

très loin

October 11 - 14 at 8pm

October 14 - 15 at 2pm

Theatre Centre, Tkaronto

Dedicated to the memory of
Phil Strong



BOUCHARDDANSE

Sierra Chin Sawdy in *très loin* by Sylvie Bouchard. Photo by Sean Rees. Courtesy of Arts Orillia.

très loin



Choreographer	Sylvie Bouchard
Visual Installation	Ed Pien
Composer and Sound Designer	Phil Strong
Music Consultant	Laurel MacDonald
Dramaturg	Anne-Marie Donovan
Lighting Designer	André du Toit
Costume Designer	Cheryl Lalonde
Performers	Sierra Chin Sawdy, Sully Malaeb Proulx, Raelyn Metcalfe and Pulga Muchochoma
Understudy	Michael Mortley
Technical Director	Remington North
Associate Technical Director	Geoffrey Armour
Stage Manager	Jeff Soucy
Assistant Stage Manager	Patrick Lynn
Production Manager	Markéta Ťoková
Assistant Production Manager	Melanie Hall

Performers who contributed to the creation of très loin: Michael Caldwell, Luke Garwood, Molly Johnson, Benjamin Landsberg, Natasha Poon Woo, Lucy Rupert and Meredith Thompson

Length: 65 minutes

Minimum recommended age: 13+

Topics of mental health and healing are explored.

Audience warning:

This production uses haze.

Floral / herbal sachets distributed during the performance contain chamomile flower, lemongrass leaf, rose petals, rosehip, catmint, calendula flower, lemon peel, lavender ultra-blue, ginger root and ashwagandha root.

About *très loin*

très loin is a visual and kinesthetic installation created in collaborative partnership. The piece marries dance, visual art and sound to explore dissociation, roads to recovery from childhood trauma and the search for resilience. It looks closely at how our mind and body deal with the consequences of trauma, but most importantly, it portrays the incredible strength, courage and perseverance needed to surmount these experiences and to reintegrate parts of ourselves that get lost, or split off, when traumatic experiences take place.

très loin invites the audiences into a unique and sensory-filled art installation, an ethereal landscape where four divided parts are striving, with all their might, to become whole again.

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BoucharDanse would like to acknowledge and deeply thank **Arts Orillia** for the **Dance & Design** residency in January 2023, where important development of *très loin* took place.

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BoucharDanse would like to sincerely thank **le Théâtre français de Toronto** for their financial support towards the premiere and the performances of *très loin*.



BoucharDanse would like to thank Mary Kiervin and her family and Michael Duschenes and Michelle Hjort for opening their homes and hosting *très loin* dramaturg Anne-Marie Donovan during this and past creation and rehearsal periods. Your support means a lot to us!

