

PRISONER OF TEHRAN **PERFORMER BIOGRAPHIES**



JAMES CROKER

Originally a sheep shearer from Australia, James came to Canada to study dance, theatre and mime at Guelph University, Guelph Ontario, and the former Academy of Performing Arts School in Cambridge, Ontario. James worked for the Academy for over a decade, creating and performing productions in China, Australia, New Zealand, Europe and North America. Eventually James became the arts school director, teaching and training international young people in dance, theatre and mime. In 1990 James began his own company, MOTUS O, and has since been working the roles of Co-Artistic Director as well as Choreographer, Performer, Set and Prop Designer. He has created over 70 original works for the company and has toured them throughout England, Australia, the U.S.A. and Canada. James also teaches dance and theatre in Ontario High Schools in their drama and dance programs, as well as is the director of MOTUS O's Junior Company training and creating shows for youth ages 10 – 18.

CYNTHIA CROKER

Cynthia grew up in Minneapolis, Minnesota studying all forms of dance ranging from ballet and jazz to tap dancing on dinner plates. She trained professionally in voice, flute and gymnastics as well performed in many musical theatre productions. After studying vocal education at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota she came to Canada and joined the staff of the Academy of Performing Arts School (Cambridge, Ontario) where she taught master classes in jazz dance, voice and flute and directed numerous productions internationally. Cynthia is a Co-Founder of MOTUS O as well as holds the positions of Co-Artistic Director, Choreographer, Performer, Teacher and Costume Designer. She has created over 70 original works for the company and has toured with them throughout England, the U.S.A. and Canada. Cynthia teaches movement with various social service organizations, including individuals with Parkinson's, Cerebral Palsy, Aphasia and Grief.

JACK LANGENHUIZEN

A former national figure skater, Jack began, at the age of 18, his training in dance at Toronto's Roland and Romaine Dance School, including jazz, tap, ballet, musical theatre and ballroom. He also took summer classes at York University in Toronto for 2 years, studying Luigi jazz. After completing a Bachelor of Arts Degree at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo Ontario he joined the former Academy of Performing Arts School (Cambridge, Ontario) where he taught and continued his studies in dance now including modern and contact improvisation. He then toured with the Academy's dance school in Europe, Central America and throughout North America. In 1990 Jack co-founded MOTUS O as well as took the roles of General Manager, Choreographer, Performer and Teacher. Jack has created over 70 original works for the Company and has toured and taught with them throughout England, Australia, U.S.A. and Canada. Jack continues to tour with MOTUS O, as well as teaches and choreographs for figure skating clubs in Ontario.



PETRA BLENKHORNE

Having danced as a child, Petra pursued her passion for more training and missions with the Youth With A Mission's 'Academy of Performing Arts School' (Cambridge, Ontario). Upon completion of programs in a variety of dance styles, she joined MOTUS O in 1992 helping launch the company's first production Human Knots. After creating and touring multiple productions with the company, Petra took a hiatus to begin a family and then rejoined MOTUS O 15 years later to continue the fun. For now, when not on the road with MOTUS O (which is her favourite), she can be found trying to perfect the dance of life – balancing various skill-building careers and home life with two nearly-launched boys. Thanks to husband Ted for pulling up the slack when dance calls!

EMILY REDFORD

Emily started dancing at the age of 2, and has since trained in various styles including ballet, jazz, tap, hip hop, contemporary and ballroom. She studied theatre at Unionville High School until the age of 18, graduating with honours. Emily has had the privilege of apprenticing with Rhythm and Sound Tap Dance Company in the summer of 2018, and has studied with masters of Tap Dance, such as Travis Knights and Joseph Wiggan. Emily loves to create original work, and has showcased her work at the Tap Dance Centre Showcase, and the Show Choir Canada National Championships. Emily has been dancing with MOTUS O since she was 17, performing in shows such as A Christmas Carol, Prisoner of Tehran, A Fair Tale and Carmina Burana. She is thrilled to get to share her love for dance with you!

STAGE MANAGER BIOGRAPHY

JUSTIN CROKER

Justin Croker is a multi-talented artist and stage manager who has been involved with MOTUS O from a very young age. Born and raised in a family of performance artists, Justin has always been passionate about the world of theatre and performance. His parents, James and Cynthia Croker, are the co-founders of MOTUS O, and Justin grew up surrounded by the company's performances and rehearsals. Justin's artistic talent is evident in his versatile skills, which include, costume and prop/set construction, poster designs, and video editing. As a stage manager, he ensures that each performance runs smoothly and flawlessly, with every element in its proper place. When he's not working with MOTUS O, Justin is busy working in the Toronto film and theatre industry as a carpenter and light technician, honing his skills and expanding his knowledge of the craft. Despite his busy schedule, Justin still finds time for his personal hobbies and interests. In his free time, he enjoys exploring new creative outlets and pursuing his passions, whether it's Dj'ing, painting, or guitar. With his dedication and love for the arts, Justin Croker is a vital member of the MOTUS O team, bringing his unique talents and skills to every performance.