

*The Clarice presents*

**RUBBERBAND: Ever so slightly**



Thursday, May 4, 2023 • 8PM

INA & JACK KAY THEATRE

AT THE CLARICE SMITH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

**VAS**

VISITING ARTIST SERIES

UNIVERSITY OF  
MARYLAND

*Presented by The Clarice*

## **RUBBERBAND: *Ever So Slightly***

Join us after the performance for an artist Q&A moderated by Tariq D. O'Meally, Artistic Planning Coordinator for Theatre, Dance, and Artist Residencies and Lead Curator, BlackLight Summit

### **FOUNDER, CHOREOGRAPHER & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

Victor Quijada

### **DANCERS**

Paco Ziel

Jean Bui

Rion Taylor

Jovick Pavajeau-Orostegui

Wyeth Walker

Daniela Jezerinac

Jessica Joy Muszynski

Sierra Kellman

Emma Lynn Mackay-Ronacher

Cindy Mateus

### **MUSICIANS**

William Lamoureux

Jasper Gahunia

### **TECHNICAL DIRECTOR**

Yan Lee Chan

### **SOUND TECHNICIAN**

Arnaud Vaillancourt-Racicot

### **PRODUCTION & TOUR MANAGER**

Diana Catalina Cardenas

## **Engagement on Campus and the Community**

As part of their residency, members of RUBBERBAND taught several dance technique classes for students in the UMD School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies.

Victor Quijada is back, with ten dancer-athletes in top form. *Ever So Slightly* explores the behavioral mechanisms and reflexes we develop against the ceaseless flow of irritants that bombard us in our daily lives. Most of us long for calm and resilience, but how do we get to a zone where noise and aggressivity no longer have a place? Simultaneously delivering delicacy, brutality, finesse and high-voltage action, the choreographer conveys all the energy contained in urgency, revolt, chaos and flight.

The premiere of *Ever So Slightly* took place in December 2018 at Théâtre Maisonneuve of Place des Arts, in Montreal.

*Ever So Slightly* is a co-production of RUBBERBAND, Danse Danse, Société de la Place des Arts de Montréal, Théâtre Hector-Charland and Global Arts Live with the support of the Canada Council for the Arts, the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, the Conseil des arts de Montréal and the Ontario Arts Council.

RUBBERBAND benefited from the support of Danse à la Carte and residencies at Place des Arts, Salle Pauline-Julien, CCOV-Centre de création O Vertigo and Théâtre Hector-Charland for the creation of *Ever So Slightly*.

This performance is supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council and The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation.



THE MORRIS & GWENDOLYN  
CAFRTITZ FOUNDATION



Since 2002, **VICTOR QUIJADA** and RUBBERBAND have not only redefined break dance codes within an institutional context and enlivened the Quebec dance scene, but have opened the way for new creators fascinated by this dance form. Armed with a technique he conceived for dancers, the RUBBERBAND Method—an electrifying vocabulary combining the energy of Hip-Hop, the refinement of classical ballet and the angular quality of contemporary dance—and some 40 creations and collaborations in Canada and abroad behind him, Victor Quijada has always continued to evolve and innovate throughout his prolific career.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, the child of Mexican parents, Victor first danced in the b-boying circles and Hip-Hop clubs of his native city. He performed with Rudy Perez from 1994 to 1996, then moved to New York City to join THARP! After spending three years with that company and following a stint with Ballets Tech, in 2000 he came to Montreal to join Les Grands Ballets canadiens. In 2002, he founded RUBBERBAND, throwing himself into deconstructing the choreographic principles he had learned by blending them with the raw ideology of his street dance origins. His creations—numerous short works and 14 full-length productions—are distinguished by a powerful theatricality, the energy of improvisation and certain codes of film language, the whole sculpted with an incomparable precision of movement.

For several years now, Victor has taught the RUBBERBAND Method throughout the world in workshops and internships for many dance companies, dance schools and universities, as well as on a yearly basis in RBDG's workshop for professional dancers; at the Académie du Domaine Forget in Charlevoix every summer and in his classes at the Glorja Kaufman School of Dance at the University of Southern California (USC). As guest choreographer, he has created new works for dance and circus companies; notably in return commissions for Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Pacific Northwest Ballet and Scottish Dance Theatre.

Besides his stage productions, Victor has been involved in almost a dozen dance films, as director, choreographer or dramaturge. His short film "Hasta La Próxima" was a finalist at the American Choreography Awards in 2004. He also choreographed the music videos *Man I Used to Be* by k-os, *La garde* by Alexandre Désilets and Elton John's *Blue Wonderful*. "His Gravity of Center"—The Movie won Best Experimental Short at the CFC Worldwide Short Film Festival of 2012, among other awards, and was shown at several exhibitions and national and international festivals.

