

# REASON d'etre dance productions presents the World Premiere of *Thread Bound*

A new dance-theatre work that delves into inherited ancestral traumas

Toronto, September 16 – REASON d'etre dance productions proudly presents the World Premiere of *Thread Bound*, a new dance-theatre work that explores inherited ancestral traumas. Created and performed by dancers Suzanne Liska and Kathleen Rea, with dramaturgy by Tristan Whiston and movement-coaching by Maxine Heppner, *Thread Bound* runs October 3 to 5 at 8pm and October 6 at 7pm at the Intergalactic Arts Collective studio theatre.

Kathleen Rea, also a former psychotherapist, explains inherited ancestral trauma: "We pass on biological information to our children. Stress, trauma and malnutrition modify our genes, sending chemical signals turning them on or off. This changes the way we see, feel, taste and hear and deal with stress through up to five generations, getting less and less until the effect fades. The imprint of our elders and all they experienced before we were born lives inside us."

As a creator and dancer in *Thread Bound*, Suzanne explores the impact of the forced internment of her Japanese Canadian family during World War Two. Kathleen explores her family's Eastern European World War Two experience which involved fleeing the Gulag concentration camps due to persecution for religious beliefs. Both Kathleen and Suzanne have been engaged in the life-long project of re-owning stories that they had been protected from when young and *Thread Bound* is the culmination of this process. Both artists are bound together in the search for these thin yet powerful threads. *Thread Bound* brings these stories and the imprint they still have on us into the public consciousness. To remember and express what has occurred in the past is relevant work in the face of rising worldwide forces that seek to persecute and disenfranchise based on religion and race.

*Thread Bound* premieres amidst a national movement this year in 2019 calling for redress by the B.C. Government to expand on its 2012 apology for acts of racism against Japanese Canadians that "culminated in the province's critical role in the forced removal, internment, confiscation of property, and forced exile of 22,000 Japanese Canadians during 1942 to 1949." Many are asking for the provincial government to assume greater responsibility for the past injustices. They have also asked that Japanese Canadians be consulted to provide the community with a voice in developing recommendations for redress.

**REASON d'etre dance productions** is a not-for-profit, charitable dance company founded in 1999 by Kathleen Rea. Its mandate is to teach and inspire people through contact dance and dance/theatre by producing classes, workshops, dance jams, performances and festivals that explore current themes. REASON d'etre dance productions brings movement-arts to as many people as possible through accessible programming and holds the belief that every person has an artist within them. Since inception, the company has been nominated for three *Dora Mavor Moore Awards*, produced six main stage performances, founded the Wednesday Dance Jam and the Contact Dance International Film Festival, and run over 100 dance workshops.

**REASON d'etre dance productions** presents the **World Premiere of *Thread Bound***  
- A new dance-theatre work that delves into Inherited Ancestral Traumas -  
**Created, Choreographed and Directed by** Suzanne Liska and Kathleen Rea  
**Dramaturgy by** Tristan R. Whiston and **Movement-coaching by** Maxine Heppner  
**October 3 to 5 at 8 pm and October 6 at 7 pm (relaxed performance)**

**INTERGALACTIC ARTS COLLECTIVE**, Studio 103, Artscape Young-place, 180 Shaw Street, Toronto, ON 

**Tickets:** advance \$25 to \$30, At the door \$35

**Box Office** <http://ThreadBound.eventzilla.net>

**Join Thread Bound on Social Media:**

Facebook Event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1267895640038012/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/reasondetredance/> @reasondetredance

Twitter: [https://twitter.com/REASON\\_detre](https://twitter.com/REASON_detre) @REASON\_detre

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/reasondetredance/> @reasondetredance

Tumblr: <https://www.tumblr.com/blog/reasondetredancekathleenrea>

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**Photographs:** <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1l6WcEalgoJMgnqZZx6IKxytFDktla7or>

