

Jonathon Neville

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Jonathon Neville is a dance teacher, choreographer, producer, actor, and writer.

Education: Honours B.A., Queen's University - Economics & Drama (1999)

Dance training: Axis Syllabus' Nomadic College (Massachusetts, 2012, '13, '14, '18) + Hundreds of workshops with internationally-renowned teachers + DVIDA Ballroom & Latin curricula. Over 1000 hours in 12 cities training in partner dance.

Selected choreography: *Sexpectations* (2016), *Graves-a-Poppin'* (2014-2015, Canadian Swing Championships; "everyone agreed really stole the show" - official event summary), *Neurogenesis* (2007-2012, FICCDAT mega-conference special event), *Let's Play House* (2005-2012, multiple conferences across Canada, CBC TV; 4.5 stars - Edmonton Journal, "emotion-laden, highly imaginative dance gave the show its power" - NOW).

Selected dance collaborations/performances: Tango Trio (2017), Ghost Bicycle (Harbourfront's Enwave Theatre, 2016), Dufferin Dance Weekend (co-coordinator, MC, 2015); Motus O (disability dancing, 2014), Hot Docs' Kaiser Ball (waltz, 2013). Various clients: contact improv, salsa, bachata, cumbia, vintage jazz, charleston, lindy hop (swing), shag, balboa, blues, rock'n'roll (2011-2019).

Theatre:

When he and a theatre partner discovered they were both caregivers, they created a play with their families about their families. It became the feature presentation at many conferences and was featured on 3 CBC TV episodes. His work includes improv theatre for corporations, universities and community groups across North America: customized Mysteries; Playback theatre; Forum theatre - and training/testing Law/Mediation students. He also co-directed 7 musical theatre productions.

Dance Teaching Experience:

- at Queen's University, the Town of Orangeville, Living Arts Centre, Continuing Education, various studios and organizations in Orangeville and Toronto, + weddings
- Ballroom + Latin (the official curricula, customized for maximum fun)
- Salsa (+ merengue, bachata and cumbia) (from sharp to smooth)
- Line Dance - diverse classics + innovations
- Swing (a family of dances including charleston, lindy hop, shag, peabody, balboa, and west coast swing) (you can't not have fun)
- Blues (sharing the dreams and pains of being human - a safe and sacred space)
- Contact Improv (can look like partner tai chi or like flowing assisted acrobatics)
- Folk (simple or highly complex rhythms and patterns, creating community, everyone included)
- Contemporary (a fusion of ballet, modern, postmodern and more)

Classes have layers of richness - insightful analogies deepen the learning by making it meaningful. Students discover how dance can be a great education, developing not only dance skills but also conceptual, cognitive and interpersonal abilities needed in most professions. Above all, his classes

are thoroughly fun - for nervous beginners and old pros.

Dance Teaching Reviews

Living Arts Centre, Fall 2019
complete comments

<p>The instructor was great! Jonathon is the best. He makes dancing simple and easy and fun!</p>
<p>Friendly non-competitive environment. Really liked the instructor - consistency of the instruction very important - difficult with subs. Would prefer to add/change on different week rather than have a sub</p>
<p>Jonathon the instructor was very knowledgeable and taught us as per our social needs requests. We prefer the consistency of the main instructor rather than the fill in. He made it a lot of fun for us.</p>
<p>Jonathon was patience, pleasant and fun</p>
<p>learned steps to ballroom dances with a very dedicated instructor who did not give up easily on his students lack of talent!!</p>
<p>jonathan was a great instructor who demonstrated and just into practise with each student the required steps. He showed us much patience the required steps. This is a fun class and the instructor deserves all the credit.</p>
<p>Keep Jonathon for this course he is amazing.</p>
<p>Keep Jonathon as the main ballroom dance instructor.</p>
<p>if there was supplemental reference material ex: sheets with steps, or reference to videos</p>
<p>Really enjoyed jonathon's class. He made the course fun while getting us to learn the sometimes confusing steps to basic ballroom dances. Would recommend this class to anyone wanting to learn ballroom dancing.</p>
<p>Please do not have any substitute instructors for this course . Thank you!</p>



Edmonton Journal

"Heavy... Light... Powerful"

- *VUE Weekly*

**"Among the bravest stage projects I've seen.
Life at its most naked... the actors escape gravity."**

- *SEE Magazine*

LET'S PLAY HOUSE

Set to birth a culture of ecological imagination & collective creation,

Jonathon & Carlynn are sidelined into caregiving:

Jonathon for his mom with Alzheimer's and a 'bad attitude';

Carlynn for her son with medically-unexplained pain that reduces him to couch and crutches.

