

## Company Bio

Nostos Collectives Dance Association originated in Halifax, Nova Scotia by Jessica Lowe and Olivia Aubrecht at the 2014 Atlantic Fringe Festival. When Lowe returned to Tkaronto in the Fall, she expanded the Collective to the emerging contemporary dance community. From this, a cohort of young dance artists united with a common desire to network and continue their artistic development. Both Collectives now provide platforms for artists between the ages of 18 and 30 to harness skills in collaborative creation, performance, and arts administration. We prioritize maintaining non-hierarchical spaces for artists to find their voices, clarify their visions, and refine their practices. Through this our members, which include people of colour, LGBTQIA+ artists, and allies, represent the voices and stories that reflect our cities.

In our few years together, the Tkaronto Collective has made commendable progress by providing opportunities for over fifty emerging artists, and producing five proscenium shows and three in-studio showings. We have performed at festivals: Dance Ontario DanceWeekend (2019 & 2021), NextFest Edmonton (2019), Saint John Contemporary Dance Festival (2019), and Toronto Digital Fringe Next Stage Community Booster (2021). Other accomplishments include: co-production with DanceWorks CoWorks of "Hinterland", AGO All Hours commission of "3 Feet Away", and Open Space Residency at NBOC for works-in-progress.

Our members are movers, collaborators, creators, dance educators, and fitness instructors from various training backgrounds in Tkaronto including: X University, School of Cadence Ballet, George Brown College, The Conteur Academy, York University, and School of Toronto Dance Theatre. Outside of the Collective, they have worked with prominent, local companies such as: Kaeja D'dance, Peggy Baker Dance Projects, Red Sky Performance, Human Body Expression, ProArteDanza, Wild Rabbit Dance, Rock Bottom Movement, Kylie Thompson Dance, Toronto Dance Theatre, and Frog In Hand. Three of our current members, Ferguson, Boretski, and van Veen, have been nominated for a Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding Performances with Red Sky Performance's *AF*, a part of Canadian Stage's 2019/20 season, Toronto Dance Theatre's production of Christopher House's *Vena Cava*, and DanceWorks CoWorks / Human Body Expression's *Resonance*, respectively.

### **Krista Newey, Artistic Lead for *ODD SEED***

Krista is a dancer/performer/comedian/choreographer hybrid. She holds a BFA in Dance from X University. Krista has performed with Rock Bottom Movement, Alias Dance Project, Nostos Collectives, The Garage, Frog In Hand, and Kylie Thompson Dance. Her work has appeared in X University's Choreographic and New Voices Festival, Dance Matters, The Garage Studio Showing, K'aeja D'Dance's *Wind Down Dance*, and with Nostos. Krista has also taken up an immense interest in dance on film, and will have a film featured in both *Dance made in/ fait au Canada's* film festival and the FORM Festival in September 2021. Krista uses comedy as a driving force in her work and creates from shared human experiences to connect performers and audience.