



MODUS OPERANDI

PIVOTAL
POST-SECONDARY
CONTEMPORARY
DANCE
EDUCATION



MODUS OPERANDI

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PHOTOS: WENDY D, EXCEPT PAGE 5 +23: DAVID RAYMOND, PAGE 6: YVONNE CHEW
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MODUS OPERANDI: METHOD, APPROACH, MANNER, WAY OF WORKING

As a student of Modus Operandi, you will receive rigorous, meaningful and challenging post-secondary education in the most current contemporary dance methods. You will be part of a small and determined group of rebellious thinkers and movers in an institution inspired by radically relevant philosophies. Within our artistic process-driven curriculum, we will help you uncover what it means to be a professional contemporary dance artist so you can begin developing your own MO with confidence, excellence and purpose.

Our curriculum is designed so that no central aesthetic or syllabus is prioritized above any other. Our focus is connecting you to the unlimited capacity of your body, imagination and mind and to use this as the centre point of your development. We prepare you to be a masterful problem solver and critical thinker and to be open to all possible ways and reasons to dance. We help you take hold of your learning, give you the freedom to explore and empower you to ask and answer your own artistic questions.

At MO you are supported to build your own institution that carries you through ours and towards an exciting and healthy path. As an institution, MO won't dictate what your practice is and future should be. Instead, we will provide the means for you to discover and pursue it with the highest professional standard, a team of inspirational artists and personal enjoyment.

YOUR M.O.

MO educators are an inspirational force of active directors, creators and performers who use the demands of their current careers and projects as material for the curriculum and your development. Your journey will be supported by ongoing personalized mentorship and a variety of relevant career navigation activity. You will forge lifelong relationships with interdisciplinary artists from young emerging to established professionals.

MO offers you extensive creative processes and professional practicum to contextualize your studies. From the start of your time in MO and progressing towards graduation, you will participate in numerous creations, choreographic workshops, movement repertoire and performances.

We believe that there is no template for a dance career, that contemporary dance is evolving and that each individual has a unique and endless possibility for greatness if they are determined to do the work. MO is designed to help you develop the vital physical, artistic and navigational tools to participate in an evolving and meaningful dance future as a responsive, resourceful and inventive contributor.

Alumni are currently participating with over 40 companies and artists across Canada. A long list of exceptional Canadian dance professionals are dedicated to supporting MO as one of the pre-eminent institutions of contemporary dance training in Canada and the training ground for some of Canada's best dancers.





ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

David Raymond and **Tiffany Tregarthen** create and perform nationally within their company **Out Innerspace Dance Theatre**. They have extensive and diverse performance careers currently performing with internationally touring companies including Kidd Pivot as well as having created works, instructed and studied in Western Europe, United States, Asia, South America and Canada. They lead by virtue of their understanding of the demands of today's professional standards and their devotion to a new frontier of dance within the hands of fervent aspiring professionals.

MODUS OPERANDI & OUT INNERSPACE DANCE THEATRE

MO and OIS collaborate and support each other both inside and outside of the MO curriculum. You can establish a strong understanding of the life, practice and conduct of professional dance as you play a role in the development of OIS ideas, research, and outreach and interact with the interdisciplinary collaborators. The OIS ensemble and guest professionals occasionally take class with you and steep the MO environment with their inspirational skills and experience. Historically, every OIS project has looked to selected MO graduates and alumni to fulfill paid apprenticeships, creation and performance opportunities.

M.O. IS 1 STUDENT BODY OF 30 UNIQUE, SERIOUS, OPEN-MINDED AND INCREDIBLY TALENTED YOUNG PEOPLE

A major contributing factor in the success of Modus Operandi graduates is that for a large portion of their development, students from 1st to 4th year of the program study together as one student body. This supports the diversity of our participants who come with incredibly specialized skills. It allows you the flexibility to join others in their strengths, weaknesses, similarities and differences, to indulge in diversity, trade knowledge and share an appreciation for a broader spectrum of possibilities. The diversity of our educators and students alike results in ever-changing arenas for you to learn from each other and to mature towards a greater breadth of sophistication, leading to an incredible group learning curve, humility and open-mindedness.

We approach the diverse needs of our students by asking our faculty to collaborate and connect with each of you as unique individuals needing time to experiment and understand your own context for daily work. Each generation of MO receives the most practical and advanced material and we help you approach it with your own developing ability and perspective. Ongoing mentorship ensures that students from 1st year to graduation have supported individual contexts that are evolving as their skills and interests evolve. Dancers receive ongoing personal attention, eventuating in small groups of exceptional graduates with not only shared but individual relationships, goals, resources supporting their careers and your own developing artistic perspective.





