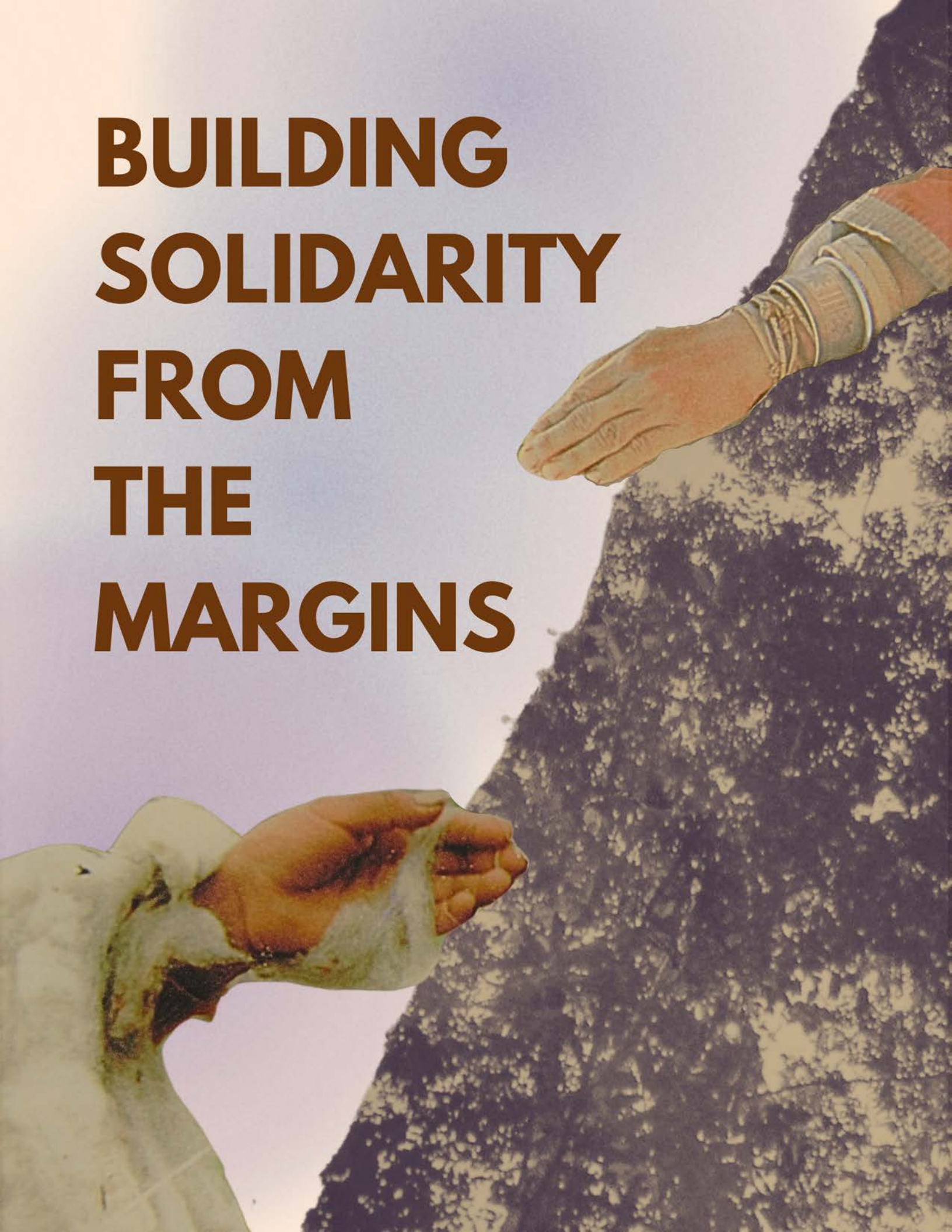


BUILDING SOLIDARITY FROM THE MARGINS



BUILDING SOLIDARITY FROM THE MARGINS

SAINT JOHN NEW BRUNSWICK

SEPTEMBER 20 -21, 2023

DIALOGUES ON THE EDGE - POINT OF ENTRY

IMPERIAL THEATRE 12 KING SQUARE S, SAINT JOHN

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

7:00 – 9:00

COMMUNITY FORUM

BILL MCGUIRE CENTRE 95 JAMES RENFORTH DR, ROTHESAY

SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

10:00 – 2:00 PM

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our Contributors

Women & Gender Equality Canada
Infrastructure Canada
Heritage Canada
The Canadian Council of the Arts
Saint John Human Development Council

