



A BROKEN RHYTHMS PRODUCTION  
CHOREOGRAPHED BY DYANA SONIK-HENDERSON



# UNIVERSAL HORRORS

CLASSIC MOVIE MONSTERS BROUGHT TO LIFE THROUGH DANCE



**OCTOBER 10, 7:30PM**  
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## **Message from Broken Rhythms Artistic/Executive Director and Choreographer**

Broken Rhythms dances on the lands of the lək'wəŋən peoples, now known as the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

Broken Rhythms Dance company focuses on community development, hiring local talent and is devoted to making the local arts community stronger and to support its growth.

Feel free to contact us by email at [brokenrhythmsvictoria@gmail.com](mailto:brokenrhythmsvictoria@gmail.com)

### **ARTISTIC/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Dyana Sonik-Henderson  
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### **OPERATIONS DIRECTOR**

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# Universal Horrors

*Broken Rhythms Dance Company gives classic movie monsters a contemporary dance makeover.*

**Universal Horrors:** It all started when Executive and Artistic Director Dyana Sonik-Henderson found herself captivated by the 1925 gothic and melodramatic silent picture *Phantom of the Opera*. With a spark of creative inspiration, she quickly became enthralled with old monster pictures and began to experiment with how to transform these iconic movie moments and stories into dance.

The result is several short works that bring the classic horror movie genre of the 1920s, 30s, 40s, and 50s back to the stage and in 3D. Combining Broken Rhythms' innovative rhythmical contemporary style you're in for a captivating and nostalgic experience.



## **Show Order**

**Phantom:** Inspired by the 1925 silent film 'The Phantom of the Opera'

**Frankenstein:** Inspired by the 1931 film of the same name

**The Brides of Dracula:** Inspired by the 1931 film *Dracula*

**Mummy:** Inspired by the 1932 silent film 'The Mummy'

**The Invisible Man:** Inspired by the 1933 film of the same name

**Wolf :** Inspired by the 1941 film 'The Wolf Man'

**Creature :** Inspired by the 1954 film 'Creature from the Black Lagoon'.

**Sci Fi:** In the 1950's monster movies were out and sci-fi movies were in. Inspired by the 1953 film *War of the worlds* and other Sci-Fi film of the 50's



## Executive/Artistic Director of Broken Rhythms Victoria Dance Company and Choreographer

**Dyana Sonik-Henderson** (She/They) was born at home on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak and Attawandaron peoples. She is a choreographer, dance instructor, Executive/Artistic Director of Broken Rhythms and style creator of Rhythmical Contemporary. Dyana is a staple in the local dance community with weekly classes at the iconic Raino Dance studio, Victoria Academy of Ballet, Canadian Collage of Performing Arts and is a popular guest instructor at many studios across Canada. She has been nationally recognized for her choreography, community work and artistic direction with nine Pick of the Fringe awards, nominations for the inaugural Pro Arts Regional award, awarded the LOLA Project International, and was presented with the title of B.C Cultural ambassador. Dyana has been commissioned to set choreography on local and national companies, received grants from the Canada Council for the Arts, BC Arts Council and the CRD, and has been invited to lecture at universities about creativity, dance and gender performance. Her productions and choreography have been performed nationally, including Halifax, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Toronto and Vancouver. She has studied and performed widely, including at the Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance (London, England), Decidedly Jazz Danceworks (Calgary), and One Immigrant Productions (Toronto). She is continuously collaborating with artists across the disciplines, while simultaneously working with her company on creative projects. Dyana continues to engage in contemporary multi-disciplinary areas of study and performance, most recently completing her Masters thesis in Sociology at the University of Victoria with a focus on movement and bodies through the lens of gender, race, history, and ballet/contemporary dance works.

Congrats to everyone involved with  
the production of "Universal Horrors."

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## Lighting Design

**Emma Dickerson** (They/Them) is a lighting designer living uninvited on the unceded territories of the lək̓ʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples. Emma has enjoyed focusing on design for contemporary dance, improv, and contemporary performance due to the unique challenges these styles present. A key intention of their work is to further elevate storytelling —emphasizing moments, emotions, and movements— by utilizing the visual movement created by light. This is Emma's 11th show with Broken Rhythms since initially being brought on in 2017 to design Universal Horrors. Recent credits include: OHN HOLD by Broken Rhythms (2024), The AlliHippoRhinoCrocodilligator by Kaleidoscope Theatre (2024), Chiaro:Scurio by BrokenRhythms (2023), The Glass Bell by Paper Street Theatre (2023), Gruff by Puente Theatre (presented by Carousel Theatre for Young People, 2022), 1,000 Pieces of Pi by Broken Rhythms (2022, 2021).

