

NEWTON MORAES DANCE THEATRE

30th Anniversary Season 2027

IHU

My Dance Is Not A Hobby

ASHE

Life Under My Skin

Works available individually or in combination

Celebrating 30 years of creation, performance, and cultural exchange, Newton Moraes Dance Theatre presents a collection of works reflecting the breadth of Newton Moraes' choreographic practice. Spanning intimate solo performances and ensemble creations, these works explore identity, spirituality, grief, resilience, aging, belonging, and the transformative power of dance.

Born in Brazil and based in Canada, Newton Moraes has dedicated his artistic life to building connections between Canadian and Latin American artistic communities. Drawing inspiration from African-Brazilian spirituality, Brazilian cultural traditions, contemporary dance, and lived LGBTQ+ experience, his work is deeply personal while speaking to universal experiences of love, loss, acceptance, and self-discovery.

Available individually or as a curated anniversary presentation, these works span more than two decades of creation and offer presenters flexible programming opportunities ranging from intimate solo performance to large ensemble work.

www.newtonmoraesdancetheatre.com



**NEWTON
MORAES**
Dance Theatre

ABOUT NEWTON MORAES DANCE THEATRE

Newton Moraes Dance Theatre is dedicated to the creation, performance, and production of contemporary dance works that explore, maintain, and develop links between the artistic communities of Canada and Latin America.

The company has toured throughout Canada and internationally to public and critical acclaim. Over the years, Newton Moraes Dance Theatre has received support from Toronto Arts Council, Ontario Arts Council, Canada Council for the Arts, the Laidlaw Foundation, Goethe-Institut Toronto, Foreign Affairs Canada, Dance Ontario Association, and Polo da Zona Norte in São Paulo, Brazil.

The company's vision is to inspire and provide role models for young people; support artists working within the Latin American diaspora; preserve cultural histories and traditions; encourage critical dialogue around dance practice; and create innovative artistic experiences that reach broad and diverse audiences both nationally and internationally.



IHU



49 minutes

Choreography & Performance: Newton Moraes

Lighting Design: Gabriel Cropley

Costume Design: Newton Moraes

In the language of the Kamayura people of Brazil, IHU means everything that can be heard, including both the sounds of the physical world and those of the spiritual one.

IHU represents Newton Moraes' personal journey of self-discovery, acceptance of all aspects of his spirit, and triumph over prejudice through the development of his spiritual self. Created as a tribute to his late partner, anthropologist Robert Shirley, the work emerged during a period when Moraes considered leaving Canada and returning to Brazil following Shirley's passing in 2008.

The solo reflects the search for belonging, spiritual connection, and healing through movement. Influenced by Moraes' relationship with African-Brazilian spirituality and developed with mentorship from Jean Sasportes of Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch, IHU is one of his most personal and acclaimed works.

The performance weaves together memory, grief, transformation, and resilience in a raw and emotionally charged exploration of what it means to continue moving forward after profound loss.

"Brazilian-born choreographer Newton Moraes always dances from the heart but this weekend his performance at Toronto's intimate Winchester Street Theatre has special emotional significance."— Paula Citron, Globe and Mail

"This juxtaposition of contrasting emotions elicited through the mask and Moraes' visceral movement style was compelling and I feel represents the crazy ride of grief in which so many contrasting emotions come in waves. Moraes' performance was powerful yet vulnerable and thus poignant."- Michael Crabb - Toronto Star - Toronto/Canada

Created with the support from Toronto Arts Council, Laidlaw Foundation, Canada Council for the Arts, Goethe Institute Toronto, Dance Ontario Association.



MY DANCE IS NOT A HOBBY

20 minutes

Choreography & Performance:

Newton Moraes

Dance is more than just a hobby to me—it's a vital expression of my identity and journey. At 64 years old, as an LGBTQ man, I'm committed to continuing my performances. Drawing inspiration from a rich tapestry of influences, including remarkable artists and my own journey of self-acceptance, each step I take is imbued with meaning. My late start in dance led me to the embrace of African Brazilian Spirituality, where I found acceptance and belonging, shaping much of my solo work. This dance serves as homage to beloved figures like my late partner Bob (Robert Shirley), Danny Grossmann, and Lola Ryan, and to my current partner Jake and his family, whose love and acceptance have been invaluable.

Created with the support from Wind in the Leaves Collective - Allies and Friends - Premiere at Citadel Cie on March 22nd and 23rd, 2024.



ASHE

20 minutes

Choreography: Newton Moraes

Performance: Pulga Muchochoma

Original Music: Matthew Reid

Costume Design: Valerie Calam

Set Design: Newton Moraes & Solange Escostegui Cardoso

Set Painting: Sonya Stefan, Roy Donovan, Newton Moraes

Livestream Director: Barbara Willis Sweete

ASHE - Choreographed by Newton Moraes, Ashe explores the explosion of body movements, markedly Luso-African, in a context where body and verbal language intertwine between the movement and the verbalization of national languages including, Emakhuwa, Changana, Elomwe, Portuguese and English. Ashe affirms a dialogue between contemporary Brazilian technique and Canadian-Mozambican dancer Pulga Muchochoma's movement vocabulary, and music by Matthew Reid. Moraes then adds a game of scenic lights that provoke reflections and questions about the necessity of intercultural voices communicating in a world threatened by isolation of groups of people and national communities Newton Moraes and Pulga Muchochoma have mutual respect and admiration of each other, deeply connected with their heritage, culture, music, dance and soccer. Similar up bringing coming from working class families and influenced by their ties with their parents and their roots. One, a straight black man who is married and a new father, the other a proud LGBTQ person of colour, and both speaks Portuguese.

Muchochoma is a phenomenal performer member of Toronto Dance Theatre for eleven years under the artistic director Christopher House and has performed works by incredible choreographers in Toronto.

Night Shift is produced with the support of the City of Toronto through Toronto Arts Council, and made possible (in part) by the Government of Canada. Night Shift is co-presented with Fall for Dance North.

LIFE UNDER MY SKIN



60 minutes

Choreography: Newton Moraes

Composer: Edgardo Moreno

Lighting Design: Sharon DiGenova

Performers: Maggie Armstrong,

Daniela Carmona,

Emilio Colalillo, Rumi Jeraj,

Aryana Malekzadeh,

Jianna Neufeld,

Andrea Rojas,

Brendan De Santis

World Premiere: November 24-26, 2022

Fleck Dance Theatre, Harbourfront Centre, Toronto

Life Under My Skin is an exploration of how artists deal with doubt, depression, worth and everything related how our body, image and inside of ourselves. Choreographed by renowned creator Newton Moraes, the piece examines what artists do to survive—taking on jobs and tasks that are far from the glamour of being artist, while posing the questions: Why do we do this? Why do we create art? Why do we dance? Created in collaboration with lighting designer Sharon DiGenova, composer Edgardo Moreno, and the performers, it is an imagistic tapestry of human expression, and bring together Toronto's most talented dance artists.

Life Under My Skin is in homage to Robert Shirley (Bob) Newton Moraes friend and partner for 23 years; dancers Leslie Minard and Eva Safir. As well as all the indigenous Brazilian people in the Amazon Rainforest, all their indigenous people in the world, all the artists in the world that struggle to keep creating and each and everyone that has influenced Newton Moraes in his career. As well to each and everyone that unfortunately has passed away because of COVID-19 including 689,000 Brazilians almost 10% of the world population

Life Under My Skin is officially supported by Toronto Arts Council, Ontario Arts Council and Canada Council for the Arts.



Newton Moraes

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