CURRICULUM

DIVERSE CONTEMPORARY DANCE PRACTICES

M.O. is hailed for the spectrum of contemporary methods and points of view offered to our students. We program specific contemporary classes to act as central training, and others as intensive series of unique and personal methods. Contemporary dance classes include partnering, somatic practices, conditioning, improvisation, performance studies, contact improvisation and more. Ballet is also included as a staple foundational class with an approach that is significant to diverse contemporary practices. Complementing these classes are workshops including theatre, voice, world dance and hip hop techniques.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICUM

A wide range of activity is dedicated to helping you understand and thrive in the professional environment including Performance Studies, Movement Repertoire, Choreographic Workshops, Composition, and Movement Generation all motivated by active works, research and methods of accomplished guest professionals.

CREATIVE PROCESS AND PERFORMANCE

Each year three to four guest choreographers work with the students to develop new performance works inspired by their current company research and creations. These along with improvisational performances, public performance and results from choreographic workshops are shared within ongoing MO studio showings, the year end performances as well as performances outside of MO within Vancouver festivals and events.

MENTORSHIP, CAREER NAVIGATION AND ASSESSMENT

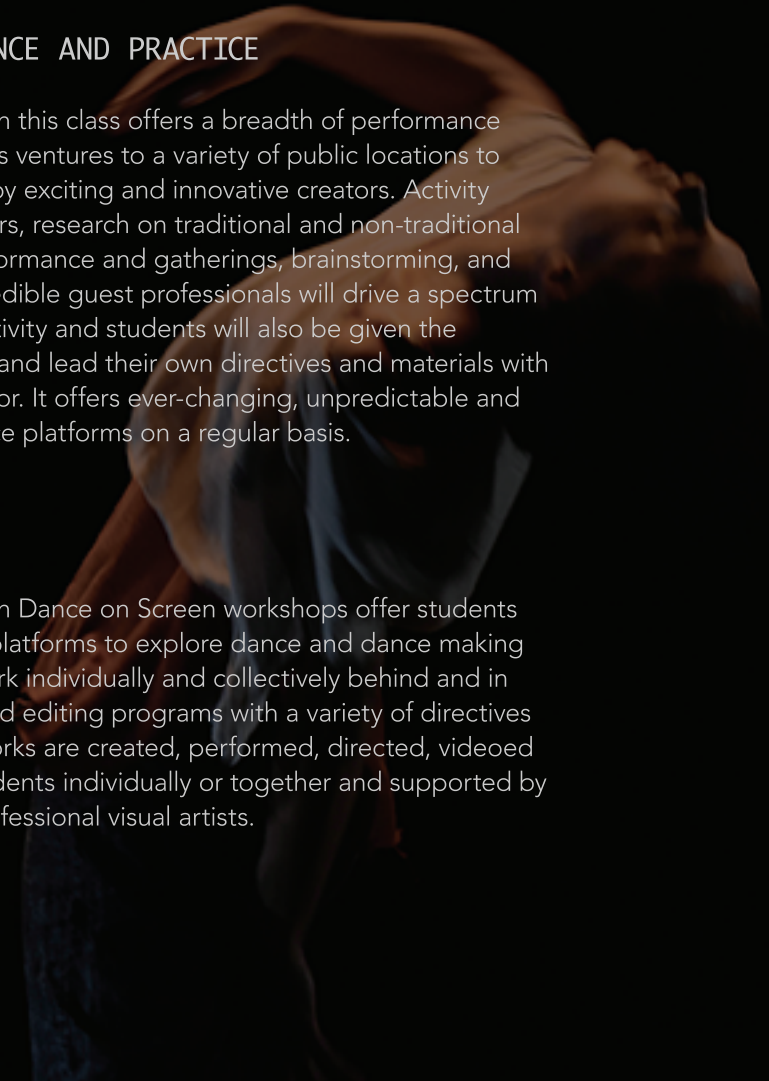
Mentorship is an ongoing facet of your time in MO, lead by multiple professionals with different approaches. Mentorship and assessment go hand in hand, incorporating group dialogue, meetings, written assignments and directed study. Assessment is an ongoing collection of evolving artistic goals and questions actively lead by you, the mentors and Artistic Directors. Assessment and mentorship activity supports both specific challenges and projects, as well as the overall trajectory within your yearly and multi-annual development. Career navigation is part of continued dialogue between you and your educators. Understanding the possibilities, demands and expectations inherent in a professional dance career are part of each class and the 4-year program. Dialogues with educators, mentors and peer to peer discussions help you combine the curriculum, the current professional dance landscape and your individual interests into building and reaching your goals.

