

Speaking Vibrations Program



APRIL HUBBARD
CREATIVE
ACCESS AWARD
2023 HALIFAX
FRINGE FESTIVAL



OUTSTANDING
ENSEMBLE
PERFORMANCE
2021 OTTAWA
FRINGE FESTIVAL



BEST DIRECTION &
BEST DESIGN
NOMINATION
2022 PRIX RIDEAU
AWARDS



Speaking

August 7-9

Tett Centre
370 King St West



Vibrations



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des arts
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ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
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Ontario 

 @SpeakinVibrations

*a single sign told a story...
she lifts her hand.
sound moves through her, and within me.
she signs my sensations.
my fears and dreams fall out in her rhythm.
something stirs in me ...
what happens when I come into contact with a body
In all its forms?
when I see in my feet, hear in my hands
and speak in vibrations?*

land acknowledgment

This event takes place on the unceded and unsurrendered Territory of the Anishinabek, Haudenosaunee, and the Huron-Wendat, whose presence here reaches back to time immemorial - time extending far beyond the reach of memory, record, or tradition.

We also recognize the Anishinaabe Algonquin, whose lands have supported us as we've created this show. We give thanks to the Anishinaabe as the custodians and keepers of the Ottawa River Watershed and its tributaries. We are grateful to be able to create and perform on these lands and by these waters.

Check out this [Algonquin Anishinaabe Land Acknowledgement](#) by Dr. Lynn Gehl, Ph.D., an Algonquin Anishinaabe-kwe from the Ottawa River Valley.

Speaking Vibrations Performances

Friday, August 7 | 12:30 pm

Saturday, August 8 | 2:15 pm & 7 pm

Sunday, August 9 | 11:30 am*

***Talkback after performance!**

Speaking Vibrations

Speaking Vibrations is an award-winning, multidisciplinary performance featuring signed music, ASL song/poetry, spoken word, song, percussive and contemporary dance.

Throughout this piece, four women explore their origin stories and, along the way, discover and connect with one another. This production features English and ASL performance, creative captions and vibrotactile devices.

speaking vibrations team

Producers

Carmelle Cachero
Jordan Samonas

Creators

Jo-Anne Bryan, Carmelle
Cachero, King Kimbit
Jordan Samonas

Performers

Jo-Anne Bryan*, Carmelle
Cachero, King Kimbit
Elizabeth Emond-Stevenson

Directors

Jacqui Du Toit, Pamela Witcher
(2022-2025)

Stage and Production Manager

Kat Wong

Assistant Stage / Accessibility Manager

Drea

Lighting Designer

Kat Wong (TK Fringe, 2026),
Emilio Sebastiao (original
design)

Video Designers

Carmelle Cachero, Lesley
Marshall

Interpreters

Marianne Kelly, Amanda
Hyde

*appears in videos

Speaking Vibrations Creative Team



Jo-Anne Bryan

Jo-Anne Anita Bryan (she/her)

Jo-Anne Anita Bryan is an Ottawa-based interdisciplinary artist experiencing life through the intersections of being Black, Deaf, Queer, and Woman. Her artistry includes American Sign Language (ASL) storytelling and performance. She is a lead performer of the award-winning multidisciplinary work *Speaking Vibrations*. In 2022, in collaboration with Deaf Canadian artists Pamela Witcher and Theara Yimco, Jo-Anne created and performed *Resonance*, an extraordinary work of Signed Music, in response to Laura Taler's solo exhibition, *THREE SONGS* which explored themes of loss, oppression, Deaf pride, home and transformation. Their performance was beautifully captured on film by Susannah Heath-Eves and premiered online in November 2023. Select credits include: ASL storytelling "Where You Come From" at the Phenomena Festival (2019) and "400 Years" at the SOUND OFF Deaf Theatre Festival (2021). She is writing a new play in the Dramaturgical Collaboration program with Playwrights' Workshop Montreal (PWM). She is a Fashion/Wardrobe Stylist and in the process of learning on this journey.