Local Safety & Inclusion Solidarity Network Organizations

Warriors Against Violence Society
Native Women's Association - NWT
Inclusion Winnipeg
L'Institut National pour l'Équité, l'Égalité et l'Inclusion des personnes en situation de handicap
Across Boundaries
Nunavummi Disabilities Makinnasuaqtiit Society
Saint John Human Development Council

Thank you

The Saint John Local Safety & Inclusion Solidarity Network

Forum Organizers

Doris Rajan, Bianca Okine, Sue Davis, Randy Hatfield, Keyanna Shaw, Mary James, and Logan Churchill

Designer

Jaek Eastcott - Artwork & Program



Jaberi/
Dance
Theatre

Caliban
ARTS THEATRE



Canada
Canada Council for the Arts
Conseil des arts
du Canada

WELCOME STATEMENT



IRIS – Institute for Research and Development on Inclusion and Society – is pleased to welcome this gathering of activists, artists, community organizers, advocates, grassroots organizations, and allies to the “Building Solidarity from the Margins” forum in Saint John. Over the next two days we will learn more about each other and strengthen networks for a progressive movement for transformative social change. As the legacies of colonialism come more fully into view, at the moment of growing climate crisis, authoritarianism, and social polarization, new voices and identities are taking shape. More than ever, we need to do the careful work of listening and sharing so that voices silenced out of exclusion and trauma, can find welcome social and political spaces. ‘Building solidarity from the margins’ and ‘dialogues on the edge’ are our ‘point of entry’ into new ways of knowing and seeing one another. Thank you for joining us on this journey.

Michael Bach,
Managing Director, IRIS



On behalf of the Human Development Council, we welcome you to New Brunswick to acknowledge and celebrate the work of Solidarity Networks across the country. The Saint John network is stronger than ever. With the IRIS team & guidance and support, we have learned a lot about engaging and empowering marginalized populations in our community. We look forward to sharing our progress with you and learning about yours. National networks are important to us. They connect us to other communities and help us identify and understand what we have in common. They are solidarity in action. Thanks for attending!

Randy Hatfield,
Executive Director, Saint John Human Development Council

DIALOGUES ON POINT OF ENTRY THE EDGE

IMPERIAL THEATRE
SAINT JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2023
7:00 PM ADT



NOTES FROM THE PRODUCER & CREATORS

In human rights work where we are trying to make sense of, and fight against injustice; over the years I have become acutely aware that something...something critical, is missing. In my work, I can, without warning, get stopped in my place with sharp, extreme emotions ranging anywhere from joy to pain. I believe this show attempts to explore and examine this void. Perhaps this form of expression provides us with needed moments of reflection and pause as we strive to right relations and disrupt systems. *Dialogues on the Edge* is a kind of “pedagogy of solidarity” if you will, (here I go again!); because these series of performances use the power of storytelling to activate, provoke and challenge our emotional landscapes, with the goal of transporting our feelings to new and alternative ways of thinking and unlearning.

Therefore, as you can imagine, I am deeply honoured to have had the opportunity to work with each and everyone of this creative team. Enjoy the entry into these dialogues. I am certain we will be talking after the show!

Doris Rajan

“Once more the arts step into the breach with *Dialogues on the Edge*. A compilation that speaks togetherness from different ethnic grounds in an attempt too close that breach”

Clyde A. Wray

“Wavering In and Out is a glimpse of what could have been if his/herstories of Black Deaf Canadians are told in movements and Sign Language. By one story, we become conscious of our action. We are encouraged to unfold and explore any hidden or forgotten information--collectively.”