PUBLIC PERFORMANCE AND PRACTICE

Throughout the season this class offers a breadth of performance experience as the class ventures to a variety of public locations to perform activity lead by exciting and innovative creators. Activity includes guest speakers, research on traditional and non-traditional forms of outdoor performance and gatherings, brainstorming, and content building. Incredible guest professionals will drive a spectrum of approaches and activity and students will also be given the opportunity to create and lead their own directives and materials with the support of a mentor. It offers ever-changing, unpredictable and distinctive performance platforms on a regular basis.

DANCE ON SCREEN

Throughout the season Dance on Screen workshops offer students new information and platforms to explore dance and dance making interests. Students work individually and collectively behind and in front of the camera and editing programs with a variety of directives and themes. These works are created, performed, directed, videoed and edited by the students individually or together and supported by our educators and professional visual artists.



SEPTEMBER–DECEMBER: FORM AND FUNCTION

An intensive period of contemporary technique and conditioning, as well as ballet and movement research classes, start off the year. As framework and ballet classes progress, improvisation and partner work are introduced. By term's end, students will also be intensively engaged in movement generation labs, active professional company repertoire and workshops in alternative movement techniques (i.e. popping, classical Indian, house). Through one-on-one and group mentorship incorporating self, peer and professional assessment activities, you will establish a clear personal trajectory and set of goals to support moving into next term.

JANUARY–MARCH: DEEPENING TECHNICAL AND CREATIVE PRACTICE

The continued development of technique and movement research support the start of numerous choreographic workshops with renowned guest artists. Through the commencement of annual choreographic and performance projects you will engage in in-depth creation process with established choreographers in diverse formats while one on one and group mentorship continues to support your trajectory. February initiates the additional Graduate Focus Group activity for 3rd year and graduates that continues through to the end of the season. Three hours per week are added to the schedule for the remainder of the year to allow for additional programming.

APRIL–JUNE: CREATION, DANCE ON SCREEN AND PERFORMANCE

The emphasis on daily technique and movement research being lead at a graduate level intensifies preparing you for ongoing creation projects and upcoming performance opportunities. Parallel to this work is a series of workshops on perspective, composition and technical skills related to video resulting in individual and group Dance on Screen projects. Graduate Focus Group generates opportunities to share developing portfolios of research, creation, performance and practice with the professional community and public while receiving extensive mentorship to ensure a successful bridge from MO to independent careers. The season concludes with three in theatre performances followed by a mentored in- depth reflection and assessment period supported through individual and group dialogues, exercises and activity.

SAMPLE WEEKLY SCHEDULE

| <u>SUNDAY</u> | <u>TUESDAY</u> | <u>WEDNESDAY</u> | <u>THURSDAY</u> | <u>FRIDAY</u> |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| Ballet 10–11:45am | Focus Group 9–11:30am | Focus Group 9–11:30am | Focus Group 9–11:30am | Group Dialogue 3:15–4:45pm |
| Contemporary Technique 12–2pm | Ballet GROUP 1/STUDIO 1 GROUP 2/STUDIO 2 12–1:45pm | Contemporary Technique 12–1:45pm | Ballet GROUP 1/STUDIO 1 GROUP 2/STUDIO 2 12–1:45pm | Ballet GROUP 1/STUDIO 1 GROUP 2/STUDIO 2 12–1:45pm |
| Movement Gene- ration & Improv 2:30–4:30pm | Creation 2–5pm | Creation 2–5pm | Creation 2–5pm | Cont. Technique & Improv 7–9:30pm |



4 YEAR TRAJECTORY

1ST YEAR

Develop essential foundational skills physically and artistically while analysing and reflecting on approach, progress and challenges.

Career navigation activity is specific to connecting and exposing you to a broad range of contemporary dance through research, performances and dialogues.

Mentorship and assessment opportunities prioritize your needs as you submerge yourself in the MO program, and help you approach the lessons, environment and demands with personal context, understanding, success and support.

Improvisation, dance making, choreographic workshops, dance on screen, and movement repertoire are an important part of your development right from the 1st year.

2ND YEAR

Strengthening your artistic and technical skills empowers you with a greater responsibility for your learning and progress.

