEXT is an exciting

extension of the society’s mission to directly support emerging artists, and a unique opportunity within our present cultural landscape. 149 Arts Society makes its home at the SFU Goldcorp Centre for the Arts, working in complement to other dynamic programming throughout the space. SFU's mission is to be Canada's leading engaged university, defined by its dynamic integration of innovative education, cutting edge research, and far-reaching community engagement. 149 Arts has translated this cultural mission into arts programming with financial and staff support from SFU Woodward’s Cultural Programs. [www.sfu.ca/woodwards-cultural-programs/support-us/149-arts-society.html](http://www.sfu.ca/woodwards-cultural-programs/support-us/149-arts-society.html)

### **National Arts Centre | Dance**

The National Arts Centre is Canada’s foremost showcase for the performing arts, and the only multidisciplinary, bilingual performing arts centre in North America. We present, create, produce, and co-produce in various streams — Dance, the NAC Orchestra, English Theatre, French Theatre, Indigenous Theatre, and Popular Music and Variety — and we nurture the next generation of audiences and artists from across Canada and abroad. NAC Dance presents an ongoing season of Canadian and international works, co-produces and commissions works from Canadian and international artists, and plans outreach and education activities with local and visiting artists. [www.nac-cna.ca/en/dance](http://www.nac-cna.ca/en/dance)



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