Jenelle Rouse



NOTES FROM THE PRODUCER & CREATORS

“The Sea is a short reflective piece on ideas historical travails (trauma) search, knowledge, and grander notions of truths. I am grateful to IRIS for the opportunity to participate in this creative and meaningful dialogue. IRIS’s work here is essential and grounding.”

Frank Francis

“In the words of Angela Davis, ‘art can make us feel what we haven’t yet figured out how to say.’ *Dialogues on the Edge* invites us to witness important stories from our communities and offers a point of entry into each other & experiences. This excerpt of a new work in development explores themes of displacement and the implications of architectural violence on the lives of everyday people.”

Roshanak Jaber

“Artistic work invites us always to experience the perspective of another. Stelco’s Cabin extends that invitation from disabled country to all who live and move outside her borders. With patience, persistence and deep attention, a generous welcome awaits.”

Catherine Frazee



DIALOGUES ON POINT OF ENTRY THE EDGE

Opening film by Jaek Eastcott

No Trace Evidence (an excerpt) – Written by Doris Rajan, directed by Bren Eastcott and featuring Jaek Eastcott and Doris Rajan

For New Brunswick, written, directed, and featuring by Clyde A. Wray

Wavering In and Out - Developed and performed by Black Deaf Canada and the Survivance Collective, Jenelle Rouse and Hodan Youssouf

The Sea – Written by Frank Francis, featuring Luther Hansraj

Stelco's Cabin* – Written by Catherine Frazee, directed, by Doris Rajan, movement direction by Roshanak Jaber, featuring Erin Clark and Catherine Frazee

Not Unlike You - written, directed, and featuring Clyde A. Wray

Jaber Dance Theatre – Directed and choreographed by Roshanak Jaber, created with Mio Sakamoto and Yui Ugai performed by Mio Sakamoto and Yui Ugai, Poem by Mahmoud Darwish, read by Bren Eastcott

The Trap – Written by Doris Rajan, inspired by Roger Wah Shee, “JOHN’s” words drawn largely from the writing of William Greenland, directed by Rick Roberts, featuring Pony Nicole Herauf and David DeLeary

The music and words of William Greenland, Gwich'in Singer Song Writer, Native American Flute Player

Showcase direction, Bren Eastcott
Stage Manager, Keltie Darrah

*Photographs of John McEwen's Stelco's Cabin, steel installation, Banff Centre for Fine Arts, 1983–84
Stelco's Cabin, written by Catherine Frazee. From *Dispatches from Disabled Country*, UBC Press, 2023. This piece was a contribution to *A distinct aggregation / A dynamic equivalent / A generous ethic of invention: Six writers respond to six sculptures*, 2019, a project commissioned by the Walter Phillips Gallery, Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, Banff, Alberta

CAST & CREW



Erin Clark

Performance artist Erin Clark is the world record holder in wheelchair parapole, gold and silver IPSF world champion and two-time gold medal winner in the Spanish National Pole Sport championships. An aerial dancer for over a decade, Erin specializes in Aerial rope (corde lisse), aerial silks (tissu), and aerial pole. Erin co-created the aerial comedy duo Flaming Mermaid Broken Star co-writing, choreographing and co-producing shows in New York City. Erin is the author of the NYTimes recommended memoir *If You Really Love Me, Throw Me Off the Mountain* (EyeCorner Press) and co-author of *The Breakup Artist* (Audible). She is currently producing a piece entitled *VisualPleasure* to premier fall 2023.



Keltie Darrah

Keltie Darrah is a lifelong theatre enthusiast, spending time both on stage and behind the scenes. Starting with childhood-homemade-summer theatre for the neighbours (snacks provided by Mrs. Thibeau), moving on to school productions and high school musicals(chorus and dance-number specialist), a concentration in Drama at St. Thomas University (they had to give her something for taking every possible theatre class available), and on to many community (and some professional) theatre productions throughout the past 16 years in Saint John (Imperial Theatre, Stumble Upon A Story, Clyde Wray Productions, Loyalist City Shakespeare, Saint John Theatre Company). She is happy to have the opportunity to help bring this amazing production to the Imperial stage.



