

## **Presenters' bios**

Originally from Toronto, **Naomi Brand** spent ten years dancing in Calgary, before relocating to unceded Coast Salish Territory (Vancouver) in 2013. She holds both a BA and an MFA from the University of Calgary and a DanceAbility teaching certificate from founder Alito Alessi. As a performer, choreographer, writer and facilitator Naomi has cultivated a unique artistic practice that spans work with professional dancers to community-engaged practice with diverse populations.

She has danced in the works of many respected Canadian choreographers and her own choreography which ranges from works as a soloist, to large group ensemble pieces have been featured in numerous venues and festivals across Canada as well as in Poland, Italy and Uruguay.

In 2014, Naomi co-founded Vancouver's All Bodies Dance Project, an inclusive dance company that celebrates the artistic potential of difference. In recent years her practice has been focused on values of access and inclusion as she strives to make dance within a context that both creates and speaks to community connection.

Naomi is the recipient of numerous grants from the Canada Council for the Arts, BC Art Council, Alberta Foundation for the Arts, the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada, as well as the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Emerging Artist Award.

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**Lindsay Eales** studies, choreographs, and performs integrated dance, as well as crip Mad video and performance art. As a founder and former co-artistic director of CRIPSiE, she has spent the last thirteen years creating vibrant movement communities that prioritize the generative possibilities of madness, disability, and queerness. Lindsay recently completed a PhD on Mad performance and anti-oppressive trauma-informed movement practices. Lindsay's artistic and research interests emerge from her lifelong passion for dance, her training as a certified occupational therapist, her experiences with madness, and her involvement in communities of activism and social justice.

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**Danielle Peers** is a community organizer, an artist, and an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation at the University of Alberta. Danielle uses critical disability and poststructuralist theories to study disability movement cultures: from the Paralympics, to inclusive recreation, to disability arts. Their research builds on their experiences as a Paralympian, a filmmaker, and a dancer with CRIPSiE (Collaborative Radically Integrated Performers Society in Edmonton). Danielle is the Director of the Media in Motion Lab, which supports creative methods for producing and sharing knowledges about human bodies in motion.

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*Disrupting the Norm*  
*The Thomas Poulsen Symposium on Disability and Mixed Ability Performing Arts*

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**Harmanie Taylor** is a disabled dance artist living and working on the unceded territory of the Musqueam, Sḵwx̱wú7mesh, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, also known as Vancouver, BC. She began her dance journey in 2006 on the Treaty 6 territory known as Edmonton, AB. She co-founded iDance Edmonton in 2008, which later became known as CRIPSiE, before relocating to BC. Since 2014, Harmanie has worked as a performer, choreographer, and facilitator for the award-winning All Bodies Dance Project and in 2019 as a facilitator for Ready Dance: an All Bodies Youth Project. She has created three outdoor, site-specific pieces for Vines Art Festival as well as performed in Dance in Vancouver (DiV), and Dancing on the Edge (DOTE). Watch her in three dance films including world-renowned, dance artist Alice Sheppard's *Inclinations* and Carolina Bergonzoni's *Ho.Me*. Harmanie recently participated in UCLA's inaugural Dancing Disability Lab, which aims to answer questions around the culture and aesthetics of disabled dance. Inclusive, community-engaged dance and ensemble improvisation are at the core of her practice.

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**Inside Out** is Calgary's deaf and disability theatre company equally invested in artistic excellence, community development, and deepening our cultures' accessibility. Debbie, Erin, and Paul are Inside Out Theatre's 2019/20 Visiting Artist Ensemble.