In the area of peer recognition, Victor Quijada was artist-in-residence at Usine C (2004 and 2006) and at Place des Arts (2007-2011) and has won many awards, including Britain's National Dance Award for Outstanding Modern Repertory (2003), the Bonnie Bird North American Award (2003, U.K.), the Peter Darrell Choreography Award (2003, U.K.), the International Touring Award of the Canadian Dance Alliance (2012) and two awards from the Princess Grace Foundation-USA (Choreography Fellowship, 2010; Work in Progress Residency, 2016).

In December 2017, Victor Quijada received the award for cultural diversity at the Prix de la danse de Montréal and was, in 2019, one of the finalists for the 34th Grand Prix du Conseil des arts de Montréal as well as among the four finalists for the 2019 Charles-Biddle Prize, instigated by Culture pour tous and the Ministère de l'Immigration, de la Francisation and Inclusion (MIFI).



**JEAN BUI** studied visual arts and earned his B.A. in Contemporary Dance at UQAM. Over the course of his career, Jean has had the opportunity to work with George Stamos, Katya Montaignac and Andrea Peña, along with many appearances in music videos and commercials. Jean started a collective with Sydney McManus in which they generate collaborative works that explore functionality. He has danced with RUBBERBAND since 2015.



**DANIELA JEZERINAC** was born in Mississauga, Ontario, where she began her dance training at a local studio. While continuing to pursue her artistic career at Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre, she performed several works by José Limón, Colin Connor, and Robert Glumbek. In the fall of 2019, she completed her B.F.A. in Dance at SUNY Purchase Conservatory of Dance, where she had the honor of performing pieces choreographed by Kevin Wynn, Alexandra Beller and Hannah Garner. Daniela joined RUBBERBAND in 2018.



**JESSICA JOY MUSZYNSKI** is a Canadian dancer and choreographer originally from Burnaby, British Columbia, where she trained in ballet at the Richmond Academy of Dance before moving to Calgary in 2012. In May 2019, she earned a B.F.A. in dance from the University of Southern California, performing in excerpts of works by William Forsythe, Crystal Pite and Victor Quijada. After graduation, Jessica starred in a music video by the band half•alive, which received over two million views. She danced with Azure Barton & Artists during the creation process of the company's work,

*Where There's Form*. Jessica moved to Montreal to dance with RUBBERBAND in 2019.



**JOVICK PAVAJEAU-OROSTEGUI** was born in Miami, Fla. and began his formal dance training in Bogotá, Colombia, at the age of 15 under the direction of Jaime Otálora. Later, he attended George Mason University where he received the Kidd/Stearns Dance Talent Scholarship and graduated with a B.F.A. in Dance in 2020. He has attended workshops with RUBBERBAND, VIM VIGOR, David Dorfman Dance and Springboard Danse Montreal under the direction of Alexandra Wells—where he performed work by Lior Lazarof and Johannes Wieland. After graduating in 2020, Jovick

moved to New York City where he was an apprentice with David Dorfman Dance. In his time in New York, he also performed with VIM VIGOR and collaborated with other New York based artists such as Jordan Demetrius Lloyd, Robert Rubama and Cameron McKinney of Kizuna Dance. Jovick relocated to Montreal in 2021 to join RUBBERBAND.



**RION TAYLOR** established his roots in dance through the Hip-Hop culture of Newcastle upon Tyne, England. Nurtured by Bad Taste Cru, he joined Battalions Crew in 2013 and competed throughout Europe. Training under Akram Kahn with the National Youth Dance Company inspired him to continue his exploration at London Contemporary Dance School, where he worked with Hofesh Shechter, Dane Hurst and Jeannie Steele, among other artists. At the 2017 Edinburgh Festival Fringe, he performed with the James Cousins Company in *Rosalind*, which won Best Moment of the Festival. Rion

is starting his third year with RUBBERBAND after joining the company in 2018.



**PACO ZIEL**, born in Mexico City, began his dance training at l'École Supérieure de Ballet du Québec. An early interest in body awareness led him to discover diverse movement approaches such as Gaga, the RUBBERBAND Method and Feldenkrais, as well as yoga and meditation. In 2014, he founded the multidisciplinary lab, Quantum Collective, whose work was presented twice by Tangente in Montreal. Paco has performed with Montreal-based artists and companies that include Edgar Zendejas, PPS Danse, Anne Plamondon and Martin Messier. Since 2019, he has co-directed VIAS, a dance company that alternates between Montreal and Mexico City. He is a self-taught filmmaker and photographer with a main focus on the human body, movement and natural landscapes. Paco has danced with RUBBERBAND since 2015 and is also the company's artistic coordinator.



