

Organization Profile

History

Frog in Hand informally began with a cast of frogs performing circus tricks under the artistic direction of two sisters, Noelle Hamlyn and Colleen Snell. Noelle and Colleen were one and five years old at the time. From this whimsical debut springs our firm belief that art begins in humble places – including the mud and grass of the backyard. Building on this modest foundation we have formed a diverse collective of dancers, fight choreographers, musicians, actors, spoken word poets, costume designers and visual artists who come together to create cross-disciplinary performances in unusual spaces. Our collective has national and international professional experience, having trained and performed in Canada (Banff Centre, Toronto, Vancouver, Montréal), the United States (Chicago, Miami, New York), Japan, China, Korea, India, Ireland, Israel, Australia and England. Frog in Hand has received commissions from the Ontario Arts Council (2014/15/16/17), Canada Council (2016) Guelph Dance Festival, (2015/16), Hillside Inside Festival (2015), Art Gallery of Ontario (2013), Kitchener Waterloo's Night/Shift (2013/14/15), the Art Gallery of Mississauga, Ontario's Culture Days, the Mississauga Waterfront Festival and Springboard Danse Montreal (2015). Frog in Hand officially coalesced as an organisation in 2016 when we incorporated as a not-for profit with a volunteer board. In 2017-2018 we received an operating grant from the City of Mississauga.

Frog in Hand has created and produced many dance works – all site specific, incorporating theatrical and visual elements. Select highlights include Creature (60 minutes, over 25 performers in a heritage gun factory), Block Party (45 minutes, 2000 blocks of various sizes, 5 dancers, Dancemakers Centre for Creation), Café Noisette (25 minutes, 13 dancers in a gazebo), Balloon Room (an interactive dance improvisation score for two dancers and a musician, involving 500 balloons filled with audience-generated wishes), choreography for four dancers in a public water fountain and Wall (a work involving 3 dancers and a wall of thread). Frog in Hand's Off the Wall project commissioned the work of 43 artists (of which 20 were dancers) between 2014-2015 reaching approximately 9,500 audience members in total.

Vision & Mandate

In a succinct metaphor, our organisation resembles the chimera of Greek mythology, a beast made up of various body parts from different animals. The word chimera has become a way of describing hybrid methodologies, in other words, approaches that combine forms in a wild, implausible way. The tail of a snake, the body of a lion, the head of a goat – these parts work together to form an entirely new creature, they move together with a unified goal. So it is with our approach to making dances. To begin with, the key members of our collective represent different artistic disciplines, yet we share responsibilities. Joe Pagnan and Noelle Hamlyn share the role of technical director in the construction of set, costuming and visual design. Colleen Snell is the choreographer and administrative director. Colleen and Noelle are the co-artistic directors and founding members of the collective.

Our genre is contemporary dance, a discipline that is constantly evolving and diversifying. We specialize in contemporary dance theatre. This form has deeply influenced us in recent years (Crystal Pite's *Betoffenheit/Tempest Replica*, Punchdrunk's *Sleep No More*). Our mandate is to tell stories that question human nature - stories with emotional resonance and challenging thematic material relevant to the time in which we live. Dance is our mode of communication, however we believe it must be positioned within a larger whole; it is but one limb of the creature.

Frog in Hand is founded on principles of collaboration. Our choreographic process involves both artists and community partners to create and support a narrative arc. Frog in Hand is a site-specific performance collective as we are influenced by space. This includes the shape, environment and design of a space, as well as its history and use. Working in unusual spaces is full of poetic resonance. The way these spaces carry their past contributes presence and meaning to our work.

Frog in Hand exists to cultivate Mississauga as a cultural hub; this is central to our practice. We envision a Mississauga where artists are sustained by their practice and connected to enthusiastic audiences. Mississauga possesses a unique voice often overshadowed by the larger regional identity of the GTA. Our local artists are encouraged by market forces to relocate to the Toronto downtown core. By basing our practice in Mississauga, Frog in Hand creates unique opportunities for suburban artists to remain connected to their community; we challenge arts organisations to consider greater risks in dance programming. In sum, our mission as a collective is to make dance with a high degree of artistic merit and to illuminate the human condition by connecting our artistic themes to communities and spaces.

Frog in Hand

HISTORY OF WORK: SELECTED CREDITS
creation & production

2018

Jul	The Fall	45 minutes	Toronto Fringe Festival	Trinity Saint Pauls
Mar	how do we know	30 minutes	Running with Concepts	Blackwood Gallery
Jan	Hope Project	60 minutes	CYC World Conference	California

2017

Nov	Block Party	45 minutes	Self produced, Toronto	Dancemakers Theatre
Sep	Anomaly	tbc (ongoing)	Site-specific (tbc)	Hub14 (creative process)
Jun	Home	20 minutes	Mississauga Ontario	Waterfront Festival
Apr	untitled	5 minutes	Jillian Peever Dance Projects	Alumnae Theatre

2016

Oct	Creature	90 minutes	In Situ Festival	Small Arms Building
Jul	Dragon	20 minutes	In the Park Series	Guelph Dance Festival

2015

Jul	Fountain	15 minutes	Pan Am Games	Celebration Square
May	Off the Wall	4 day event	Mississauga Ontario	Living Arts Centre
Jun	Effort, Time	10 minutes	Springboard Danse Montréal	Usine C, Montréal
Jun	Cafe Noisette	20 minutes	In the Park Series	Guelph Dance Festival

2014

Dec	Vanishing Point	15 minutes	Lab Cab	Harbourfront Centre
Nov	Balloon Room	2 hours	Night Shift Waterloo	Centre in the Square
Jun	Off the Wall	2 day event	Mississauga Ontario	Living Arts Centre

2013

Nov	Vanishing Point	10 minutes	Waterloo Ontario	Night Shift
Jun	Vanishing Point	10 minutes	Lab Cab Festival	Dufferin Amphitheatre
Jun	Laws of Musical Chairs	6 minutes	Provincial tour	TOES for Dance
Jul	solitude	5 minutes	Toronto Love-In	p.s. we are all here
Jun	checkmate	25 minutes	Mississauga Ontario	Waterfront Festival
May	Winding Road	1 hour	National Youth Arts	Museums Mississauga
Mar	Jabberwocky	2 minutes	Chimera Project	Enwave Theatre

Residencies & Professional Development

2018 Millnery (costume practicum) & Dance-Theatre workshop, The Banff Centre, **2017** Millery (costume) Practicum, The Banff Centre, **2016** Creative Gesture Program, The Banff Centre, **2015** hub14 (Toronto) 20 hour residency & Springboard Danse (Montreal) **2013** Living Arts Centre Mississauga & Moveeast (London, England), **2012-present** Living Arts Centre, Mississauga (textile residency/multidisciplinary residency/dance residency)