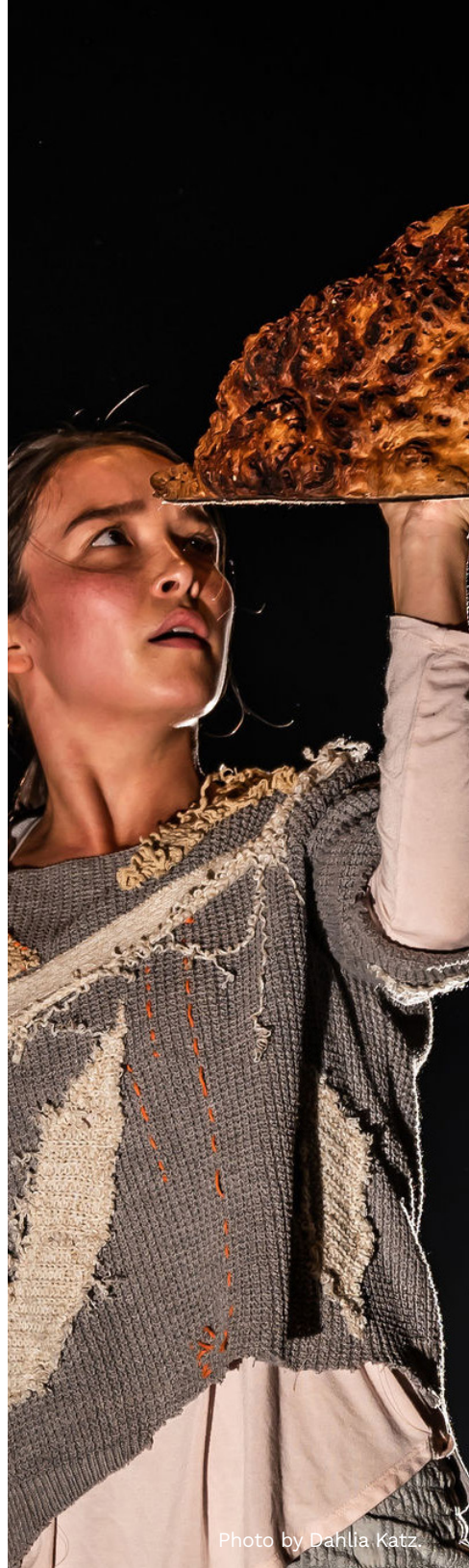


Photo by Dahlia Katz

Biographies of collaborators



Sylvie Bouchard / Choreographer

Sylvie Bouchard (elle/she/her) is originally from Montréal, where she began her dance training. She joined Toronto Dance Theatre in 1985 and performed nationally and internationally with them for five years. Sylvie worked closely with many choreographers including Denise Fujiwara, Gerry Trentham, the late Tedd Robinson, Lina Cruz, Yvonne Coutts, Susie Burpee, Marie-Josée Chartier, Sashar Zarif, Serge Bennathan, Peggy Baker and Roger Sinha. Sylvie regularly performs with Fujiwara Dance Inventions and pounds per square inch, and has performed with Kaeja d'Dance, Winnipeg Contemporary Dancers and Dancemakers. Throughout her artistic career, Sylvie Bouchard has continued to forge original concepts in both the creation and the presentation of dance. In 1993, she created Dusk Dances, a festival that presents dance in public parks. In 1997 she formed the company CORPUS with artistic partner David Danzon. Between 1997 and 2008, Sylvie co-created eight works with Danzon that toured nationally and internationally in street theatre festivals, on stage and in schools. In 2009, Sylvie formed BoucharDanse, a company that serves as an umbrella for her artistic endeavors. She co-created and performed in the popular series *Four Square* at Tree House TV. Sylvie is the recipient of the 2009 KM Hunter Artists Award in Dance.



Ed Pien / Visual Installation

Ed Pien is a Canadian artist based in Toronto. Born in Taipei, Taiwan, he immigrated to Canada with his family at the age of eleven. Pien has shown extensively, both nationally and internationally, in venues that include the Drawing Centre, NYC; the Victoria & Albert Museum, London; The Canadian Culture Centre in Paris; The Goethe Institute in Berlin; The Art Gallery of Greater Victoria; Musée des beaux arts, Montreal; Musée d'art contemporain, Montreal; Songzhuang Art Centre, Beijing; the National Art Gallery of Canada; as well as Oboro. He participated in the 2000 and 2002 Montreal Biennales; the 18th Edition of the Sydney Biennale, "Oh Canada", at MASS MoCA. His work is collected widely and includes FRAC Lorraine, Metz, France; Art Gallery of Greater Victoria; The National Art Gallery of Canada; Art Gallery of Ontario; Musée d'art contemporain de Montreal; Musée des beaux arts, Montreal; Mendel Art Gallery; Weatherspoon Art Museum, University Of North Carolina, Greensboro, North Carolina; as well as other institutions and private collections.

www.edpien.com





Phil Strong / Composer and Sound Designer

Phil Strong was an award-winning sound designer and composer based in Toronto - working in film, dance, theatre, audio plays, musical performance and art installation. A long-time collaborator with BoucharDanse, Phil also composed major commissions for artistic directors Christopher House, Denise Fujiwara, Matjash Mrowzewski, Moze Mossanen, and Karen & Allen Kaeja - amongst others. He assisted artists John Oswald and Heather Nicol in the creation of some of their masterworks and also designed sound and music for installations by Sara Angelucci, Su Rynard, Kent Monkman and Ed Burtynsky. Phil had a hand in producing numerous music albums and film soundtracks and he sang in the Georgian vocal ensemble, Darbazi. Phil passed away on December 2, 2022.



Laurel MacDonald / Music Consultant

Laurel MacDonald is a singer and composer based in Toronto, Canada. She has released several CDs and has performed extensively, most recently in the dance productions *SDX* (Kaeja d'Dance) and *Moving Parts* (Fujiwara Dance Inventions). Along with her creative partner Phil Strong, Laurel has composed the music for many film productions, including the dance films *Kitchen Dances* (Kaeja d'Dance) and *Love Learn Listen* (Fujiwara Dance Inventions), and for the film documentary *You Are Here*, directed by Moze Mossanen for Bell Media/HBO. Laurel is soon to start work recording her next solo album *I Eat the Stars*, but in the meantime, she is delighted to be working with the wonderful creative team for *très loin*.