Speaking Vibrations Creative Team



Carmelle Cachero

Carmelle Cachero (she/her)

Carmelle Cachero has lived her entire life in the arts world and tells her story through rhythm and dance. Carmelle is a 2022 ThisGen Producing Fellow (NAC, Why Not Theatre) alongside mentor Michelle Dorrance and was fortunate to have her work placement residency with Dorrance Dance (NYC) for their holiday production of The Nutcracker Suite at the Kennedy Centre (2023). Her passion for Filipino dance, rhythm tap and body percussion is a driving force to her pursuits. As a tap dancer, she has performed with Vancouver Tap Dance Society, The Urban Tap Squad, and co-founded the West Coast Tap Dance Collective. She currently dances with the Ottawa Rhythm Initiative Ensemble, and YOW City Tap. She is the Assistant Choreographer of the Philippine Dance Troupe of Ottawa (PDTO), and a dancer/musician with Tadhana ng Kapwa Ottawa, an artist collective that focuses on traditional pre-colonial dances and kulintang music. She is a rhythm dancer and co-producer of the multi-disciplinary, accessibility-centering collective, Speaking Vibrations. Carmelle is also one of the country's most sought after Sign Language Interpreters, with a niche in theatre and performing arts interpreting and consultation, working at the National Arts Centre English Theatre and Great Canadian Theatre Company. She has interpreted hundreds of theatre, performing arts events and concerts.

Speaking Vibrations Creative Team



King Kimbit

King Kimbit (she/her)

Nguyễn Anh Thu/King Kimbit is a versatile literary and vocal spoken word artist, singer, instrumentalist and activist based on traditional land of the Algonquin Anishinaabeg. King's work is deeply rooted in her inner-city upbringing, being a daughter of the Vietnamese diaspora, and her stance on issues such as anti-racism, de/colonization, Disability justice and prison abolition.

King is deeply passionate about community care and youth, coordinating writing and performance workshops for WritersBlock, her new community initiative with Goldstripes, and as co-founder and active member of Cap City Cyphers, a space for Ottawa rappers to unite and celebrate love through Hip-Hop. A prolific, highly-respected well-known artist in the spoken word and hip-hop communities, King has performed on hundreds of stages. Select credits include: Urban Legends Poetry Slam Champion, Canadian Women's Songbook: Women in the JUNOs, Canadian Festival of Spoken Word, Ottawa Youth Poetry Project, CityFolkSlam, House of PainT, Cranium Festival, MEGAPHONO Music Festival, Jukebox Lunch Concerts (National Arts Centre). Feature appearances include Dreamland Sessions (2023), The Sermon ft. Hevve & King Kimbit, SND*TRK produced by Quest (2022). King is currently working on her sophomore album, Healing Trauma From The Projects; her newest release Fk12frfr Pt. II is streamable everywhere

Speaking Vibrations Creative Team



Jordan Samonas

Jordan Samonas (she/her)

Jordan Samonas is an Ottawa-based artist, creator, producer and mother. Visionary and go-getter with over 10+ years' experience in indie self-production (ROOTED Contemporary Dance, NORTH OF MIND with Don Ross), she is co-producer and lead project manager of Speaking Vibrations - an award-winning, multi-disciplinary and genre-blending performance collective. A dance "chameleon" with an eclectic movement background (contemporary, , tap, kizomba, ballet, jazz, hip hop, musical theatre), Jordan has performed on stages and at festivals across Canada and internationally (Ottawa Jazz Festival, Ottawa Dance Directive, SkirtsAfire Festival, SOUND OFF Deaf Theatre Festival, Great Canadian Theatre Company, International Dance Organization World Tap Dance Championships). Jordan deeply values the rich cultures, traditions and histories of the dances she practices, and believes in dance as communication, community-building and collective joy.