How can they play on the world stage if fate forces them into a domestic drama?

Let's Play House pits the creative spirit against its ultimate test - chaotic caregiving.

Is it good?

"I was too moved and astonished and raw after the curtain to stay but I want you to know how good and necessary you are." - Robin Haggerty, C.A.L.M.

"The best thing I've done all year." - Judith Amundson

"I left the theatre with a lightness I have not felt for a long time. ... a support group focused on your play would be so much more healing and awakening than a LOT of other groups I have been to." - Linda Pattison, caregiver

"The rain was horrendous - and a nightmare to get my husband around in - but the answers to my questions about why I was bothering became abundantly clear." - Cindy Pock, Calgary

"When I try to describe what I saw, I get chills. We were in awe."

- Sharon Watts, Ministry of Community and Social Services

"Intensely personal..., it explored both the limits and potential of art... It was at turns hilarious and heart-wrenching." - Eva MacDonald

"I was deeply moved, riveted at times, surprised often, and delighted overall. ... My own private miracle unfolded on stage before me. ... Sheer brilliance. "

- David Jan Jurasek, MFA, RDT, CCC

"The honesty was mind-blowing. You had me crying and laughing at the same time. ... so revealing and so touching ... so much spoke deeply to me."

- Barbara Sauv , RN

"Profound is an over-used word, but this was profound. You saw it in the response of the audience. And you felt it in yourself."

- Keitha Lamey, Special Needs Educator, TDSB

"I saw 22 shows - only yours made me cry" - Chloe Whitehorn, Best of Fest winner

"I have no connection to caregiving, but I connected more with this show than any other"

- Lara Masterson

"The highlight of the festival" - Barrie Edwards

"You gave me a great gift." - Katie Binnersley

"It continues to inspire important conversation"

- Angela Bischoff, Toronto

But what do caregiving pros think?

"Brilliant - I was totally enthralled - you have a very important play here.

I can't wait to see it again."

- Joan Barrington, **Hospital for Sick Children**, Director, Therapeutic Arts Program

"Every caregiver both professional and informal should see this."

- Peta Collings, Manager of Volunteers, **Agapé Hospice**, Calgary

"Helps us all." - Dale Goldhawk, then-President, **Alzheimer Society of Canada**

"The play prompts and enables people to talk about issues most of us avoid.

**The dialogue and action are emblazoned in my mind -
the scenes give a focus and freedom for families to discuss difficult questions."**

- Tashana Thomas, Co-ordinator Support & Counselling, **CANES Home Support Services**

"provides the deepest experience of the caregiver's life"

- Audrey Miller MSW, RSW, CCRC, President, **Elder Caring Inc./Soins Elder Caring**

"Excellent - a real roller coaster of emotions. Thanks so much."

- Dan McGale, Executive Director, **S.C.A.P.D.** -- Simcoe County Assoc. for the Physically Disabled

**"An extraordinarily accurate and penetrating portrayal ... Tremendous wit and
tenderness... brought tears to not only myself, but each of my four friends."**

- Stephen Douglas, Psychotherapist

**"We look forward to using it to educate professionals and support caregivers
across Canada."**

- Jane McCarthy, **A.L.S. Society Canada**, Director of Services & Education

"What a great start to the conference!" "Thank you for opening my eyes"

"Every moment was surprising yet perfect"

"It elevated my life to art - I am living my life on your storyline"

- **Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy**, conference feedback

"You give everyone new hope." - Barb Beecroft, **Leisureworld Director of Nursing**

"Let's Play House gripped me throughout the show... Even now!"

- Roy Bedford, Regional Director, **Alzheimer's Society of Alberta**

"I saw it on a whim and will be ever-grateful I did."

- Melinha Denholme, social worker, **BC Forensic Psychiatric Service**

And the Media?

All media reviews thus far:

"Heavy subject ...

"I did not expect this"

"Among the bravest stage

light and entertaining ...
powerful"

- *VUE Weekly*

"emotion-laden, highly
imaginative" - *NOW*



Edmonton Journal

"haunting"

- Paula Citron, Classical 96.3

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the actors escape gravity."

- *SEE Magazine*

"not a dull moment"

- *Mooney On Theatre*