

## **COMPANY MEMEBR BIOS**

### **SARAH FELSCHOW- Performer**

Sarah has over 18 years of dance training beginning with Ballet classes at the age of five. She is a graduate of the Dance Centre in Stouffville, Ontario having completed her training in Ballet, Pointe, Modern and Tap. She continued her studies at Unionville High School Arts York Dance program, and George Brown School of Dance. In 2002 Sarah joined MOTUS O performing with the company in their production A Midsummer Night's Dream , *Variations in Love*, Carmina Burana , East of the Sun West of the Moon, Perspectives and Petrouchka. Pheonix Rising and Circus Terrifico. Sarah has been touring with MOTUS O throughout Canada, the U.S.A. and England

### **MELISSA SPENCE - Performer**

Hailing from Smith Falls, Ontario, Melissa Spence has been dancing since her first chasse at age 7. Her journey in ballet, modern, jazz, lyrical and tap has included study under Tiffany McLean, Linda Garneau, Holly Small and Carol Anderson. Specializing in dance science, Melissa earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts, with honors, from York University in 2007.

Teaching from age 15, Melissa has developed unique and motivating methods that lead her students to numerous scholarships, titles and awards of distinction at the regional and national level. She has been recognized for innovative and dynamic choreography—inspiration she shares with all her students, recreational and competitive.

Touring with Motus O Dance Theater since 2006, Melissa has performed in original works “Variations in Love” and “Perspectives” as well as adaptations of “Carmina Burana”, "A Christmas Carol" and "East of The Sun, West of The Moon". Stops have included both coasts of Canada and parts in between. Internationally, she has toured on stage in the USA and performed intimate theatre in Europe.

### **LAURA DAY– Performer**

Born and raised in Kitchener, Ontario, Laura started dancing at the age of 3. She trained in ballet, tap, jazz, modern and lyrical at the Academy of Dance in Waterloo Ontario until the age of 18. In 2007, Laura graduated from York University where she received her Bachelor of Fine Arts Honours Dance degree. While at York, Laura had the opportunity to work with and perform choreographic works by David Earle, Carol Anderson, Holly Small and Susan Cash. She has also had the pleasure of being taught by world-renowned artists such as Frank Augustyn, Veronica Tennant, and Robert Desrosiers and has studied classical ballet at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School. Laura has danced with Motus O dance thetare for several seasons performing in such productions as Carmina Burana, Perspectives, Petrouchka , Variations in Love and Circus Terrifico.

## **KATE KNOX- Performer**

Kate's love of dance began in her hometown of Stouffville, Ontario, where she trained in ballet, modern (Graham technique), jazz and tap. She is a graduate of the former Arts York Program at Unionville High School and continued her professional training at Ryerson University earning her B.F.A. in Performance Dance and R.A.D. Intermediate ballet exam with merit. Kate has continued to hone her craft not only as a dancer, but as an actor and singer. She continues to work as a performer in Toronto with various entertainment and theatre companies, from Vegas style showgirls, to burlesque, to musicals, to contemporary dance. Kate has danced with Motus O dance theatre over the last 3 years in the productions of A Midsummer Night's Dream, A Christmas Carol, Perspectives and Circus Terrifico.

## **MARIANA MANGEVIL- Performer**

Originally from Mexico City, 1995-2002 Mariana started her studies on the Academia de la Danza Mexicana INBA (NATIONAL INSTITUCION OF FINE ARTS IN MEXICO). Mariana won the 1999 Bronze Medal on the IV National Ballet competition in Mexico City, on 2001 and 2002 Silver Medal On the V,VI National Ballet Competition in Mexico and On 2002 Gold Medal In the XXI International Ballet Competition On Merida Yucatan, Mexico. She participate on The Grand Prix de Laussane, Laussane Switzerland on 2001. From 2002 to 2008 Mariana dance with The National Ballet Company of Mexico. Now living in Canada she has danced with Motus O dance theatre in Perspectives, A Christmas Carol and Phoenix Rising.

## **TOM VOGEL – Performer**

Tom Vogel is not a dancer. He's the first to admit that. Though he has worked closely with the artistic directors of Motus O since the early 80's, creating stories and sharing the stage with them, he has never put on revealing tights or worn a dance belt. His love of storytelling and acting like the village idiot has led him on a colourful journey in professional theatre, advertising and photography. His most recent work with Motus O - A Christmas Carol - allows him to revel in what he does best and to work with whom he admires most ... the entire company of breath-taking dancers and the eccentric directors of Motus O. If that doesn't put a dance in his step, nothing will.

## **DANIELLA ZAPPALA – Performer**

Daniella Zappala is an accomplished dancer, actor and vocalist, having been trained in dance, drama and vocal for over twenty-five years. Daniella's training includes Unionville High School's ARTS YORK DRAMA-Intensive Program, the THEATRE-DANCE program at Ryerson University and MILLENNIUM DANCE COMPLEX in Los Angeles, California. In addition to being an experienced performer, choreographer and director, Daniella has worked for the York District Catholic School Board, teaching drama and dance to students in Grade 3-8 through the Artist In The School program. Her film credits include My Baby's Mama and a YTV film. She has also provided background vocals on an album by recording artist PATRIA. Her stage credits include A Christmas Carol, The Wizard of Oz, Anne of Green Gables, Carousel, A Chorus Line, The Nutcracker and many more. Daniella owned and directed her own Performing Arts School-Centre-Line Productions, for two years. She has been instructing dance, drama and vocal for over fifteen years. Her training styles include Jazz, Tap, Hip Hop, RAD Ballet/Pointe, Lyrical, Modern and Spanish, as well as mime, clowning, robotics, stage-combat and commedia dell'arte. This is Daniella's third year performing A Christmas Carol with Motus O Dance Theatre.

## **COURTNEY PYKE – stage manager/lighting designer**

Hailing from Northern Ontario, Courtney is a Graduate, with Honours, from the University of Guelph's Theatre Studies Program. Specializing in technical theatre throughout her high school and university careers she has narrowed her focus to technical direction and lighting. As a Lighting Technician she has worked in Opera, Theatre, Concert, and Dance in Ontario and Alberta. She has had the opportunity to work at the Banff Centre on over 50 productions including "Tono; Harder, Faster, Stronger" for Red Sky Productions as Head Electrician as well as "Phaedra" and "Dido and Aeneas" as the On Deck Electrician. As a Lighting Designer Courtney has worked in many different venues and with many different types of productions and fringe festivals. Courtney hopes that she can incorporate her technical experience and her research to further her work in Canadian theatre and dance. She is also the Technical Director and Founding Member of Fallen Maple Productions out of Guelph Ontario.