Gain a deepened connection between daily work and professional ambition with greater knowledge and appreciation of the existing dance community.

Build a stronger relationship between short-term and long-term goals.

Take more risk in every aspect of your learning and take on new challenges in class, creation and performance.

3RD YEAR

Enjoy a more self-directed, critical engagement with the form.

Rely on your growing sophistication in a multitude of methods and approaches to experiment with what you are learning, and your developing voice and connect the way you see the world with your interests and ultimately your dancing.

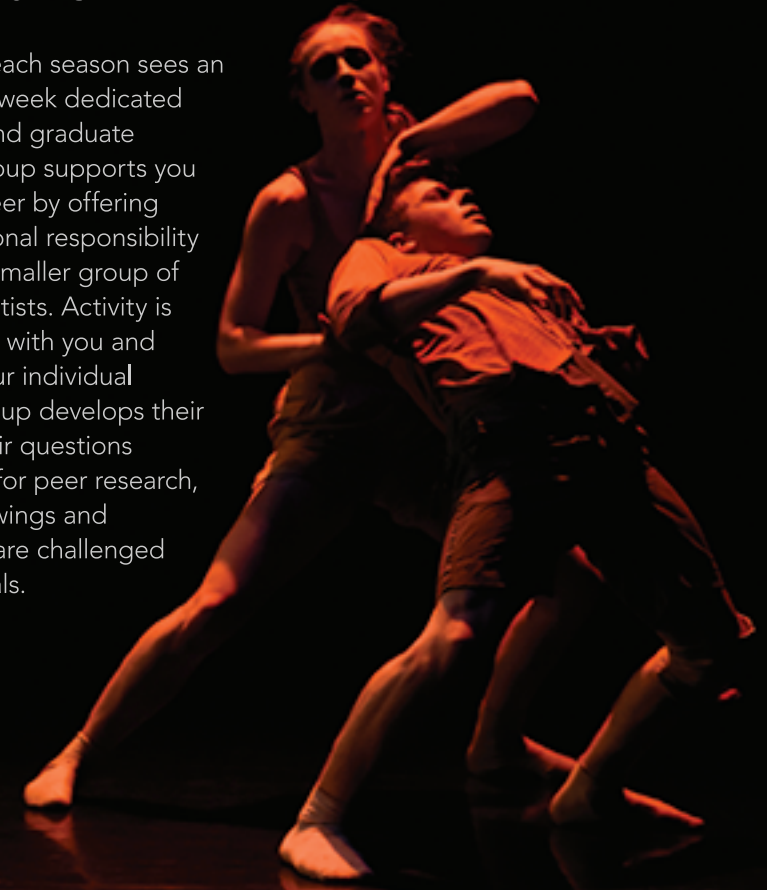
Strengthen relationships with and understanding of the greater dance community and participate in dance activity outside of MO.

Gain a deeper awareness of the demands and expectations of a professional dance artist and are able to assess, communicate and approach your personal challenges in meeting those standards.

Be challenged as a soloist and meet more demanding physical and interpretive roles while building stronger collaborative and interpretive skills relevant to the professional process.

FOCUS GROUP: 3RD YEAR AND GRADUATES

The last five months of each season sees an additional 7.5 hours per week dedicated exclusively to 3rd year and graduate students. This Focus Group supports you on the brink of your career by offering added time for professional responsibility and practicum within a smaller group of exceptional emerging artists. Activity is planned in collaboration with you and designed to support your individual interests. The Focus Group develops their own practice, brings their questions together as a collective for peer research, facilitates their own showings and feedback sessions, and are challenged as emerging professionals.



GRADUATES: AS A GRADUATE OF M.O. YOU...

USE TENACITY, POINT OF VIEW AND CONFIDENCE ALONG WITH AN EVER-GROWING AND DIVERSIFYING TECHNICAL AND ARTISTIC TOOLKIT TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR DEVELOPING DANCE PRACTICE.

ENJOY PRODUCTIVE CRITICAL SELF-ASSESSMENT + A SENSE OF OWNERSHIP OF YOUR SKILLS/DESIRES.

BUILD A STRONG UNDERSTANDING AND DESIRE FOR SELF-PRACTICE, COLLABORATION AND VALUE UNCOMPROMISING PEER RESPECT AND SUPPORT.

POSSESS A STRONG, ARTICULATE AND SOPHISTICATED BODY AND MIND AND ARE EAGER AND ABLE TO EXPRESS COMPLEX IDEAS IN DIALOGUE, IN BODY AND IN PROCESS.