Anne-Marie Donovan / Dramaturg

Anne-Marie Donovan is an interdisciplinary performance director, performer and creator, originally from Montreal. Creations: *Maanomaa, My Brother*, co-created with Tawiah M'Carthy and Brad Cook (2023 Blue Bird Theatre Collective and Canadian Stage); *Phaedra 101*, co-created with Isabella Stefanescu and Kim Jernigan (2020 Inter Arts Matrix, Saint John, NB); *Frankenstein's Ghosts* (2011 Blue Rider Ensemble/Inter Arts Matrix, Montreal); *The Last 15 Seconds* (2009 collective creation, MT Space, Kitchener); and *Sounding Rituals* (2007 Open Ears Festival, Kitchener). Anne-Marie is the founder of Inter Arts Matrix and recipient of a Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award at University of Waterloo. Anne-Marie currently has three new works in development: *Les racines de la rage*, *Dear Euripides* and *The Walking Project*.

www.annemariendonovan.ca





André du Toit / Lighting Designer

André du Toit is a lighting designer for live performance based in Toronto, although his designs have been seen across Canada and beyond. His recent designs include *Lady M* (1S1 Theatre); *Maanomaa, My Brother, Love and Information* (Canadian Stage); *Prince Hamlet, What You Won't Do For Love* (Why Not Theatre); *Broken Shapes* (Theatre Centre); *on air* (Adelheid dance); *The Cave, Le Grand Continental* (Luminato); *R+J* (Stratford Festival of Canada); *Getting Married, The Orchard* (Shaw Festival); *The Queen in Me* (Canadian Opera Company / Nightwood Theatre / Theatre Gargantua); *Now You See Her, Mouthpiece* (Quote Unquote Collective); *Oraltorio* (Obsidian / Soulpepper); *Jerusalem* (Outside the March / Company Theatre); *Animal Farm, A Delicate Balance, Vimy, The 39 Steps* (Soulpepper); *Italian Mime Suicide, Paolozzapedia, The Double* (Bad New Days). He has received five Dora Mavor Moore Awards for Outstanding Lighting Design.



Cheryl Lalonde / Costume Designer

Born and raised in Toronto, Cheryl Lalonde now resides in the paradise known as the Madawaska Valley. Leaving the city during the pandemic created an opportunity for Cheryl to begin exploring creative avenues of a more personal nature including quilting, felt work, knitting, and chickenology. She has returned to the city for only a few projects to work with artists she feels particularly attached to and feels an uncommon connection to Sylvie and her work. Having collaborated with Sylvie since the early days of BoucharDanse, she is delighted to be sending this lovely work, *très loin* into the final phase of creation. Other recent collaborators include Lina Cruz (Fila 13), Natasha Powell (Holla Jazz), Jennifer Dallas (Kemi), and Andrea Nann (Dreamwalker).



Sierra Chin Sawdy / Performer

Sierra Chin Sawdy is an independent dance artist and arts educator based in Tkaronto. Since graduating from Toronto Metropolitan University's BFA Dance program, she has had the opportunity to work and perform with Alysa Pires Dance Projects, BoucharDanse, Brodie Stevenson, Citadel + Compagnie, Dancetheatre David Earle, Dusk Dances, Emma Kerson, Hanna Kiel, Peggy Baker Dance Projects, Aria Evans/Political Movement, Tiger Princess Dance Projects, and Toronto Heritage Dance. She has toured throughout Canada, China, Europe, Mexico and the UAE. To further develop her abilities, Sierra has trained across Canada, the United States, Israel, and Italy, working and creating with world-renowned artists.





Sully Malaeb Proulx / Performer

Sully Malaeb Proulx (he/they) is a French Canadian-Lebanese freelance dance artist based in Toronto. An alum of the Conservatory of Dance at SUNY Purchase, Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre, London Contemporary Dance School, and Springboard Danse Montréal, Sully has had the utter privilege of performing works, locally and abroad, by artists from near and far. They are thrilled to be working with Sylvie and BoucharDanse on this newest iteration of *très loin*.