David DeLeary

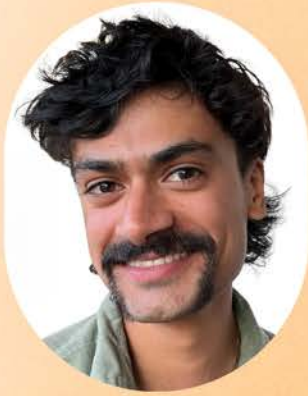
David is member of the Ojibway First Nation of Bkejwanong, also known as Walpole Island, which is located in southern Ontario. Beyond his acting pursuits David is an experienced musician, vocalist and composer.

CAST & CREW



Bren Eastcott

Bren began her professional acting career at the age of 12. She is a graduate of Toronto's Etobicoke School of the Arts during which time she had appeared in many television shows and two feature films. Most recently Bren's theatre credits include "As You Like It" with Canadian Stage and "Wayne and Shuster Live" with Bygone Theatre. Bren is now focused on developing her voice behind the scenes as a writer and director.



Jaek Eastcott

Jaek Eastcott is an independent creative filmmaker and video artist. He has written, directed, and acted in several short films with an emphasis on improvisational filmmaking that explores community and human connection. Jaek has created video art in collaboration with many Toronto-based musicians and artists. In all these processes, Jaek aims to build and showcase connectivity through an emotional and an abstract lens. As a visual artist, Jaek's work often exists in the realm of free-form, kaleidoscopic modes of storytelling.



Frank Francis

Frank Francis is a writer, theatre director and cultural arts presenter. He is founding artistic director of Caliban Arts Theatre and is currently the operator of CONTXT by Trane, in Toronto. He was also owner and operator of the multidisciplinary arts and Jazz venue The Trane Studio established in 2002, he has written and directed several original pieces including The Party and The Wretched. As a professional Cultural Arts and Festivals programmer/producer, his work includes, The Afrikan Millenium and Cultural Festival, Caliban at 20: A Jazz Trilogy Concert Series, as well as Mississauga's Living Arts Centre's 20 th Anniversary concert, celebrating Oscar Peterson and Oliver Jones.

CAST & CREW



Catherine Frazee

Catherine Frazee OC, D.Litt., LL.D. (Hon.), is Professor Emerita at Toronto Metropolitan University, where prior to her retirement she served as Professor of Distinction in the School of Disability Studies. The Chief Commissioner of the Ontario Human Rights Commission from 1989 to 1992, Dr. Frazee has written extensively on human rights, precarious citizenship, and the activist resistance of disabled people. She has recently published a collection of her short essays and reflections, titled "Dispatches from Disabled Country".



William Greenland

My name is William Greenland, a member of the Trondik Hwichin First Nation Yukon. I am a Former Radio Broadcaster of 30 Years, I am an Indigenous Wellness Counselor, a Native American Flute Player/Recording Artist. I have traveled extensively and shared my stories and music with many people. My Son Will is a proud young man and loves to help people much like I do and how I have taught him.



Luther Hansraj

Luther Hansraj is an actor, stage manager, production manager, writer, dramaturge, director, producer, voice coach, teacher, and mentor. He has over 100 stage and 25 film/television credits to his name. Luther has also worked in The Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Taiwan, China, and the United States of America with people of various backgrounds, and is the recipient of a citation, certificate of recognition, and many awards for his work. He teaches new immigrants, with the Toronto District School Board, using drama/theatre to help individuals build confidence in communicating effectively in daily life. Luther is a father and grandfather who began his life in Canada as a young immigrant from Guyana, South America.