HAVE DEEP APPRECIATION AND INTEREST IN THE EXISTING COMMUNITY AND BROAD CONSIDERATION OF ALL FORMS AND APPROACHES.

HAVE AN INSATIABLE HUNGER FOR LEARNING, APPROACH EVERYDAY WORK WITH EASE, JOY, RIGOUR AND CONTEMPLATION AND KNOW HOW TO USE WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED.

ENJOY A HEALTHY AWARENESS AND CONFIDENCE TO CHALLENGE YOURSELF, OTHERS AND CURRENT EXPECTATIONS AND STRUCTURES THOUGHTFULLY WITH RESPECT AND HIGH STANDARDS.

HAVE MULTIPLE MEANINGFUL PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIPS DEVELOPING THAT BRIDGE YOU FROM TRAINING TO AN INDEPENDENT CAREER.

ARE INVIGORATED BY YOUR ARTISTIC QUESTIONS, ARE AN INNOVATIVE PROBLEM SOLVER AND APPROACH PROFESSIONAL DANCE WITH A STRONG PURPOSE, PLAY, CURIOSITY, RIGOUR AND RESPONSIBILITY.

M.O. ACCOMPLISHMENTS: MO graduates enter a community that they are already in active personal dialogue with and meet organizations and artists whose practices have already met with theirs in diverse ways through the 4 year curriculum. Indeed, many of the successful professional careers of MO alumni were launched by the apprenticeships and relationships with choreographers that began within the program.

Provincial, National and International Performances with Action at a Distance, Alberta Ballet, Animals of Distinction, Ballet BC, battery opera, Co. Erasga, Company 605, Daina Ashbee, Deanna Peters' Mutable Subject, EDAM, Hong Kong Exile, Kinesis Dance somatheatro, Kokoro Dance, MACHiNEN0iSY, Mascall Dance, Move: the Company, Out Innerspace, Plastic Orchid Factory, the response, Rob Kitsos, Rubberband Dance, Shay Kuebler Radical System Art and Wen Wei Dance, among others.

Apprenticeships with companies including Kidd Pivot, Donald Sales and Cherice Barton, Justine A. Chambers, Tara Cheyenne Performance and Ouro Collective.

Choreographic works presented in PuSh Festival, Dancing on the Edge, CanAsian Dance Festival, Biennale Festival at National Dance Week, The MAI, La Bodega and Casa del Cultura (Mexico).

Acceptance into Alonzo King's Lines Ballet BFA Program, The Juilliard School, Point Park University, EDAM Scholarship Program, summer programs with O Vertigo, Northwest Dance Project, P.A.R.T.S., Movement Invention Project, Springboard, Nederlands Dans Theatre and TSV Scholarship.

Municipal, Provincial and National funding for their professional development and independent projects.

Today's contemporary dance careers are extraordinarily diverse, demanding and requiring a multitude of qualities and abilities. As a result, MO is designed for dancers who are insatiably curious, driven and excited by this. We look for tenacity, hunger for learning, skilled imagination and ability to adapt as advanced physical aptitude, focus and dance experience. New MO members combine these with a serious pursuit of a contemporary dance profession and their commitment to the multi-year curriculum. Alongside this we expect applicants will have a basic understanding of MO, local, national and international contemporary dance motivating their application.

A written application and extensive audition will give you a variety of opportunities to demonstrate your passion, talent, needs and commitment. We want to know as much as we can about you. Not only your interests, goals, and strengths but your challenges and critical self-assessment help us know more about what you expect of yourself, your time with us and your dance future.

We recommend you apply and register early as there are limited places in the auditions, workshops, and intensives as well as attend MO open houses, showings and performances to see MO in action. The majority of applicants attend the spring and summer intensive to dance with the directors and MO students, to get as much exposure to the MO environment and values, and answer their questions about the program. Historically applicants participating in the intensive have a more successful application due to their time with the directors and MO methods.

HOW TO APPLY

Audition Applications + Intensive Registration Forms available for download at **outinnerspace.ca/mo**

Please contact us with your questions at **modusoperandi@outinnerspace.ca**

UPCOMING IN VANCOUVER, BC...

Spring Intensive
Mar 30–Apr 1, 2017
SFU Woodward's

Year End Show
Jun 23 + 24, 2017
The Dance Centre

Summer Intensive
Jul 17–21, 10am–5pm
SFU Woodward's

Summer Audition
Jul 22, 10am–2pm
SFU Woodward's