**WYETH WALKER** grew up in Virginia Beach, Va., where he began his training under Denise Wall. This led him to attend the USC Gloria Kaufman School of Dance, where he was able to study with and perform work by Peter Chu, Barak Marshall, Jermaine Spivey and William Forsythe, among others. After graduating in 2022, Wyeth attended Springboard Danse Montreal. He joined RUBBERBAND in 2022.



**SIERRA KELLMAN** started her dance training at a local studio in Markham, Ontario. She continued her pursuit of dance with Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre in Toronto, dancing the works of numerous renowned choreographers such as Ryan Lee, Jennifer Archibald, Hana Kiel, Roderick George, David Earle, Colin Connor and Sylvie Bouchard, on stages across Ontario. Sierra graduated in the Spring of 2022 from the Performance Dance program at Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly Ryerson) and has danced in Tkaronto and the surrounding areas for many years. Through her studies, she has had the opportunity to be a part of many performances and dance films by prominent choreographers including Angela Blumberg, Alyssa Martin, Natasha Powell, Bobbi Jene Smith and Or Schraiber. Sierra has taken part in dance festivals in Toronto including The National Ballet of Canada sharing the stage with Rockbottom Movement (2022) and Fall For Dance North with HOLLA JAZZ (2021). She blends all of her performance, teaching and artistic experiences curating ideas and creating choreography that she hopes to conceptualize as an emerging artist. At the core of Sierra's artistic practice, she believes it is important to express personal experiences and emotions as a way of showcasing individual identity through contemporary movement.



**EMMA-LYNN MACKAY-RONACHER** resides from small town Kemptville, Ontario, where she started dancing at a local studio before moving to Montreal at the age of 14 to continue her training at L'École supérieure de ballet du Québec. She graduated at the age of 19, after five years in the professional program where she trained in classical and contemporary dance. Upon graduation, Emma began freelancing for renowned choreographers and companies, such as Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal, Anne Plamondon Productions, Gioconda Barbuto and Veronique Giasson, among others. Emma-Lynn joined RUBBERBAND in 2021.



**CINDY MATEUS**, from Montreal, trained in rhythmic gymnastics, Hip-Hop and contemporary dance, deciding on a dance career after her meeting with choreographer Amy Gardner. She specialized in classical ballet and contemporary dance at L'Académie du Ballet Métropolitain from 2012 to 2018. She stood out in several competitions, winning a first prize in the Youth America Grand Prix (2019), and for two years, was invited to attend the Junior Training Program of the Broadway Dance Center in New York, concentrating on jazz and classical ballet. She then danced for several choreographers at different venues. Among her television appearances, she was one of the top 14 in the second season of the Quebec TV dance program "Révolution." Cindy teaches dance and has choreographed works for numerous studios and events. She discovered RUBBERBAND during the intensive workshop at Domaine Forget and joined the company in 2021.

**JASPER GAHUNIA** is a DJ, producer, songwriter, musician and teacher. He began his groundbreaking musical career as a specialized DJ (turntablist), competing in Toronto-area DMC competitions in the mid-1990s, winning the Toronto DMC DJ competition title three times, and becoming the Canadian DMC Champion in 1998. During this competitive run, he also shared the International Turntablist Federation (ITF) Western Hemisphere Team title with his crew, Turnstylez and became ITF World Beat Juggling Champ a year later. Jasper has graced stages worldwide as a DJ and keyboardist with Nelly Furtado and k-os. He currently teaches the firstever “Scratch from Scratch: DJ Fundamentals” course at Toronto’s Royal Conservatory of Music, the institution from which he obtained his classical music degree in piano. He has also collaborated with the Canadian Opera Company in the production of a series of mini-operas fused with Hip-Hop beats and scratching. He has created the musical scores for many of RUBBERBAND’S stage productions and commissions, as well as for their 2012 award-winning short film, Gravity of Center.

## ADDITIONAL CREDITS

### ORIGINAL CASTING

Amara Barner  
 Jean Bui  
 Daniela Jezerinac  
 Sydney McManus  
 Dana Pajarillag  
 Brontë Poiré-Prest  
 Jerimy Rivera  
 Zack Tang  
 Ryan Taylor  
 Paco Ziel

### PHOTOGRAPHY

Dajana Lothert  
 Isabel Rancier

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