CAST & CREW



Pony Nicole Herauf

Pony Nicole Herauf (She/They) is a queer performer and creator originally from Calgary, Alberta. Her films have been programmed and awarded at festivals such as the Vancouver International, Whistler, TIFF, TIFF Next Wave, Chattanooga, Forest City, Myrtle Beach, the Los Angeles Independent Short Awards, and on CBC Gem. She is a member of acclaimed dance/theatre company ROCK BOTTOM MOVEMENT, dominated for three of this year's Dora Mavor Moore awards, including - Best Production (Dance) And Best Ensemble (Dance). She is a scorpio, dog whisperer, and a lover of Lisa Kudrow.



Roshanak Jaberri

Roshanak is a professional choreographer, director, performer, producer, and an emerging filmmaker with a career that spans over 20 years. She is also the Artistic Director of Jaberri Dance Theatre based in Toronto. Her stage production *No Woman's Land* which explores the true stories of women in refugee camps, garnered five Dora Award nominations in 2019 and recently toured across Ontario. Described as "an incredibly poignant film, her documentary short *The Woman in White* has screened at numerous international film festivals including the Barcelona Human Rights Film Festival (2021) and was the Winner of the Best World-Changing Doc by FilmHaus Berlin (2022). The film is based on the true story of the forced disappearance of Juan Irma Cisneros during the Salvadorian civil war.



Doris Rajan

Doris is a theatre and film artist, who was selected as one of the Emerging 20 at ReelWorld Film Festival for her sitcom *Maharani on the Beach*. Doris enjoyed many iterations of her on woman play *Doris Does Damage* and is proud of her work with director Pierre Tétrault on the films *This Beggar's Description*, *The 'R' Word*, and the comedy *Healing Rani*. Her play *A Tender Path* directed by Soheil Parsa, was commissioned for the Truth, Reconciliation & Engagement symposium in 2015, with excerpts performed at the Canadian Museum of Human Rights, November 2021. In the fall of 2022 Doris had great fun taking acting courses at HB Studios in New York City.

CAST & CREW



Rick Roberts

Rick Roberts is an actor, writer and director who has worked in theatre, film and television for more than thirty years. He has been nominated for several awards and has won both the Canadian Screen Award and ACTRA Award for acting. He has appeared as an actor and had several of his plays produced in theatres across Canada. He has also had development deals in television.



Jenelle Rouse

As a visual body-movement dance artist, Jenelle Rouse (she/her) is a lifetime educator (currently an adjunct professor), independent applied linguistics scholar, and a “behind the scene” active member of relevant organizations. She has a natural tendency to see life, connections between different experiences (e.g., Deaf and hearing) paired with invisibility barriers. Since 2006, Jenelle has choreographed and/or performed live artworks *Talking Movement*, *Withered Tree*, *Perceptions*, *Home: Body, Hear Feel See What, Proud*, and most-recently *Multi-Lens Existence’s Chaotic Expression*. She also performed in a short dance film, *Perceptions* in 2015.



Mio Sakamoto

Mio Sakamoto is a Toronto based performer, choreographer and dance educator originally from Japan. She is also a co-founder of MillO Dance Projects. Over the past few years, Mio has performed the works of many creators including Paul-André Fortier, Northfoot Movement, Kaeja d’Dance’s recent *TouchX* and *I am the Child of*, and Red Sky’s *Miigis: Underwater Panther*. her choreographic works have been presented in Canada, Brazil, Slovenia, Germany and Japan. She was also Kaeja Elevation Choreography Assistant for the *Wendy & Peter Pan* production of the Stratford Festival in 2019/2020. In 2020, she received the RBC Newcomer Arts Award by Neighbourhood Arts Network - Toronto Arts Foundation. In 2021, she was selected for the first year-long Artist in Residence of Kaeja d’Dance.

CAST & CREW



Yui Ugai

Yui Ugai was born in Hiroshima, Japan. She majored in drama at high school and studied dance and music at Kobe Jugakuin University. Yui obtained professional ballet training at the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD), and she was awarded a prize for excellence in dance by the magazine, Dance Dance Dance in 2008. Yui holds BFA and MFA in Dance from York University in Toronto. She has danced and toured nationally/internationally with The Toronto Blue Jays, Skindivers, Limitless Productions, The Parahumans, Ballet Creole, Kashe Dance Company, Kaeja d’Dance, Anima Inc. (Mexico/Peru) and more. Yui is also an actress appearing in the film “Summer Days” (Toho) and has appeared in Netflix, Disney Channel, and Sony Pictures.



