

## PERFORMER BIOGRAPHIES



### **CYNTHIA CROKER - Performer**

Cynthia grew up in Minneapolis, Minnesota studying all forms of dance ranging from ballet and jazz to tap dancing on dinner plates. She trained professionally in voice, flute and gymnastics as well performed in many musical theatre productions. After studying vocal education at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota she came to Canada and joined the staff of the Academy of Performing Arts School (Cambridge, Ontario) where she taught master classes in jazz dance, voice and flute and directed numerous productions internationally. Cynthia is a Co-Founder of MOTUS O as well as holds the positions of Co-Artistic Director, Choreographer, Performer, Teacher and Costume Designer. She has created over 70 original works for the company and has toured with them throughout England, the U.S.A. and Canada. Cynthia is an artist in residence with the Banff Centre in their Leadership Development Program. She also teaches movement with various social service organizations including individuals with Parkinson's, Cerebral Palsy, Autism and Aphasia. As well, Cynthia is an artist with the Artist In Residence program for the York Region District School Board; partnering with teachers to include innovative dance programs in their schools.

### **JAMES CROKER - Performer**

Originally a sheep shearer from Australia, James came to Canada to study dance, theatre and mime at Guelph University, Guelph Ontario, and the former Academy of Performing Arts School in Cambridge, Ontario. James worked for the Academy for over a decade, creating and performing productions in China, Australia, New Zealand, Europe and North America. Eventually James became the arts school director, teaching and training international young people in dance, theatre and mime. In 1990 James began his own company MOTUS O and has since been working the roles of Co-Artistic Director as well as Choreographer, Performer, Set and Prop Designer. James also is a teacher in dance and theatre with repeated teaching assignments in various Ontario High Schools in their drama programs as well as leads workshops for individuals with aphasia. He also works as an artist in residence at the Banff Centre in their Management/Leadership Program. James has created over 70 original works or 21 full-length productions for the company and has toured them throughout England, Australia, the U.S.A. and Canada.

### **JACK LANGENHUIZEN - Performer**

A former national figure skater, Jack began, at the age of 18, his training in dance at Toronto's Roland and Romaine Dance School, including jazz, tap, ballet, musical theatre and ballroom. After completing a Bachelor of Arts Degree he joined the Academy of Performing Arts School (Cambridge, Ontario) where he taught and continued his studies in dance now including modern and contact improvisation. He also toured with the Academy's dance school in Europe, Central America and throughout North America. In 1990 Jack co-founded MOTUS O as well as took the roles of General Manager, Co-Artistic Director, Choreographer, Performer and Teacher. Jack has created over 70 original works for MOTUS O and has toured and taught with them throughout England, Australia, U.S.A. and Canada. Jack also works as a faculty member at the Banff Centre in Alberta in their Leadership Development Program as well as with various social service organizations including individuals with aphasia, autism and those involved in hospices.



### **LAURA DAY-SOBOLEV - Performer**

Born and raised in Kitchener, Ontario, Laura started dancing at the age of 3. She trained in ballet, tap, jazz, modern and lyrical at the Academy of Dance in Waterloo Ontario until the age of 18. In 2007, Laura graduated from York University where she received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree majoring in Dance with honours. While at York, Laura had the opportunity to work with and perform choreographic works by David Earle, Carol Anderson, Holly Small and Susan Cash. She has also had the pleasure of being taught by world-renowned artists such as Frank Augustyn, Veronica Tennant, and Robert Desrosiers and has studied classical ballet at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School. Laura has danced with MOTUS O dance theatre for 9 seasons performing in their productions *Carmina Burana*, *Perspectives*, *What the Heck*, *Petrouchka*, *Variations in Love*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Circus Terrifico*, *A Little Match Girl*, *The Shunning*, *A Fair Tale*, *Animal Tales*, *The Best of MOTUS O ~ 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tour* and *One Hit Wonders*.

### **PETRA BLENKHORNE - Performer**

Petra is delighted to be rejoining Motus O in its 25th year! Challenge accepted!  
When she's not on the road with the troupe, Petra can be found relishing the variety in her life ... strength training clients, dressing ladies at Zahara's Boutique, sewing something, or tending someone's garden...  
Otherwise, she's trying to connect with (and feed) her teenage boys. Heartfelt thanks to Ted, for releasing me to fly again (I promise to come back!) and my mom, siblings and friends for your incredibly kind home support.