Speaking Vibrations Creative Team



Elizabeth Emond-Stevenson

Elizabeth Emond-Stevenson (she/her/elle)

Elizabeth Emond-Stevenson is a dance artist and mother based in Orléans on unceded traditional Algonquin territory. A company dancer with Propeller Dance, member of Ghost Rooster Collective and frequent collaborator with violist Kathryn Patricia Cobbler, she has performed across the country both independently and with The Ghomeshi Effect, Tara Luz Danse and Allison EB Dance. She has also danced with Ottawa Dance Directive and was mentored by Tedd Robinson from 2021-2022.

Elizabeth creates dance works, films and interdisciplinary collaborations that have been supported/commissioned by a wide range of organizations and arts councils, including the NAC-commissioned work Navigating Tides created with Kathryn Patricia Cobbler. She is a graduate of the Quinte Ballet School, The School of Dance, Decidedly Jazz Danceworks' Professional Training Program and the Banff Centre for the Arts, and has trained extensively in inclusive dance techniques through Propeller Dance, Candoco (UK), AXIS Dance Company (USA) and Stopgap Dance Company (UK). Elizabeth is grateful to be working with the Speaking Vibrations team.

Speaking Vibrations Creative Team



Jacqui Du Toit

Jacqui Du Toit (she/her)

Jacqui Du Toit is an award-winning actor, playwright, and internationally celebrated storyteller from Kimberley, South Africa. She is grateful to have been part of Speaking Vibrations as both director and audio describer, receiving a 2022 Prix Rideau Award nomination for Outstanding Director. In 2019, she received the Prix Rideau Award for Outstanding Female Performance in *Drowning Girls* and an additional nomination for her role in *Omnibus Bill*. Her powerful monodrama, *The Hottentot Venus – Untold*, was nominated for Best Actress at both the 2017 Rideau Awards and the Capital Critics Awards. Jacquie's work has taken her across Canada and around the world, where she continues to share stories that bridge cultures and histories. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Great Canadian Theatre Company (GCTC) and has previously served on the boards of the Ottawa Storytellers and the TACTICS Indie Theatre Festival. She is the founder and director of 8thGeneration Storytelling Company and the co-owner and Creative Director of The Origin Arts and Community Centre, where she continues to nurture storytelling, performance, and community arts.

Speaking Vibrations Creative Team



Pamela Witcher

Pamela E. Witcher (she/her)

Pamela E. Witcher is a Deaf multidisciplinary artist, director, interpreter, translator and cultural mediator. Pamela's artistic expertise includes visual art, videography, and signed music. Pamela finds it necessary to overlap old and new discoveries that have the power to change views and ideas. When communities and sign languages create information through art and documentation, our existence becomes concrete, known and valued. Pamela has been involved in numerous panel discussions, workshops, direction, mentorships and documentary interviews on signed music, such as the 2-year cohort at the Deaf Arts Academy with the Canadian Cultural Society of the Deaf (2023 - 2025); Lights: The Real Us (2023-2024); Society for Ethnomusicology (SEM) Conference (2023); Resonance (2023); Les pratiques et esthétiques des artistes de la diversité capacitaire (2022); Partition/Ensemble Conference (2020); and Signed Music Rhythm of the Heart Documentary (2015). Pamela's implications have contributed to several creative projects, among others: New West Art Crawl and Braid Studios Collective (2023 - present); The Sound of Dogs (2021 - present); The Speaking Vibrations (2021 - present); PHI Foundation for Contemporary Art (2022-2024); Phenomena Festival (2020 - 2024); Dyers Gallery's Solo Exhibition: Retrospective 2001-2011 (2011) and Écomusée du fier monde, People of the Eye, 160 years in the History of the Deaf community (2014-2016).

Speaking Vibrations Creative Team



Kat Wong

Kat Wong (she, he)

Kat Wong is a queer Hong Kong diaspora performing arts professional who has found a home in disabled spaces. Her practice weaves together stage management, scenic painting, lighting, and performance, with intentionally care for collaboration and community. She is currently developing initiatives that center inclusive and accessible practices in the arts, guided by the principles of universal design. Alongside this work, Kat is writing a play that traces the histories of systemic oppression faced by Chinese-Canadians since the 1800s, holding space for both grief and resilience.