Clyde A. Wray

Clyde A. Wray: Born a New Yorker lives in Saint John NB is an author of a number of poetry books is a playwright, producer and a director. His last two productions We Were Here and Georgina Whetsel and Lena O’Ree were performed at the Saint John Theatre Company. His present project is Abraham Beverly Walker to be present in streamed in radio audio format. He was recently named by CBC as one of the Black Changemakers in the Atlantic Region.



Hodan Youssouf

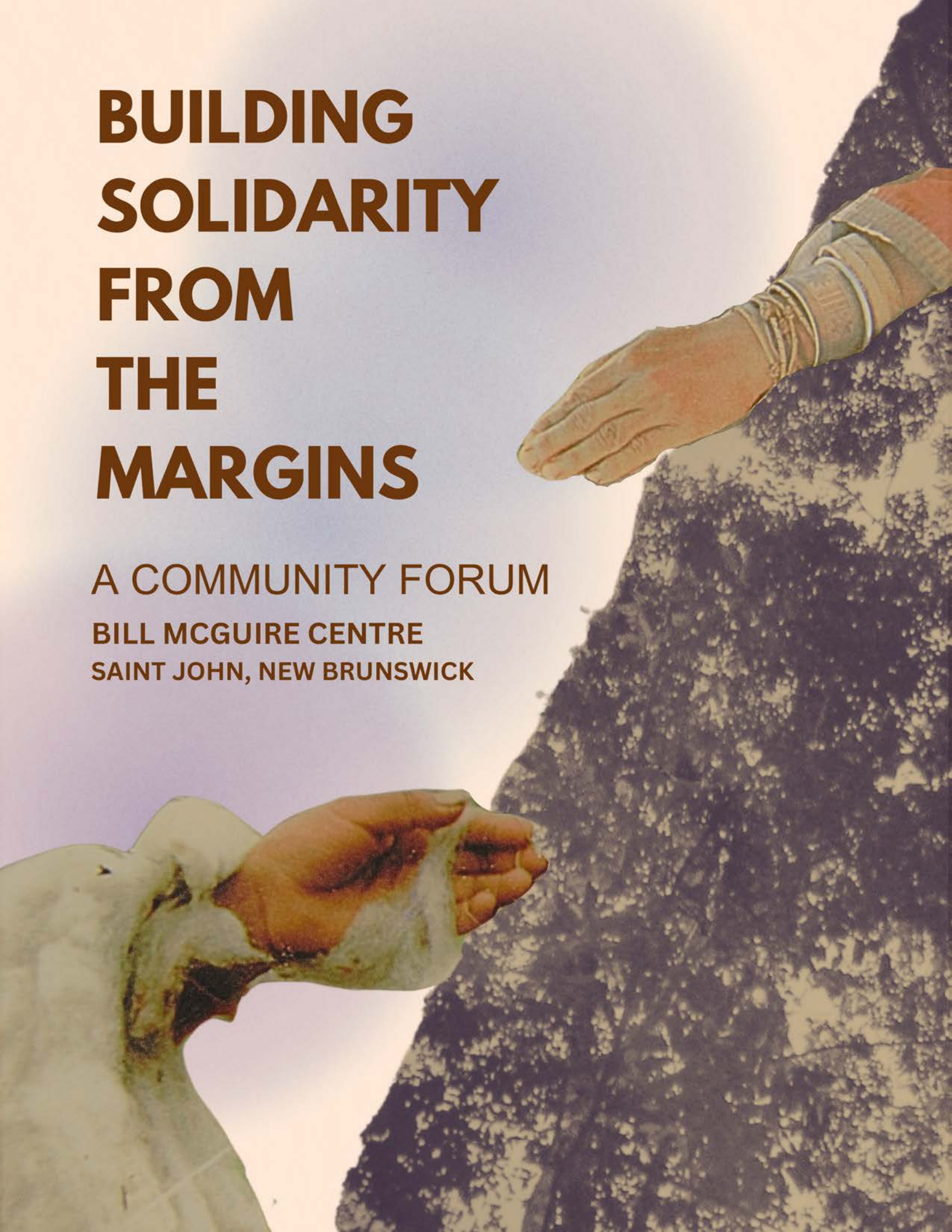
Hodan Youssouf was born Deaf in Somalia. There were no adapted services for Deaf people in this country. Her parents, her hearing siblings and herself had to become refugees to move and live in France before immigrating to Canada. She is quadrilingual (Langue des signes québécoise [LSQ], American Sign Language [ASL], English and French) and an anti-oppressive consultant in the arts community. A committed poet and actress, Hodan has participated in a multitude of projects over the years, both in the hearing and Deaf communities, including Romeo & Juliet, “Un homme fou s’aspirer”, “Souviens-toi... un dortoir” (Montreal), “La part du diable” (Montreal), “La Traversée” (Montreal), “The Tempest” (Edmonton), and “After Faust” (Edmonton).

