

CandicePikeInMotion Presents:

# Ruralesque

An Around-the-Bay Cabaret

---



## ***Ruralesque***

A week ago I randomly flipped open Joey Smallwood's "Book of Newfoundland." The page that fell open was a year-book style display of faces with oceans, fields, and industrial scenes in their backgrounds. There was just one line of text at the bottom "No more inferiority complex."

The process of making Ruralesque has helped me unpack this. That yes, the change in an inferior identity for Nlers has been slow to happen. I felt and sometimes been treated as inferior to my mainland peers. But, on the other hand, I'm not sure I really 'belong' as a Newfoundlander (confession: I only learned how to fillet a fish this year). But somehow over the past 1 ½ years of making this piece, as we have worked simultaneously with being both subtle contemporary and flashy burlesque performers, I've become much more audacious in holding all of my identities!

I saw a meme that said: "Tradition is just peer pressure from dead people." So it really comes to us to decide which things to hold on to and which to evolve. We know what the people making tourism ads want us to keep – but does that really reflect a 'Newfoundland identity?' Tonight, we choose to see absurdity in these images of culture that have been marketed to us while embracing the gay/sexually transgressive aspects of it as a way to find and assert our belonging!

The entire processes of creating this show happened with our island values in mind – being resourceful, auto-didactic, appearing self-reliant, and also being completely interdependent. We are in community with all of you, and hope that you'll reach out after the show to let us know what you thought, to share your stories of belonging/not-belonging, and to find out how to get involved in our future endeavours! ~*Candice*

### **Credits**

Stage Manager: Chelsea Marks    Lighting Design: Karla Biggin    Sound Operator: Ben Dunphy

### **Special Thank You To:**

Outside eyes, production assistants, and contributors: Robert Azevado, Kassie Lukeman, Amy Andrews, Amy Bowring, Jane Rutherford, Violet Cummings, Melissa Tobin, Dance Studio West

Our families who have supported accommodations, rides, meals, panic attacks, and everything else. Murphys and Walshes, Knees, Pikes, and Barrys!

The crafters! Cherie Wheeler, Sue Madore, Joanne Martin, Patricia Baines, Michelle Park, Robert Azevado, Kelly Bruton, Brittany Ellsworth, Louise Andrews.

Friends and colleagues who gave feedback and support to our work-in-progress – Josh, Daniel, Geri, Jessica, David, Chelsea, Ian, Robert, Louise and Kelsey, *cb nuit* Encore Audience

The Arts and Culture Centre. As a presenting partner, this performance is only possible tonight because of their support. Thank you Krista Hansen and the A&CC team.

## The Ruralesque Team Onstage:



**Hilary Knee** is a dance artist, choreographer, and teacher based in Corner Brook, NL. Hilary studied contemporary dance at The School of Toronto Dance Theatre and has performed at various festivals across Canada including the Canada Dance Festival, Guelph Dance, and at Neighbourhood Dance Works' Festival of New Dance. Knee performed in JDDance's production, *IN ABSENTIA*, a full-length work choreographed and directed by Sharon B. Moore and presented by DanceWorks (Toronto). Since returning to NL in 2020, Hilary has dedicated much of her artistic practice to choreography and was recently commissioned to choreograph a new group work for Kittiwake Dance Theatre. This choreography, *Reverie*, will premiere this month in St. John's.

**Josh Murphy** is a dance artist, educator and burlesque performer based in St. John's, NL. Murphy trained at York University earning his BFA in 2017. Recent credits include national and international tours with *BoylesqueTO*, participation in the NL Dance Project with Neighbourhood Dance Works and Christopher House, and a solo work "Who Knit Ya" in collaboration with Candice Pike. In 2018 he received the Roberta Thomas Legacy Award wherein he researched the intersections of contemporary dance and burlesque/cabaret style performance. Murphy is currently researching "Ruralesque" with Candice Pike and Hilary Knee, discovering where rural Newfoundland aesthetics meet contemporary dance and burlesque.



**Candice Pike** is a dance artist based in Corner Brook, NL. She uses a gentle approach to create, interpret, and share dance through both a somatic and intellectual lens. With an eclectic background of movement, artistic, and administrative experience she focuses on creating and presenting dance in rural ways. She also practices 'community networking choreography' by facilitating a number of arts engagement and mentorship programs. Candice received a MA degree in Dance from York University, is a Registered Somatic Dance Educator, and has a post-secondary certificate in dance education. She is committed to empowering people to understand their own incredible potential for movement and creativity. Candice also volunteers with a number of different Canadian dance organizations and works as a consultant for local arts organizations.

### **Mike Payne, Special Guest Star!**

Mike is honoured to be part of this unique show. He has been a performer in Corner Brook for the past 30 years having worked with Theatre Newfoundland Labrador, Gros Morne Summer Music, Stephenville Theatre Festival and, for 8 seasons, was co-AD of Stage West Theatre Festival. He is grateful to Candice, Josh, and Hilary for the invitation. Enjoy the show!

## Offstage:



Born in Corner Brook, Newfoundland, and educated in Drama at The University of Alberta, **Lois Brown** returned to St. John's, where she established her cross-disciplinary artistic practice. She is an original member and past Curator of Neighbourhood Dance Works and the Festival of New Dance (1982-89,1990-92); past Artistic Animator at the LSPU Hall; and Artist In Residence and dramaturg at Playwrights' Workshop Montréal, (2010-13). In 2005, she was awarded The Victor Martyn Lynch-Staunton Award for outstanding achievement by a mid-career Canadian artist by The Canada Council and The Newfoundland and Labrador Artist Achievement Award (2005). In 2019 she was inducted into Dance Collection Danse Encore! Dance Hall of Fame, along with such luminaries as Louise Lecavalier and Karen Kain. Lois holds a Masters from Memorial University, where she has taught directing and acting. Since an accident in 2008, her growing interest in disability arts has fueled her explorations of dramaturgy and choreography, improvisation, and islandness.

### **New musical arrangements by:**

**Bridget Swift** is an award-winning songwriter and musician from Corner Brook, Newfoundland. She has been performing original music throughout Newfoundland since 2013, both solo and with numerous bands and artistic collaborators. As a duo with Dahlia Waller, she has received numerous recognitions for performance and song writing such as receiving the Corner Brook Achievement in Community Excellence award for emerging artists and first place in the Statoil Newfound Talent competition in 2016. In 2019, Bridget and Dahlia released their first full length album- "Runaways" and toured across Newfoundland. Bridget has taught multiple songwriting and music performance workshops for youth and continues to write and perform.



### **The development of Ruralesque happened in several phases supported by:**

Live Art Dance – Diane Moore Creation Award, Gros Morne Summer Music – St. Pat's Residency, Neighbourhood Dance Works travel support, Arts and Culture Centre, Corner Brook Tech Residency, Canada Council for the Arts – Conseil des arts du Canada, ArtsNL  
And in-kind contributions from all the creators/performers

You may have heard recorded music from:

The Fables – Heave Away  
Great Big Sea – Rant and Roar  
Alannah Miles – Black Velvet  
Harry Hibbs – Black Velvet Band  
Les Benoits – Tootsie Wootsie  
Sonny Lester - Lament

Ani DiFranco – Untouchable Face  
Government Rams – I Had A Hat  
Tom Jones – You Can Leave Your Hat On  
And text from the NL Geography Wikipedia