Speaking Vibrations Creative Team



Drea

Drea (she, her)

Drea is an accessibility consultant, professional audio describer, disability scholar, theatre creator, dramaturge, producer and stage manager. Her master's focused on disability representation on stage in Canada. Employing disability dramaturgy, design and knowledge she endeavours to adapt, shift and challenge current theatrical practices, ensuring disabled people are considered and included from the inception to the reception of theatrical productions. Her work strives to shift the physical and attitudinal barriers that are present on- and off-stage in all her work. She is also the co-administrator and founder of the Ottawa Arts Database. Select artistic and producer work credits: *In Company* - subDevision 2024, *In Tents*: TYA Creator Incubator- Ottawa Children's Festival (2023), *12 - 100 Watt Productions* (2021, 2023) & *NeoStalgia: Fempocalypse*- Nightwood Theatre (2022).

Speaking Vibrations Creative Team



Emilio Sebastiao

Emilio Sebastiao (he/him)

For more than ten years, Emilio has been designing projects and offering freelance technical services with a focus on lighting and set design. From January 2018 to the present he has been the lighting and set Designer for W.I.S.E. Productions. Lighting design credits include: Murs (In Vivo); Laurence (Laboratory); Toqaq Mecimi Puwiht for Théâtre de la Vielle et Productions Ondinnok; and many more.

Speaking Vibrations Creative Team



Lesley Marshall

Lesley Marshall (she/they)

Lesley Marshall is an award-winning filmmaker and intermedia artist. Projection art by Lesley has been performed at the National Art Centre, Montreal Jazz Fest, CentrePHI and in galleries in NYC, Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and the Netherlands. Lesley is the founder of MAVNetwork (@mavnetwork Instagram) a production, media and marketing agency for audio visual design and presentation. In 2021, with collaborator Ashley Bowa, Lesley presented Green Gazing projection immersion project of plants and experimental movement at Ada X, Montreal, Workman Arts, Toronto, and at DARC, Ottawa.

accessibility

- Vibrotactile Devices
- Creative Captions
- ASL Performance and Interpretation
- Step-free entrance
- Wheelchair Accessible Seating
- Complimentary Support Person tickets
- Accessible and Inclusive washrooms available
- Access Guide [Link here]

To learn more about these accessibility features, click here.

content notes

Please note that there are themes and references to mental health, ableism, and racism in this performance. In one scene, performed in visual vernacular, the history of enslaved African peoples being trafficked is signed.

Loud Sounds – There are some loud moments of vocal singing and tap dancing.

Darkness – The theatre becomes dark with minimal light from the video projections.

Vibration – Select audience members can experience the show with a vibrotactile device. Audience members are free to not use their device if they choose.

vibrotactile

What is vibrotactile?

Vibrotactile devices take an audio signal and translate it into vibrations. These devices are designed by David Bobier and Jim Ruxton of VibraFusionLab.

Who is it for?

Vibrotactile devices are prioritized for Deaf, hard of hearing, Blind, Low Vision and DeafBlind audience members.

How do I use the vibrotactile pillow?

You can hold it to your chest, or leave it on your lap.

What if I don't want to use it anymore?

During the pre-show test: If you decide that you no longer wish to use the vibrotactile pillow, please raise your hand to ask an usher for help to relocate to a new seat if there are any available. Otherwise, please place the pillow under your seat.

During the show:

If you no longer wish to use the pillow, please place it under your seat.

vibrotactile warning

WARNING: There will be 8-12 vibrotactile devices located on specific seats in the theatre. **If you are pregnant, have a pacemaker, or have a medical condition that may be aggravated by intense vibration or magnets, do NOT use or sit in a seat that has a vibrotactile pillow.**

Thank You.

Speaking Vibrations acknowledges and is grateful for the generous support of the Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, as well as to our interpreting teams and volunteers, without whom our work would not be possible!



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