

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

Friday, November 1, 2019

1–1:30 p.m.	Registration (Reeve Lobby)
1:30–4:30 p.m.	<p>Workshop #1: <i>Affirming Disability and 'Mental Illness' in the Performing Arts: Creating more accessible, affirming, and trauma-informed practices in rehearsal and performance</i> with Lindsay Eales and Danielle Peers</p> <p>In this workshop, participants will learn about how to create more accessible, trauma-informed, and affirming rehearsals and performances.</p> <p>The instructors will draw on their experiences as queer non-binary dancers who experience disability and madness (sometimes referred to as “mental illness”). They will share practices that have made their experiences of rehearsal spaces safer, more accessible and more affirming, such as: trauma-informed practices (e.g. consent, choice, and collaboration); collective space agreements; access practices; practices that center 'difference' as a site of creativity and generativity; and an introduction to addressing trauma and harm. They will also offer exercises to develop skills in these areas.</p>
4:30–6 p.m.	Break
6 p.m.	Welcome with Poulsen Family, Dance Chair and Director of SCPA
6:15 p.m.	<p>Keynote Talk & Performance: <i>Creating Possibilities: Dancing with Disability and Madness</i></p> <p>In this keynote talk/performance, Lindsay Eales and Danielle Peers dance a quartet with disability and madness (sometimes called 'mental illness').</p> <p>They draw together critical disability studies and Mad theory, spoken word, dance, participatory performance art, and film. They weave these forms into reflections on: representations of disability and madness in the arts; barriers and access to arts education and professional practice; 'integrated/mixed-ability' dance; and the creative possibilities of affirming disability and madness in the performing arts.</p>
7:30–8:30 p.m.	Video Showings

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Saturday, November 2, 2019

10–11:30 a.m.	Workshop #2: <i>The Individual in The Collective</i> Join Inside Out Theatre's visiting artists Debbie Patterson (Winnipeg), Erin Ball (Kingston) and Paul Power (St. John's) as they explore their techniques for devising ensemble-based work while highlighting and championing each individual artists unique strengths and perspectives.
11:30 a.m.–12 p.m.	Break
12:30–4:30 p.m.	Workshop #3: <i>Choreographing Difference</i> <i>Naomi Brand and Harmanie Taylor from Vancouver.</i> In this workshop we will explore improvisational scores and tasks in order to build dances that celebrate our unique ways of moving and perceiving. We will collaborate to create choreography that mines the artistic potential of our differences.
4:45–5:45 p.m.	Panel Discussion: <i>Artists' Perspectives</i> with Adam Bell Catering provided
6–7:30 p.m.	Social & Jam