**Trailer:** <https://youtu.be/O2z-81NouYo>

**Biographies:**



**SUZANNE LISKA** (performer and co-creator) is a Certified Alexander Technique Teacher with a B.A., B.Ed, and MFA in Choreography. She has choreographed and danced in works for CanAsian KickStart, DanceWorks CoWorks, Dusk Dances, and Dance Matters, receiving grants and awards through York University, the Toronto Arts Council and Ontario Arts Council. Her upcoming projects include co-creation with Takako Segawa and Heidi Chan and “Dancing Across the Universe” choreographed by Kathleen Rea. Suzanne has taught workshops in Ottawa, Calgary, Tokyo, and BC and in Toronto for Randolph Performing Arts College, Ryerson University, George Brown and Humber College. She is contract faculty in York University’s Dance department.

[www.suzanneliska.com](http://www.suzanneliska.com)



**KATHLEEN REA** (performer and co-creator) danced with Canada's Ballet Jorgen, National Ballet of Canada & Tiroler Landestheater (Austria). Kathleen is a certified instructor of the Melt Method (Hand and Feet) and teaches Contact Dance Improvisation at George Brown Dance. She has choreographed over 40 dance works and been nominated for five DORA awards. Her film Lapinthrope, co-produced with Alec Kinnear, won the Gold Award at the Festival Der Nationen (Austria). Kathleen is also a recipient of a K. M. Hunter Choreographic Award. Kathleen is a published

author (“The Healing Dance”, Charles C. Thomas). She has a Master’s in Expressive Arts Therapy and is a Registered Psychotherapist (CRPO) with over fifteen years in private practice. In January 2015, Kathleen became a candidate teacher of the Axis Syllabus. Recently Kathleen graduated as a Brain Advancement Coach (Pyramid of Potential Method). She is the director of REASON d’etre dance productions, which produces both the Wednesday Dance Jam and the Contact Dance International Film Festival.



**TRISTAN R. WHISTON** (Dramaturge) is a multi-disciplinary artist who has worked in Toronto's arts community for over 25 years as a director, dramaturge, writer, performer, and community artist. Tristan has written and directed five audio documentaries for CBC; most notably, his work, *Middle C*, won the 2007 Premios Ondas Award for International Radio. As the Artist-in-Residence at Central Toronto Youth Services (2004 to 2010), Tristan directed *Gender Play*, a theatre project working with LGBTQ youth exploring experiences of gender identity. Tristan recently collaborated with Moynan King on an integrated art and sound performance piece called *trace*, which

toured Canada in 2015. In 2016, Tristan travelled to England where he was dramaturge and performer on *Hush*, a new musical written by Alex Bulmer which was presented at the London International Festival of Theatre and at the Royal Exchange Theatre in Manchester.



**Maxine Heppner** (Dance Coach), dance & inter-medial artist, mentor of choreographic process for over 40 years, Toronto-based since 1970's, known for bold projects in Canada & worldwide, with companies, festivals, studios, academies, urban streets, rural villages, ranging from intimate chamber pieces to grand site-specific ensemble works, such as *KRIMA!* for 150 performers (Toronto's top 10 dance shows 2009). Her practice is deeply connected in cutting edge contemporary arts of East Asia since 1989 through extended residencies continuing to today. Honours include recognitions worldwide,

including commissions by 2004 Olympics, 2006 European Cities of Culture, Chalmers Senior Arts Fellowship, Japan Foundation award for international intermedial collaboration, 3 Toronto Dora awards. Artistic Director, Across Oceans Arts, Maxine facilitates the unique choreographers exchange "Choreographic Marathon" & platforms for deep research in creative process within dance & across disciplines. Maxine founded the dance dept of Claude Watson High School for Performing Arts (1983-87), led contemporary dance 14 years at the Koffler Centre, has been faculty at Concordia, York & University of Toronto. Her writings about creation, collaboration & process have been published in peer-reviewed journals & international conferences.