Raelyn Metcalfe / Performer

Raised in Vancouver and based in Toronto, Raelyn is a woman of mixed-race Plains Cree from Saskatchewan and settler heritage. In 2017 Raelyn had the pleasure to work with Aria Evans, Artistic Director of Political Movement where she performed *Voice Of A Nation*, commissioned by the Toronto Concert Orchestra. In 2019 Raelyn had the honour to work with Michael Greyeyes, Santee Smith and Reneltha Arluk at The Banff Centre for Performing Arts. Reconnecting with her Indigenous roots, Raelyn performed as a dancer at the 2018 Indspire Awards along with Santee Smith, the founding Artistic Director of Kaha:wi Dance Theatre. She has recently completed the 2021-22 tour of the production *The Mush Hole* with Kaha:wi Dance Theatre. In 2023, Raelyn got to work under the direction of Sylvie Bouchard, Artistic Director of BoucharDanse in the Dance & Design residency at the Orillia Opera House. She is a recipient of the 2020 Dora Award for Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble for *The Mush Hole*. Following her passion, she is a dedicated dance artist who wishes to continue her inspiration for others.



Pulga Muchochoma / Performer

Pulga Muchochoma was born in Mozambique where his dance career and training began with Montes Namuli Dance Company. In 2006 he came to Toronto with the company for the International AIDS Conference. He later stayed in Toronto to study at The School of Toronto Dance Theatre. In 2009 he joined the company (TDT) under Artistic Director Christopher House where he worked for 11 seasons with the company. During his time with TDT he had the pleasure of working and collaborating with a lot of well-known local and international choreographers. He is a co-founder of 3+ Collective and he's also the creator and founder of Pulga Dance which focuses on self-solo creations and traditional African Dances since 2015.





Michael Mortley / Understudy

Michael Mortley graduated from the university of Trinidad and Tobago in 2015. He attended Beijing Dance Academy from 2015 to 2016. When he first arrived in Canada, he worked with KasheDance and performed in *Re: Imagining TPM* in April 2018. He also worked with Cultural Pluralism in the Arts Movement Ontario (CPAMO) at *The Gathering* in 2018, 2019 and 2020. Michael has had the pleasure of working for Wind In the Leaves Collective on the *Searching for Eastman* project as a dancer and collaborator in the creation of that full length work. He worked with Ronald Taylor Dance on a project entitled *Psychosis* in June 2019 and then again in October 2019 for Rendezvous with Madness festival as a dancer and costume designer. Michael travelled to Winnipeg and New Brunswick respectively to perform in NAFRO Dance Presents: Moving Inspirations Dance Festival with KasheDance and Impact Festival by Atlantic Ballet with Wind In the Leaves collective. Michael is a photographer for Ronald Taylor Dance, as well as other noted dance companies. He does social media and administrative work as well.



Jeff Soucy / Stage Manager

Native from Atholville (New Brunswick) and living in Toronto, Jeff is a bilingual stage manager with a creative and performance background. He has also served as associate director, dramaturg, casting assistant, script supervisor, fight captain, and more. He is the recipient of the Governor General's Medal and the Triple Threat Award from Randolph College where he studied acting, voice and dance. Stage management credits include: *Sharing the Stage* (National Ballet), *The Effect* (Coal Mine Theatre), *Mamma Mia!* (Tweed & Co), *Le club des éphémère* (TfT), *très loin* (BoucharDanse), *Sweeney Todd*, *She Visits*, *Pal Joey* (TIFT), and *Heroine* (TNB). @jeff_yourstagemanager



Patrick Lynn / Assistant Stage Manager

Patrick Lynn (they/them/iel) is a queer performance professional living in Toronto, working primarily as a freelance production manager and stage manager for dance, theatre, and live events. Having grown up in Fredericton, NB, they moved in 2017 to pursue their BFA, Performance: Production at TMU. They are fluent in English and French and enjoy working bilingually. They have been privileged to work with such companies as: 1S1, Aluna Theatre, ARC, BoucharDanse, Buddies in Bad Times, Factory Theatre, Théâtre français de Toronto, Transcen|Dance Project, and more.





Remington North / Technical Director

Remington North is a career Technical Director and Production Manager based out of Toronto, Canada. He derives his professional mandate from the word facilitate via the Latin facile (easily). Making art is hard and Remington endeavours to make it easier for those working through their craft. Having opened 2 of Toronto's prominent mid-sized venues, The Theatre Centre and Crow's Theatre, Remington strives to represent not just the technical labourers that make this art possible but the houses they take place in. Remington has worked with J Mar Electric, Necessary Angel, Crow's Theatre, The Theatre Centre, Volcano Theatre, YES! Theatre, Why Not Theatre, Against the Grain, and many other companies in the GTA. He's pleased to be here with BoucharDanse and looking forward to the future offerings of Live Performance in Canada.