BUILDING SOLIDARITY FROM THE MARGINS

A COMMUNITY FORUM

BILL MCGUIRE CENTRE

SAINT JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK



SOLIDARITY FORUM

Bill McGuire Centre
September 21, 2023

10:00 – 10:15

Opening - Shelley Thiessen

10:15 – 10:25

Welcome from the IRIS Institute & Saint John Human Development Council

10:25 – 10:40

Ingrid Palmer, Palmer, *The Rise Of A Virago: An Intersectional Triumph*

10:40 – 10:50

Roger Wah Shee, Tlicho Human Rights Lawyer and Writer: *The Revolution will not be Televised (a return)*

10:50 – 11:05

Baba Shabazz – Black Rose Nation, *Culture Farming our way Black*

11:05 – 11:20

Reham Abazid, *A Syrian Women's Story*

11:20 – 11:35

Thandiwe McCarthy

11:35 – 11:45

Melanie Clark, *Beautiful, Blessed, Black!*

11:45 – 12:00

Shelley Thiessen, *Indigenous experiences*

12:00 – 12:45

LUNCH

12:45 - 12:55

Olaitan Onyebuoha, *The Black Migrant Experience*

12:55 – 1:55

Panel - Local Safety & Inclusion Solidarity Networks
Vancouver, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal, Iqaluit, Saint John, Yellowknife

1:55 – 2:10

William Greenland, Gwich'in Singer Song Writer, Native American Flute Player

PRESENTERS



Reham Abazid

My Name is Reham Abazid a mom for four kids I have been in Canada since January 2016 I came with my husband and two kids. I am an active volunteer in the community and have a part time job with flair airline at YSJ Airport



Melanie Clark

My name is Melanie Clark. I was adopted from Philadelphia Pennsylvania in the states. I grew up in Hampton New Brunswick with my 3 other siblings (not blood related) who are black and my two parents who are white. I am currently in my 3 1/4 year of university at the university of New Brunswick, which I am studying political science. I am also the secretary of Black Lives Matter New Brunswick. On top of those things I am a single mom of two amazing daughters who keep me busy.



William Greenland

My name is William Greenland, a member of the Trondik Hwihin First Nation Yukon. I am a Former Radio Broadcaster of 30 Years, I am an Indigenous Wellness Counselor, a Native American Flute Player/Recording Artist. I have traveled extensively and shared my stories and music with many people. My Son Will is a proud young man and loves to help people much like I do and how I have taught him.

