



Presented by Dance Affiliates
and Annenberg Center Live

RUBBERBANDance GROUP

Empirical Quotient

Choreographer **Victor Quijada**

Composer **Jasper Gahunia**

Lighting Designer **Yan Lee Chan**

Costume Designer **Julie Charland**

Dancers: **Katherine Cowie, James Gregg, Franklin Luy, Zachary Tang,
Lavinia Vago, Lea Ved**

Sound Operator **Éric Tremblay**

Tour Manager **Brent Belsher**

Co-artistic Directors **Anne Plamondon** and **Victor Quijada**

Administrative Director **Fannie Bellefeuille**

Technical Director **Yan Lee Chan**

Production Manager **Julie Brosseau Doré**

Communications Officer **Alexandre Escure**

PROGRAM

There will be no intermission



Thursday, April 16 at 7:30 PM

Friday, April 17 at 8 PM

Saturday, April 18 at 2 PM and 8 PM

Zellerbach Theatre

PROGRAM NOTES

Over the past ten years, the amazing duo that is Victor Quijada and Anne Plamondon has brilliantly developed the remarkable signature that is the hallmark of RUBBERBANDance Group. Utilizing the RUBBERBAND Method, this unique style of movement comes to full fruition in the bodies of six exceptional performers whose backgrounds range from classical, contemporary and urban dance to circus arts. Choreographer Victor Quijada uses an artistic approach that is part character study, part compositional dissertation, to explore human relationships through a theatrical but non-expository manner. In *Empirical Quotient*, he weaves together situations of dependence, rejection, empathy and acceptance, within a complex display of athleticism and precision. Long-time collaborations with composer Jasper Gahunia and lighting designer Yan Lee Chan set the stage for Quijada's continued observations on the effects of time and experience on an individual's self-perception and identity.

Empirical Quotient is a production of RUBBERBANDance Group and a co-production of The CanDance Network Creation Fund, Danse Danse, Grand Theatre Kingston, Guelph Dance, Le Theatre Hector-Charland, and la Société de la Place des Arts, with the kind collaboration of the Segal Centre for Performing Arts.

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Victor Quijada (Artistic Director/Choreographer)

Victor Quijada's work eloquently re-imagines, de-constructs and applies choreographic principles to hip-hop ideology, examining humanity through a unique fusion of aesthetics. His vision stretches into the arena of theatrical interpretation, improvisational approaches and the visual imagery of film. A magnetic and expansive dancer, by age 26 Quijada had moved from the hip-hop clubs of his native Los Angeles to a performance career with internationally-acclaimed postmodern and ballet dance companies such as THARP!, Ballet Tech and Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal. Since creating RUBBERBANDance Group in 2002, Quijada has choreographed over 24 short and full-length pieces both within the company structure and as commissions, and has toured with his company in North America, Europe, Japan and Mexico. He has over a dozen film credits to his name either as choreographer, director or dramaturge. Quijada received the Bonnie Bird North-American Award and the Peter Darrell Choreography Award in 2003, the OQAJ/RIDEAU Prize in 2009 and a Princess Grace Award Choreographic Fellowship in 2010. From 2007 to 2011, he was an artist-in-residence at the Cinquième Salle of Place des Arts in Montréal.

Katherine Cowie (Dancer) was born and raised in Vancouver. Moving from competitive gymnastics, she began her dance training at Arts Umbrella and earned her BFA at The Juilliard School in New York. Cowie has performed works by prominent choreographers and has worked with Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal, Kidd Pivot, the Hofesh Shechter Company, RUBBERBANDance Group, Joe Ink and Hubert Essakow. As a freelance artist, she has collaborated with Nederlands Dans Theater choreographer Fernando Magadan on several occasions, including a multi-disciplinary show, *Nierka*, which premiered in London in 2012. Cowie has also performed in Robert Lepage's opera *The Tempest*, and most recently, could be found in the role of Wendy in Punchdrunk's London-based show, *The Drowned Man*.

James Gregg (Dancer) began dancing at the age of nine. He trained with Ballet Oklahoma, Cece Farha's ROM, Houston Ballet, Bolshoi Ballet Academy, Lou Conte's and The Edge Performing Arts Center. In 1999, he moved to Chicago to dance with River North Dance Company for several years. Gregg went to Montreal in 2005, where he danced with Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal until 2013. He is also a member of Aszure and Artists, and performs with other dance companies around the country. Gregg has performed the works of renowned choreographers Aszure Barton, Crystal Pite, Rodrigo Pederneiras, Frank Chauves, Danny Ezralow, Harrison Maceldowny, Mauro Bigonzetti, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, Cayetano Soto, Edgar Zendajas and Mia Michaels.

Franklin Luy (Dancer) was born in Caracas, Venezuela. After practicing capoeira and acrobatics, he moved to Quebec City in 2007 to study circus arts and subsequently completed his training as a hand balancer in Montreal. He then appeared with Cirque du Soleil and Cirque Éloize, while also exhibiting his skills as a street performer. Luy attended a workshop given by Víctor Quijada in late 2012 and has since strongly identified with the RUBBERBAND Method. He feels that his work with RBDG allows him to apply his training to a completely new dimension of creation and expression. Luy also performs as a circus artist at the Montréal Jazz Festival and the Complètement Cirque festival.

