



Dancing with the Universe: a tale of love, loss, fear and resiliency against all odds

REASON D'Etire Dance Productions brings a true story of empowerment to Harbourfront's CoMotion Festival

Sunday April 18th, 2022, Toronto, ON - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dancing with the Universe world premiere is a dance theatre production co-directed by blind multi disciplined artist Vivian Chong and choreographer Kathleen Rea. It tells Vivian's tragic tale of losing her sight due to a rare and unusual allergic reaction, abandonment by her partner, and her journey to rediscover herself as a multidisciplinary artist and athlete. Featuring heartfelt live original music by Chong is an interdisciplinary journey of human emotions that shines a light on loss, grief and resilience. Chong performs alongside an ensemble cast of six dancers and cellist Cheryl Ockrant.

Book-Launch: signing and sales for Vivian Chong's graphic memoir "Dancing after TEN" after April 23 performance.

More information regarding *Dancing with the Universe* and REASON d'etre dance productions can be found on the website: www.reasondetre.com

EVENT DETAILS:

Saturday April 23, 2022, at 8:00 pm (ASL interpretation)

Sunday April 24, 2022, at 2:00 pm (relaxed performance)

Audio description for both shows

Wheelchair accessible

Location: Fleck Dance Theatre, 207 Queens Quay W, Toronto, ON M5J 1A7

Presented by: Harbourfront Centre as part of CoMotion Festival and International Deaf and disability arts festival.

Box Office: <https://harbourfrontcentre.com/event/dancing-with-the-universe/>

Original music, story, dancer, actor and musician:
Vivian Chong

Dramaturge: Tristan Whiston

Original Music (cello and voice):
Cheryl Ockrant

Co-direction: Vivian Chong and Kathleen Rea

Choreography: Kathleen Rea

Original Music (piano and percussion):
Rudi Áneas Natterer

Ensemble Dancers and Co-creators: Ensemble Dancers and Co-creators: Sofia Castillo Ardines, Brayden Cairns, Sid Ryan Eilers, Nickeshia Garrick, Karen Kaeja, Ryan Kostyniul, Suzanne Liska, Rudi Áneas Natterer, Zita Nyarady and Elise Tigges.

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Publicity photos:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1MXKOVPSZIEDOKD935irSIKKO7qk9Wx2b?usp=sharing>