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*Special thanks to Joost Pelt & Marilyn Lewis-Pelt
for generously underwriting this presentation.*

Belle Spirale Dance Projects

UNIVERSUS

January 16, 2026 · 7:30 pm

McPherson Playhouse

Running time: Approx. 90 minutes (including intermission)

The McPherson Playhouse is located on the traditional lands of the Lekwungen peoples, also known as the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations. We extend our appreciation for the opportunity to live, create, and perform on this territory.

Please, no video or audio recording of any kind. No photographs.



About *UNIVERSUS*

New Constellations of Creation

Worlds are born, and worlds collide in this double-bill of new work. Internationally celebrated choreographer Fernando Hernando Magadan and Belle Spirale Co-Artistic Directors Alexis Fletcher & Sylvain Senez reach for questions of cosmic significance: Is connection to earth achievable on a chaotically changing planet? Will human resilience be enough for our uncertain future?

Everything and Nothing

Choreography: Alexis Fletcher in collaboration with the artists of Belle Spirale

Original Text and Spoken Word Performance: Marisa Gold

Co-Created with Visual, Film, Sound and Set Designer: Sylvain Senez

Lighting Design: Victoria Hunter Bell

Music: *The Elements*, a soundscape by Sylvain Senez
Original composition by Ben Waters

Paper Stars by Victoria Hunter Bell

Song of Earth by NASA Symphonies of the Planets

Alessandro Marcello interpreted by Michel Senez (candid recording)

Prologue Procession - Beautiful World by Eliza Gilkyson

French text by Gregory David Roberts and Alexis Fletcher,
translated by Sylvain Senez and spoken by Danielle Senez

Costumes: Alexis Fletcher in collaboration with Kim Bothen

Stage Manager: Neil Griffith

Dancers: Ariana Barr, Nathan Coburn, Marisa Gold,
Will Jessup, Brenna Metzmeier, Justin Rapaport

A heartfelt thank you goes to Lazaro Silva, Juan Duarte, Oksana Maslechko, Livona Ellis for their indelible contributions to earlier versions of this work. This piece would not exist without your voices.

- Intermission -

Brought to life by a company of eight powerful dancers, choreography, spoken word, and technical design interweave on an adventurous, interdisciplinary journey into purpose, creation, and our place among the stars.

STATERA

Choreography: Fernando Hernando Magadan in collaboration with the artists of Belle Spirale

Music: New composition by Ben Waters

Lighting Design: Victoria Hunter Bell

Set Design: Sylvain Senez & Fernando Hernando Magadan

Set construction: Sylvain Senez

Costumes: Fernando Hernando Magadan in collaboration with Kim Bothen

Stage Manager: Neil Griffith

Dancers: Ariana Barr, Nathan Coburn, Alexis Fletcher,
Will Jessup, Sophia Makarenko, Brenna Metzmeier,
Justin Rapaport

Understudies: Emma Galvin and Lazaro Silva

Dancers



Ariana Barr



Nathan Coburn



Alexis Fletcher



Marisa Gold

Read the company's full biographies by scanning this QR code with your smartphone's camera.



Emma Galvin *



Will Jessup



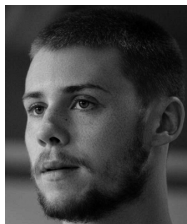
Sophia Makarenko



Brenna Metzmeier



Lazaro Silva *



Justin Rapaport

*Understudies

About Belle Spirale Dance Projects

Belle Spirale Dance Projects is an arts organization led by Artistic Directors Alexis Fletcher and Sylvain Senez. It is based in Vancouver, Canada, on the unceded Indigenous territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations. Belle Spirale is a platform for the work of many artists; through their collaborative processes they produce their own creations as well as commission original works by both emerging and established choreographers. Through their work, they connect the skilled and passionate Vancouver independent dance community to the national and international independent communities.

Belle Spirale aims to create a diverse repertoire of poetic, thoughtful, relevant and engaging contemporary dance works. Their works strive to create a powerful and tangible connection with their audience, and they believe dance to be a distinct and powerful tool for connection, communication and togetherness. Belle Spirale also produces The Dance Deck, a multi-disciplinary summer series which is dedicated solely to presenting the work of other artists. As hosts, they transform their backyard into a site-specific outdoor theatre in order to present high-calibre professional performances in a grassroots environment.



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CCN/Aterballetto in Rhapsody in Blue Photo: Christophe Bernard

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Dance Victoria wishes to thank our many donors and volunteers.

Dance Victoria's Chrystal Dance Fund and Endowment Fund are held at the Victoria Foundation.

Dance Victoria is a proud member of the CanDance Network and the BC Alliance for Arts & Culture.



The Chrystal Dance Prize – Stage 2 Award supports the presentation of Belle Spirale Dance Projects' *UNIVERSUS*, a previously CDP-funded work.