Geoffrey Armour / Associate Technical Director

Geoffrey Armour is a multidisciplinary artist and theatre maker. Based out of Toronto, you will find him working as an Actor, Director, Musician, Adjudicator, Workshop leader, Carpenter, Technician, Production Manager and Technical Director. He is newly returned from the Blyth Festival Theatre's performance of the James Reaney *Donnelly Trilogy* this summer and will be hitting the road to Winnipeg this October as the Technical Director of Factory Theatre's *The Waltz*. This is Geoffrey's first work with BoucharDanse and he had a wonderful time preparing the space for *très loin*. He would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the technicians whose literal blood and sweat went into building the room you see before you and also to the creative team who have given incredible support and thoughtfulness to all of the design elements you see. Enjoy.



Markéta Ťoková / Production Manager & Producer

Markéta Ťoková (she/her), currently based in Toronto, is a dance producer and a general manager for BoucharDanse, Dusk Dances and Arzoo Dance Theatre. Markéta is originally from the Czech Republic. She has gained extensive experience working with not-for-profit organizations and corporate businesses in the Czech Republic, Belgium and Canada. Her passion for the arts has eventually led her to the arts sector where she honed her skills in the arts administration, event production and financial management. In 2022, Markéta did a mentorship with Meredith Potter at the Peggy Baker Dance Projects.





Melanie Hall / Assistant Production Manager

Meet Melanie Hall, a Toronto-based stage manager and production manager qui passe son temps switching back and forth de l'anglais to French. With over 10 years of stage management experience, her credits include: Théâtre du Nouvel-Ontario, Théâtre la Catapulte, Sheatre, BoucharDanse, Dusk Dances, Théâtre français de Toronto, Perchance Theatre, Pride Toronto, the Toronto District School Board, the Toronto International Film Festival, and the ceremonies at the 2017 Invictus Games and the 2015 PanAm and ParapanAm Games. In her career, she has worked extensively with Théâtre français de Toronto, not only as a stage manager, but also as a production manager and surtitle creator. Melanie is also an entrepreneur and life skills coach. She creates and facilitates online courses, school workshops, and private coaching which are all available through www.lifeskillswithmel.com.



About BoucharDanse

BoucharDanse was conceived in 2009 by choreographer / performer Sylvie Bouchard, who is originally from Montréal. The company is an incubator of new artistic concepts and projects developed through dynamic collaborations, an intrinsic value of the company. BoucharDanse is devoted to artistic research, creation and presentation and is committed to fostering innovative concepts and projects that intersect with a diversity of art forms.

Guided by a desire to make dance inviting to both experienced and novice audiences, our programming offers unique kinesthetic experiences both in theatre venues and in non-traditional spaces. Company repertoire includes in-theatre performances, site-specific performances, multi-art installations and smaller scale works (solos and duets) for which Sylvie acts as an interpreter or a choreographer, sometimes both.

The choreographic works of Sylvie Bouchard endeavor to address issues and struggles surrounding mental health and journeys through trauma. This reflects her deep commitment and desire to speak about mental health, to unpack stories of resilience, and through dance, to engage the public in this conversation.

BoucharDanse team

Artistic Director: Sylvie Bouchard

General Manager: Markéta Ťoková

Financial Manager & Web Designer: Adina Herling

Artistic Consultant and Artist Advocate: Fanny Ghorayeb

Communications Manager: Mikaël Lavogiez

Social Media Coordinator: Makeda Davis

Bookkeeper: Karen Bennedsen

Board of Directors

President & Treasurer: Haleigh Eady

Secretary: Janice Pomer

Board Member: Jade Silman

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Our Supporters

BoucharDanse sincerely wishes to thank the following funders and partners for their financial support towards the creation and presentation of *très loin*:



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Heartfelt thank you to our individual donors

This list represents all donations made between January 2021 – September 2023. It has been updated as of September 30, 2023. We apologize in advance for any omissions.

Heather Alloway, Peggy Baker, Sylvie Bouchard, Manuel and Cheryl Buchwald, John Cambell and Denise Fujiwara, Marie-Josée Chartier, Caroline Caire, Yvonne Coutts-Martignago, Adina and Brad Davids, Michelle Fisher, Natasha Frid, Fanny Ghorayeb, Dean Gilmour, Cathy Kung, Karen Kaeja, Vincent Leblanc-Beaudoin, Natasha Poon Woo, Martine Rheault, Deb Sinha, Roger Sinha, Markéta Ťoková and Diana Tso.

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