PRESENTERS



Thandiwe McCarthy

Thandiwe McCarthy is a passionate and dedicated member of the Black New Brunswick community, recently recognized as one of CBC's 20 Black Changemakers in Atlantic Canada. As a 7th generation African Canadian, Thandiwe combines his passion for social justice with his artistic talents as a writer, spoken word poet, and community advocate. He has published essays in The Maritime EDIT Magazine, and Africanthology. Thandiwe's work has been recognized by the Premier of New Brunswick for his advocacy for the recognition of August 1, Emancipation Day. He is the co-founder of the New Brunswick Black Artists Alliance, and organizer for the New Brunswick Emancipation Celebration event. Thandiwe is dedicated to promoting love, respect, and wellness for all, and his memoir, "Social Oblivion: Raised Black in Canada"; is now available.



Olaitan Onyebuoha

Olaitan is the founder of 7th Laurel Immigration, a New Brunswick-based immigration consulting firm and a trailblazing black female entrepreneur committed to improving the lives of immigrants and the black community. Olaitan is an active community leader and co-founder of the Black Business & Professional Network Inc. She has received numerous accolades including, receiving the Canada Vendor's Community Personality Award, (2021), appointed to the Advisory Committee of the New Brunswick Women in Business, (2022), a BBPA/CASA Foundation Rise Up Winner, (2023) and Canada's top 100 Black Women to Watch 2023. Olaitan is also a wife and mother of three.

PRESENTERS



Ingrid Palmer

Ingrid Palmer, (she, her), is an award-winning speaker, bestselling author, and IDEAL (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, Leading to belonging) Chief Officer at Realize Canada. As vice-chair of the Council of Canadians with Disabilities, Mrs. Palmer is committed to combating discrimination in all its forms, as well as to drive systemic change and debunking myths and stereotypes of stigmatized identities. Ingrid has appeared on multiple media platforms including television, print, and podcasts. She has presented and performed for audiences with Dell Canada, Telus, Godiva Chocolates, the Commotion Disability Arts Festival, Sync Disability Leadership, and various other platforms. Her storytelling brings the experiences of folks pushed to the margins, up to the forefront.



Rae RezWell

Rae RezWell is a Deaf Dominican-Canadian Mixed Media Photographer, Artist and Actor. Rae had a BFA, a Major in Photography from NSCAD University and a Creative Photography Diploma from Humber College. Her art focuses on mixed media with digital photography and alternative processes of photography. She does a variety of skills and adds art materials that she included in her concept. She mostly expresses experiences from her childhood of being multi-racial and Deaf culture, heritage, and trauma in her artwork. Also, she enjoys participating and collaborating with astounding artists and teams to create innovative and creative artwork.

PRESENTERS



Baba Shabazz

Born Joel Nathanael MacPherson Babalus background is represented in his influences from Dead Prez, Stomping Tom, Michael Shabazz, Tupac, KT the Arch Degree, Doug Cromwell, His Earth Tanya, Sonya Simpson, King Haamid Rasheed, ARNA, Allah and Justice, Body Count, The Ancestors Joe Drummond, Paulina Hogan, Elijah Muhammed, and Black Jesus. Babalu, activist musician, has worked, volunteered, contracted, and now partner CEO of The Black Rose Nation in the fields including, Holistic Sunshine Management, Cultural Awareness and Culture Farming. This work has taken Babalu from Coast to Coast and in virtual studies, to Show and Prove the EVALOUTION of REVLOUTION!



Shelley Thiessen

I was born and raised in the housing projects in Winnipeg. I am bi-racial, as a member of the Six Nations, Lower Mohawk Community as well as the Black community in Saint John. As a young girl, I was sent to the Brainerd Indian Residential School in the USA for a period of 3 years. I returned home broken and spent the next 40 years re-building my spirit. I entered the field of Criminal Justice where I served as a member of the Wi Chi Whey Wen Youth Justice Committee (Winnipeg). In Winnipeg and Saskatoon I served Indigenous communities as a Social Worker. I am the proud Mother to 3 strong and wise Indigenous men, Kokum to one special young man.



Roger Wah Shee

Roger Wah Shee, a Tł̨ch̨q̨ (Kle- cho) Dene (Den-ay) human rights lawyer from the Northwest Territories. He has now made entry into the universe of creative writing. He looks forward to many new adventures.