

THE MARGIE GILLIS DANCE FOUNDATION  
presents

# THE LIGHT BETWEEN



[www.margiegillis.org](http://www.margiegillis.org)

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Sarah Pacini ([www.sarahpacini.com](http://www.sarahpacini.com))  
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# THE LIGHT BETWEEN

The gestation period for this new work corresponds to a lifelong artistic quest. When they first met over 25 years ago, choreographer Margie Gillis and painter-sculptor Randal Newman unknowingly set up the foundation for this work like two sowers casting seeds in a fertile field... Their project to blend into the

language of choreography the sculptural and pictorial elements evocative of the dancer's body never ceased to evolve in order to highlight the vulnerability and let-go that all artistic research inevitably requires. Now the two artists are reunited to reap the fruits of their creation.



Over the years, fragments of a yet ill-defined creative ensemble emerged. Ideas sketched out by Randal Newman were complemented by pieces created and performed with Paola Styron (*Nothing Clings to You, a stone's poem*), Holly Bright (*On the Hem of the Northern Coastal Cloud*) and with Marc Daigle (*Portal*). The artistic structure of the project espouses this long maturing of the thought process on the fundamental nature of being, humanly as well as artistically.

This work is modular; it is a structure of solos, duos and trios performed by Margie Gillis, Paola Styron and Marc Daigle. An undeniable character of luminosity and lightness already binds its components. It is the hope revealed by the stirring human vulnerability that the creators wish to expose.

The English title is reminiscent of the poetic energy between space and substance.

## MARGIE GILLIS – dancer and choreographer

As choreographer and performer of more than one hundred solo dance works, Margie Gillis has earned critical acclaim for her performances in Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and South and North America. A passionate and tireless creator, she has worked with the greatest dancers and artists of her time either on personal projects or as a collaborator on the works of her peers. Conscious of assuring continuity in her art, Margie Gillis often teaches in various institutions, notably at the prestigious Juilliard School of New York.

Margie Gillis has been a Member of the Order of Canada since 1988 and of the Order of Québec since 2009. The Canadian and Quebec governments have each given her the honorary title of Cultural Ambassador. In recognition of her exceptional contribution to national culture, the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec awarded her their Career Award in 2001. During the 2008-2009 season that marked the 35th anniversary of her career, the Canada Council for the Arts awarded her the Walter Carsen Prize for Excellence in the Performing Arts, and the famous Stella Adler Studio of New York presented her with their very first MAD Spirit Award for Exceptional Humanitarian Actions by an Artist. In May 2011, she received the Lifetime Artistic Achievement Award from the Governor General's Performing Arts Award Foundation.

Over the years, Margie Gillis' masterful interpretation of the different facets of the human soul has won her loyal audiences. Unwaveringly, her work continues to develop through experimenting, teaching and creating.



## CREATIVE COLLABORATORS

### HOLLY BRIGHT – choreographer

Holly Bright is an important figure of dance in Western Canada. Performer, choreographer, teacher and adjudicator at contemporary dance festivals, she is also artistic director of the Crimson Coast Dance Society of Nanaimo. She explores her work of choreographic improvisation and the dynamics of the voice by studying the relationship between the voice and movement. Her brilliant interpretation of *Costing Not Less Than Everything* by Susanna Hood at Tangente last February won her critical acclaim.

### PAOLA STYRON – dancer and choreographer

Paola Paola Styron was a leading performer and collaborator for over twenty years with choreographer /director Martha Clarke. Productions with Ms. Clarke include: Off Broadway: *The Garden of Earthly Delights*, Vienna: *Lusthaus*, and Vienna: *Lusthaus (Revisited)*, *The Hunger Artist*, *Miracolo d'Amore*, *Vers La Flamme* (Lincoln Center Great Performers Series). The operas *Marco Polo*, and *Orfeo and Euridice* (New York City Opera), *Hans Christian Andersen* (American Conservatory Theater), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (American Repertory Theatre) and *Belle Époque* (Lincoln Center Theater). Ms. Styron also works frequently as a collaborator and performer with Heidi Latsky Dance.



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### MARC DAIGLE – dancer and choreographer

A native of New Brunswick, Marc Daigle studied dance in Ottawa in the 80s. As a member of the Groupe Place Royale, under the artistic direction of Peter Boneham and Michael Montanaro, he danced for a number of Canadian choreographers before settling in Montreal to work with Jean-Pierre Perreault, Carbone 14, Écran Humain, Tom Stroud and Margie Gillis. More recently, he participated in the multidisciplinary work *Quarantaine* by Charmaine LeBlanc.

### PIERRE LAVOIE – lighting designer

Pierre Lavoie first collaborated with Margie Gillis in the 1990s and has designed every new work in her repertoire since then. He is equally at ease with modern and classical vocabulary, a versatility much appreciated by leading dancers and dance companies. Recent lighting credits include productions for the Royal Swedish Ballet with Sabrina Matthews, Atlantic Ballet Theatre of Canada, and Alberta Ballet.

### RANDAL NEWMAN – stage designer

Randal Newman is a visual artist from Winnipeg. Having studied at the Fitzgerald School of Art, his work has been seen just about everywhere in the world. Many of his works belong to private or corporate collections. Dance and theatre have always been a tremendous source of inspiration for him and the subject of many of his creations. Furthermore, at the request of choreographers and directors, he designed a number of theatrical productions: *Wonderbar*, *Underneath the Lintel*, *Breast Friends*, *the Magic Kingdom*. His last solo exhibition, *Familiar*, was composed of a series of family portraits created using a collection of slides for the 1950s and 1960s. Randal is presently working on a new series that will explore the concept of false prophets.

### ANNE DIXON – costume designer

For over two decades, Anne Dixon's work has been seen on stage and on screen internationally, from dance and opera to feature films and television. With a passion for movement, Anne's association with choreographers such as James Kudelka, Margie Gillis, Veronica Tennant, Christopher Dean, Sandra Bezic and Kurt Browning have left ever-lasting impressions on her creative spirit. Her feature film collaboration with such directors as Mick Jackson, Angelica Houston, Paul Mazursky, Kathy Bates, Bob Gale, and Jeremy Podeswa has also been truly inspirational. A graduate in Art & Design from University of the Arts London, England. She is a Genie Award nominee for Best Costume Designer for Saint Ralph.

### LARSEN LUPIN – music composer and sound designer

Under this moniker several identities are concealed: composer, musician, sound designer, sound engineer. Clues are mostly leading to theatre and dance productions, but he (or they?) can also be heard in other domains, like cinema, visual arts and fireworks sound design. Larsen Lupin had already been heard with Margie Gillis (*M.Body.7*, *A Stone's Poem*, *Thread*) and in over a hundred other cases over the last eighteen years, like *Billy*, *La corneille*, *Lentement la beauté*, *Luna (O Vertigo)*, *Vigile*, *Ronfard nu devant son miroir*, *Après la fin*, *Moi chien Créole*, *Félicité*, *Blue Heart*, *Cette fille-là*, *Top girls*, *Tête première*, *Le mystère d'Irma Vep*, *Arturo Brachetti*, *Howie le Rookie*...

Credits: Paintings by Randal Newman  
Photos by Michael Slobodian.