

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 2022

Contact:

Lucy Rupert

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Blue Ceiling Dance Presents:

The animals are planning an intervention
Choreographed and performed by Lucy Rupert
A live dance performance reimagined for the camera
As a benefit to the Myeloma Canada Foundation
April 29 - May 5, 2022

Originally created when Lucy was a new mother, this solo dance performance tackles the paradox of intense instincts and acute awareness of one's own mortality which the process of becoming a mother revealed. The original solo was lush and emotional, a somatic conversation with an audience, a silent philosophical hypothesis and a depiction of a creature moving through many different bodies.

Reworked for camera 11 years later, Lucy applies to the original choreography her more recent explorations at the nexus of art and science, embodying four stages of molting in insects, the neuroscience that connects the "gut" to the brain, and the experience of reaching the same age that her mother was when she died, of multiple myeloma cancer.

For several years, Lucy has wanted to do a special performance in honour of her mother and in support of Myeloma Canada, an organization which supports myeloma patients and families, with a particular focus on equitable access to care. This performance event is the first in a five-year project, the "happyfury project", in which Lucy is committed to producing an annual performance event dedicated to not-for-profits which sometimes fall under the radar of the general population.

A further inspiration to make this project happen now is the passing of the inimitable Helen Donnelly, to multiple myeloma cancer in January 2022. Helen was a cross-disciplinary artist, known and loved by many in the Toronto clowning, circus, dance, theatre and comedy communities as well as the founder of Red Nose Remedy. Helen was a pioneer in developing a training program for therapeutic clowning, as well as sparkling wit and unmatched performer.

Tickets by donation:

Link will be to Myeloma Canada site – donation will automatically give access to the live event and non-live on-demand access for one week following.

Charitable donation receipts for any donation over \$20

LIVE EVENT - April 29, 2022 8pm

ON DEMAND ACCESS until May 5, 2022 11.59pm

Choreographer/Performer: Lucy Rupert

Videographer/collaborator: John Lauener

Music: String Quartet No. 2 by Sarah Slean, originally commissioned for “the animals are planning an intervention” by Blue Ceiling dance

Recorded by Drew Jurecka (violin), Karen Graves (violin), Kathleen Kajioka (viola), Amy Laing (cello)

Original lighting design and stage management: Michelle Ramsay

Original costume and set design: Lindsay Anne Black

Original outside eye: Allyson McMackon

Lucy Rupert

A passionate and hyperkinetic performer, Lucy trained at the University of Waterloo in the Dance and Music Depts. simultaneously gearing for careers in dance and music performance. In 2003 Lucy obtained a Master of Arts degree in History from the University of Toronto. She is the founder and artistic director of Blue Ceiling dance through which she creates, performs, commissions, and produces contemporary dance and teaches movement classes for all bodies. As a freelance artist in dance and theatre, Lucy has been fortunate to work with noted Canadian companies Fujiwara Dance Inventions, Chartier Danse, Anandam Dance, Sashar Zarif Dance, Little Pear Garden Collective, Puppetmongers Theatre, and Theatre Passe Muraille, and to dance in the works of William Yong, Martha Hart, Allison Cummings and Angela Blumberg among others. She was a regular performer with Theatre Rusticle from 2001-2017. Lucy is a two-time recipient of a Chalmers Fellowship, a two-time nominee for the KM Hunter award in dance, and a finalist for the inaugural Johanna Metcalf awards of 2019.

John Lauener

Vancouver born, Toronto based photographer John Lauener has spent a career as a photographer specializing in dance, theatre, music and more while also enjoying success early in his career as a fashion photographer, living and working in Europe for several years. A graduate of Sheridan College's Applied Photography programme, John's work in fashion, dance, theatre and music has been published extensively throughout Canada as well as the U.S., Europe and Japan. More recently John has also been working in video and film, creating short dance films that have screened at festivals across Canada as well as in South America and Europe. Through the pandemic, he has been involved in intimate and imaginative livestream performance productions. He continues to work closely with dance and theatre artists on both archival and promotional videos.

Myeloma Canada

Myeloma Canada is the only national charitable organization created by and for Canadians impacted by multiple myeloma. Since it was founded in 2005, Myeloma Canada has been making myeloma matter. As a patient-driven, patient-focused grassroots organization, Myeloma Canada drives collaborative efforts to unify the voice of the community to effectively shape the Canadian treatment landscape with

a committed focus on the improvement of patient outcomes. Myeloma Canada is dedicated to advancing the understanding, treatment and management of the disease and accelerating access to game - changing therapies for Canadians living with myeloma.

“I swear to you it was like watching liquid onstage; her every move flowed into the next. Rupert manages to effortlessly evoke animals with sudden glances over her shoulder, the desperation to scratch an itch, scurrying across the floor on her haunches, while simultaneously keeping her humanity front and centre. It was a fine balance to watch unfold....I could not look away. I was just absolutely stunned. The time flew by and I did not want it to end. I could’ve watched Rupert all night. “

- Mooney on Theatre on “the animals are planning an intervention”

“Lucy Rupert is long-limbed and soulful, her movements always infused with drama and mystery.”

- NOW

“Choreographer Lucy Rupert has an immense imagination...[she is] someone who is not afraid to make the audience work a little – which is a good thing.”

- Globe and Mail

“One of Toronto’s best dancers.”

- 96.3 Classical fm

This performance of *the animals are planning an intervention* is supported by



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NATIONAL
Ballet
OF CANADA