Zachary Tang (Dancer) Born and raised in Texas, Tang began his dance training at Dancescape under the direction of Joyce Beck. He then graduated from The High School for Performing and Visual Arts in 2007, under Luanne Carter. Tang trained in programs at Ballet Austin, Tulsa Ballet, Joffery Ballet, Perry Mansfield and Springboard Montréal. Upon receiving his BFA from The Juilliard School under Lawrence Rhodes, Tang won the Hector Zaraspe Prize for choreography. He has worked with choreographers Peter Chu, Victor Quijada, Alexander Ekman, Stijn Celis, Larry Kegwin, Mark Morris and Darrell Grand Moltrie, and has performed works by José Limón, Anthony Tudor, Martha Graham, Paul Taylor and Nijinska. In 2012, Tang was listed in *Dance Magazine's* "Top 25 to Watch." Before joining RUBBERBANDance Group, he spent two years with Alonzo King's LINES Ballet.

Lavinia Vago (Dancer) is a dance artist from Italy. She graduated magna cum laude from Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle. While there, she worked with artists such as Tonya Lockyer, KT Niehoff and Zoe Scofield. Afterwards, Vago danced with Sidra Bell Dance New York and toured internationally with Korhan Basaran and Artists. In 2013, she was invited to attend the Robert Rauschenberg Residency in Captiva Island, Florida, with her collaborator Kate Wallich. Since joining RUBBERBANDance Group, Vago continues to work with Loni Landon Projects in New York and is co-director and performer with THE YC in Seattle.

Lea Ved (Dancer), originally from Anaheim, California, earned her BFA from The Juilliard School in 2013. She has performed work by Nacho Duato, William Forsythe, Gustavo Ramirez Sansano, Alexander Ekman and Victor Quijada. Her own work received Choreographic Honors at Juilliard and has been showcased as part of the Toronto Outreach Exchange Strategy (TOES) as well as the DaretoCreate Dance Collective. She is featured in *Brain, The Inside Story*, an exhibit produced by the American Museum of Natural History and touring the world, and has also more recently been included in *Corps Rebelles*, an exhibit to be featured in the Musée de la Civilization in Quebec City. As a freelance artist Ved has had the honor of being involved in a number of projects for commercial work, choreography and teaching in the US and Canada.

Yan Lee Chan (Lighting Design/Technical Director) Based in Montreal, Yan Lee Chan has worked in the performing arts for more than a decade. He first studied lighting design at the Saint-Hyacinthe School for Theatre Arts, where he earned a degree in stage management and technical direction. After graduation, he worked primarily in Europe,

collaborating with Olivier Duplessis and other dance artists. Since his early teens, Chan has also performed as a sleight-of-hand magician and he has subsequently developed new lighting concepts that create stage illusions. Chan has worked with many Canadian choreographers and performing arts companies including Sonya Biernath, Lin Snelling, Bill Coleman, Andrew de Lotbinière Harwood, Nicole Mion, Stéphane Gladyszewsky, Jenn Goodwin, Pamela Newell, Hélène Langevin, Momentum, Théâtre du Grand Jour, Théâtre du Rideau Vert, Ondinuk and Pigeons International. He began collaborating with RBDG in the creation of full-length works in 2003, and became the company's technical director in 2009. His ongoing collaboration with RBDG has involved various commissions, notably with Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Pacific Northwest Ballet and Scottish Dance Theatre.

Jasper Gahunia (Composer) (aka DJ Lil' Jaz, eljay II) is a DJ, producer, songwriter, musician and teacher. He began his ground-breaking musical career as a specialized DJ (turntablist), competing in Toronto-area DMC competitions in the mid-1990s, winning the Toronto DMC DJ competition title three times and becoming the Canadian DMC Champion in 1998. During this competitive run, he also shared the International Turntablist Federation (ITF) Western Hemisphere Team title with his crew, Turnstylez, and became ITF World Beat Juggling Champ a year later. Gahunia has graced stages worldwide as a DJ and keyboardist with Nelly Furtado and k-os. He currently teaches the first-ever *Scratch from Scratch: DJ Fundamentals* course at Toronto's Royal Conservatory of Music, the institution from which he obtained his classical music degree in piano. He has also collaborated with the Canadian Opera Company in the production of a series of mini-operas fused with hip-hop beats and scratching. He has created the musical scores for many of RBDG's stage productions and commissions, as well as for its 2012 award-winning short film, *Gravity of Center*.

Julie Charland (Costume Designer) has been designing costumes since 1997. In theatre, she has worked with Alexis Martin, Marc Béland, Lorraine Pintal and Brigitte Haentjens, with whom she has shared a close aesthetic partnership for several years (*Hamlet-Machine*, *Marie Stuart*, *Mademoiselle Julie*, *Vivre*, *La nuit juste avant les forêts*). In 2005 and 2006, she won two Masque awards for her costume design in *La cloche de verre* and *Tout comme elle*, plays directed by Haentjens. Charland is also a stylist for a number of well-known figures in the entertainment world including comedian Louis-José Houde. Recently, she was initiated into the world of dance, working with Anne Lebeau, Francis Ducharme and now with Anne Plamondon and Victor Quijada. Besides the professional pleasure she takes in dressing and undressing bodies, Charland indulges in free-style drawing, allowing her imagination to take flight.