

Artistic Director Report, Lesley Telford AGM Inverso Productions Society, December 13th, 2021

July 2020-June 2021

This past year was full of reinvention, challenges and renewed excitement for returning to the stage.

Despite the obstacles, Performance Research Project was brought under the umbrella of Inverso Productions. We had 16 dancers join us over the course of the year in our Fall and Spring Sessions of 10 weeks each full of intensive workshops and mentoring.

During this time, the dancers worked with Crystal Pite, Renee Segouin, Wen Wei Wang as well as streamed workshops with Ayman Harper teaching Forsythe, Sarah Reynolds teaching Waterski, Marla Waal teaching ELDOA, Clyde Archer teaching Sharon Eyal, Beatrice Larrivee teaching Gaga, Khoudia Toure teaching hip hop, Yannick Bouquin and Christophe Dozzi teaching ballet.

Our online offerings were extensive and included 6 hours/day of workshops over 2 weeks in November providing workshops with 8 international artists from the Netherlands, US, Germany, Spain, Senegal and France and joined by dancers all over the world. We also held a workshop with Jermaine Spivey of Kidd Pivot in April 2021, co-presented with SFU Woodward's and SFU Cultural Programs.

There was also a collaboration with the Vancouver Film School where the dancers participated in creating 3 films. PREP also participated in a performance series at the Shadbolt Centre for the Arts "Live at the 'Bolt'" which was streamed for 3 subsequent weeks in May 2021.

Inverso was Artist-in-residence at the Shadbolt Centre of the Arts and the Dance Centre provided subsidized space. Although theatres did not accommodate a live public over the course of 2020-21 (July 2020-June 2021), we began the research and development of a new creation with the support of the Canada Council for the Arts with the working title: "1:1:1". Stephanie Cyr and Kiera Hill worked from December 2020-June 2021 in development when schedules allowed. This work was also filmed and streamed at the Shadbolt.

We are grateful to our board, members, team and collaborators this year. Heather Myers was involved in PREP as Artistic Associate, teacher, mentor and also wrote numerous grants. David Cooper was Inverso's photographer/videographer and Andrew Mackenzie acted as video editor.

Although this report is 2020-21, I will give a brief report on our activities since July 2021.

- Allison McGrane joined our team as Creative Producer.
- Inverso had our first live shows since the beginning of the pandemic at the Firehall during the annual Dancing on the Edge Festival, showing our work-in-progress "1:1:1"
- We began filming the film version of Spooky Action with David Cooper in collaboration with TRIUMF-UBC
- Inverso initiated the Inverso OPEN platform providing open classes and workshops to the community: ballet, improvisation and "Moving Life" classes for non-professional adults to enjoy. Though Inverso OPEN we also provided workshops with Shay Kuebler, Heather Myers and indigenous artist Margaret Grenier.
- Online international workshop with Michael Schumacher co-presented by SFU
- Inverso/Lesley Telford created a new work with Ballet BC which premiered Nov.4, 2021