## Universal Horrors Cast

**Candace Bruce** (She/They) is a performer and educator based on the unceded territory of the lək̓ʷəŋən speaking peoples, known today as the Songhees and Esquimalt nations. As a professional dancer, Candace has worked for companies such as Decidedly Jazz Danceworks, Disney Cruise Line, Nickelodeon, and Netflix, where she gained experience working with different contemporary and commercial dance approaches. Candace returned to her hometown of Victoria in 2020, shortly after the pandemic halted her work internationally. Being a student of Dyana's in her childhood, Candace was excited to reconnect with her upon returning. Candace has proudly been a member of Broken Rhythms ever since, performing locally and participating in the company's national tour. She has appeared in several shows, including "1000 Pieces of Pi" (2021, 2022, 2024), "Above Me" (2022), "Chiaro:Scurio" (2023), "Knotted" (2024), and "On Hold," (2025). Candace had the distinct honour of serving as a guest choreographer in the company's 2024 show, Knotted, and stepped into the role of rehearsal director for the 2025 show, On Hold.

**Allison Rhodes** (She/Her) was born and raised on the traditional land of the Snuneymuxw people, where she began dancing at the age of three. During her youth, she spent several years training with Dancestreams Youth Dance Company, which provided her opportunities to work with esteemed choreographers and tour both locally and internationally. She has trained with the Arts Umbrella Dance Company, The National Ballet School of Canada, Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet School, and École Supérieure de Ballet du Québec and is now a Contemporary instructor at Ballet Victoria Conservatory. Allison began dancing with Broken Rhythms Dance Company in 2018 and has performed in many local and touring shows. Most recently, Allison performed in Broken Rhythms' original production On Hold, which premiered locally at the McPherson Playhouse, and in the remount of 1,000 Pieces of π, which was featured in Vancouver's Dancing On The Edge this past summer.

**Christina Plaschka** (She/Her) was born and raised on the beautiful east coast of Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People, also known as Halifax, Nova Scotia. She began her dance training at the age of two when her parents put her in dance classes in an effort to curb her never-ending energy. Since moving to BC, Christina has continued to explore her love of dance by taking different classes in ballet, jazz, contemporary and hip-hop. Christina is a founding member of Broken Rhythms, and has performed in the majority of their works, most recently in Knotted AND On Hold. She has performed in multiple Fringe festivals on Vancouver Island as well as in Toronto. Outside of dance, Christina loves to travel and spend time with her rescue dog Ziya.

**Olivia Lund** was born and raised on the unceded ancestral lands of the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc territory, also known as Kamloops, British Columbia. Growing up she trained in ballet, lyrical, jazz, and modern/contemporary styles of dance, and like many people that spent their childhoods and teen years dancing, left dance behind to focus on education and career. After eventually finding herself in Victoria for work, she started engaging in the dance community and hasn't looked back since. Universal Horrors is her first performance with Broken Rhythms.



**Sara Peddle** (She/Her) was born and raised on the east coast of Canada, and has had the privilege of living and working on the traditional territory of the Lekwungen people since moving to the island in 2012. She began dancing at a young age and after taking a short break to pursue a career in Interior Design, her passion was reignited after taking classes at Raino Dance in contemporary, jazz, and hip hop. Sara started dancing with Broken Rhythms in 2017, performing in Thyself, Seven, Internal Rhythms, 1000 pieces of Pi, Above Me, Chiaroscuro, Knotted and several other projects. Fun fact: Universal Horrors was the first Broken Rhythms show Sara saw!

**Makenna Thiffault** (She/Her) was born and raised on the ancestral lands of the Lheidli T'enneh People, also known as Prince George. Growing up in a musical family, she developed a love for the arts from an early age. To channel her endless energy, her parents enrolled her in various sports, but it was dance that she ultimately connected with. Makenna quickly became immersed in Northern BC's dance and musical theatre scene, competing in numerous festivals and performing in many of the community's summer musicals. She feels incredibly fortunate to have grown up in a place that offered such rich opportunities to develop her passion for performance. Makenna went on to earn degrees in Dance and Kinesiology at the University of Calgary, where she honed her contemporary technique and explored choreography, improvisation, theory, and intersectionality in dance. She performed in various works at the university theatre until the pandemic paused live performances. After graduating, Makenna moved to Victoria, where she discovered Broken Rhythms and started working with them in 2023. Makenna has performed in On Hold', 1,000 Pieces of  $\pi$  and now the remount of Universal Horrors.

**Carlene Forbes** (She/Her) Was born and raised in Lacombe Alberta which is situated on Treaty 6 lands, the traditional and ancestral territory of the peoples of the Cree, Dene, Blackfoot, Saulteaux and Nakota Sioux, as well as the Métis. Her connection to dance began at age four, setting the stage for a lifelong journey within the studio. Her training spans a diverse range of disciplines, including modern, contemporary, jazz, ballet, hip hop, tap, and musical theatre. As a teenager, she was selected for a Sports Excellence Program, providing her with exceptional training and opportunities to collaborate with leading choreographers throughout Canada and the US. In 2005, Carlene began her teaching career, nurturing dancers of all ages. Her passion as both a performer and choreographer has opened doors to numerous unique and challenging artistic experiences as she has continued to share her love of dance over the last 20 years. Joining Broken Rhythms as an apprentice in 2014 and becoming a full time company member in 2015 marked a significant chapter in Carlene's dance career, leading to countless local performance opportunities as well as tours to Edmonton, Toronto and Halifax. After a brief hiatus to welcome her two children in 2022 and 2024, Carlene is now back, eager to continue her artistic exploration, particularly within the distinct and demanding realm of Rhythmical Contemporary.

## Special Thanks

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## **Ways to Support**

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