

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Attention: Arts, Entertainment, Lifestyles

### LOOKING BACK AND STEPPING FORWARD

*Mocean Dance Celebrates its 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and opens the Live Art Season 2016-2017 Season*

August 29, 2016 – HALIFAX, Nova Scotia: During its history, Mocean Dance has commissioned 35 new works, collaborated with 23 choreographers and welcomed 21 dancers into the fold. Throughout that time, the Company has built a reputation for being on the front line of groundbreaking dance development in Atlantic Canada. Mocean is now recognized as the leading contemporary dance company in the Maritimes. That's a lot to celebrate, and the Company will be doing just that September 22 – 24 when it launches Live Art Dance's 34<sup>th</sup> season.

Aptly entitled *Fifteen*, the program features a remount of acclaimed choreographer Sharon Moore's *Our Unfortunate Deaths*, a new commissioned piece, *For a Quartet*, by celebrated Montreal choreographer Danièle Desnoyers, and a collaborative special anniversary piece, *15 for 15*. Under the artistic direction of Nova Scotia uber-artist/creator Cory Bowles and Mocean Co-Artistic Director Sara Coffin, *15 for 15* showcases the majority of the Halifax professional dance community.

Coffin shares the artistic direction of the Company with Susanne Chui. Founded in 2001 by dancers Carole Crooks Fernando, Sarah Rozee, Sara Harrigan, Alicia Orr MacDonald, and Lisa Phinney Langley, Mocean is rooted in its community and continues on a trajectory driven by its core values of collaboration, versatility, and an unwavering commitment to the work. Collaboration is definitely the name of the game with the *Fifteen* program. In addition to the eighteen dancers on stage, the seventeen choreographers, costume and lighting designers, Mocean is also working with Halifax composer Brian Riley for both *15 for 15* and *For a Quartet*.

#### THE PROGRAM

***Our Unfortunate Deaths*** – Dancers: Sarah Rozee, Gillian Seaward-Boone, Rhonda Baker  
Sharon Moore's witty creation follows the struggles of three women as they desperately struggle to re-invigorate their lives. Part murder mystery, part modern allegory, part endurance test, *Our Unfortunate Deaths* is a story of survival – however messy that may be.

***For a Quartet*** – Dancers: Sara Coffin, Sarah Rozee, Jacinte Armstrong, Elise Vanderborght  
In this world premiere piece, the brilliant Danièle Desnoyers has created a work infused with high energy, sensuality and masterful subtle movement, set to the music of Brian Riley. Desnoyers's dance vocabulary animates the individual movement of each dancing body – making, unmaking and channeling dancers into a synchronism bordering on the absurd.

***15 for 15*** – Dancers: Jacinte Armstrong, Olivia Aubrecht, Rhonda Baker, Vivika Ballard, Susanne Chui, Sara Coffin, Kathleen Doherty, Carole Crooks Fernando (founder) Kara Friesen, Sara Harrigan (founder), Ruth Ellen Kroll Jackson, Lisa Phinney Langley (founder), Veronique MacKenzie, Maria Osende, Sarah Rozee, Michele Slattery, Gillian Seaward-Boone, and Georgia Skinner.

*15 for 15* is composed of 15 one-minute works created by 15 choreographers set on 15 dancers. Brian Riley's original music animates the production. Mocean polled the Halifax arts community to come up with single words to describe Atlantic Canada's dance scene. With descriptors that

include “resilient”, “savage” and “blooming”, each short work reflects one of the high-octane adjectives and offers an engaging sample of each creator’s individual aesthetic.

The 15 choreographers who have created these individual vignettes are:

From Halifax: Jacinte Armstrong, Rhonda Baker, Cory Bowles, Susanne Chui, Sara Coffin, Kathleen Doherty, Ruth Ellen Kroll Jackson, Lisa Phinney Langley, Veronique MacKenzie, Sally Morgan, Maria Osende and Lydia Zimmer. Rebecca Lazier From NYC, New York, and Lesandra Dodson from Fredericton NB, complete the contributing artistic voices.

#### APPLAUDING A LEGACY

Mocean wanted its anniversary piece to bring together an entire community to mark this milestone and to celebrate the rich environment for contemporary dance in Halifax.

“We wanted to reflect Mocean Dance’s history and deep roots in Nova Scotia as well as acknowledging the community that has helped to contribute to, and nurture our longevity, and success,” explained Sara Coffin”. “With the return of the co-founders to the stage and featuring the up and coming generation of dancers, *15 for 15* celebrates the past, present and future of Mocean Dance. Halifax is at the vanguard of innovative dance creation in Atlantic Canada. We definitely think that’s work celebrating!”

Mocean Dance’s *Fifteen*, runs September 22 – 24 as part of Live Art Dance’s 2016-2017 Season. Curtain goes up at 8pm at the Sir James Dunn Theatre, 6101 University Avenue, Halifax NS B3J 2V9

Tickets are \$30 Regular, \$25 Seniors and \$20 Students (35 years and under; on sale now through the Live Art Dance Box Office: <http://www.liveartdance.ca/>.

For more information on Mocean Dance and *Fifteen* check out:

Moceandance.com

Facebook.com/mocean dance

Twitter: @moceandance

Blogspot: moceandance.blogspot.com

Also visit: [liveartproductions.ca/event/mocean-dance](http://liveartproductions.ca/event/mocean-dance)

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