

go
Grand
OnSTAGE

CCOV
PRODUCTIONS
Presents



In My Body

Choreography: Crazy Smooth
Length : 65 min approx.

Program

World Premiere - March 4, 2022

University of Alberta, Timms Centre for the Arts (Brian Webb Dance Company)

4 DORA MAVOR MOORE AWARDS!

Outstanding Production / Outstanding original Choreography / Outstanding performance by an Ensemble / Outstanding Achievement in Design (multimedia/video)

Description of the work

It's said that the bravest thing a dancer can do is grow old – for a b-boy/b-girl, the experience is approaching heroic. In keeping with hip-hop culture, b-boys/b-girls present a façade of confidence and invincibility as they engage in battles to prove their value and establish their dominance. The resulting vocabulary is one of the most physically demanding and visually impressive of the dance genres and leaves no room for the expression of vulnerability.

In My Body is dedicated to the memory of Frosty Freeze, Marjory Smarth, Flash, Don Campbelllock and others gone before – their legacy lives within us.

For In My Body, dancer / choreographer Crazy Smooth brings together an intergenerational group of dancers and an international creative team for an intensely athletic investigation of the evolution of self and the effects of aging on street dancers.

Company Info

As Executive Producer, the Centre de Création O Vertigo – CCOV brings a unique combination of experimentation and innovation to dance creation and production. Via its productions program, the CCOV collaborates with distinctive choreographers to produce ambitious, large-scale works that contribute to the healthy evolution of contemporary performing art practices. A focal point for artistic reflection, an incubator for talent, and a catalyst for ideas, the CCOV's production model empowers the creative brilliance of a new generation of artists. Crazy Smooth is the CCOV's 2019-2021 Artist-in-Residence.

Dancing since 1997, Crazy Smooth is one of Canada's top street dancers, performers, choreographers, instructors, judges, and community leaders. The 2020 recipient of Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity's 2020 Clifford E. Lee Choreography Award, he is the founder and creative director of Bboyizm, an award-winning street-dance company that has been instrumental in the preservation and growth of street dance in Canada and internationally. Founded in 2004, Bboyizm is Canada's premier street-dance company. The company is committed to promote and preserve the foundation, authenticity, and essence of all street dances. Bboyizm believes that authentic self-expression enables an individual – and by extension, a community – to realize its full potential.

Choreography Crazy Smooth

**Assistant choreographer
/ Rehearsal director** Saxon
Fraser

Dancers : Crazy Smooth, DKC
Freeze, Tash, Julie Rock, Nubian
Néné, JC Fresh, Mark Collantes,
Vibz, JK 47, Ange

**Dancer/social media
coordinator** Anyo

Outside eye Melly Mel

Costume designer and stylists
Sonya Bayer & Melly Mel

Original Music DJ Shash'U

Writer Alejandro Rodriguez

Lights Chantal Labonté

Creative consultant Sophie
Michaud

Multimedia Designer Thomas
Payette (mirari)

Creative Programmer Charles-
Éric Gandubert (The interactive
box)

Set Designer Xavier Mary
(mirari)

**Production Director &
Technical Director** André
Houle - CCOV

Video Director Dominique
Hawry

Lighting Director Stéphanie
Savaria

Tour Manager Gaétan Paré

Agent Gillian Reid

Executive Producer: Centre de
Création O Vertigo – CCOV

Developed with support from
the National Arts Centre's
National Creation Fund.

Co-production partners:
Bboyizm, The CanDance
Network Creation Fund, Banff
Centre for Arts and Creativity,
Brian Webb Dance Company,
Yukon Arts Centre, dance
Immersion and Canadian Stage,
and is supported by the Canada
Council for the Arts.

CCOV
PRODUCTIONS



**NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE
CENTRE NATIONAL DES ARTS**
Canada is our stage.

Bio

Bio Crazy Smooth (Yvon Soglo)

Dancing since 1997, Crazy Smooth is one of Canada's top street dancers, performers, choreographers, instructors, judges, and community leaders. He is the founder and artistic director of Bboyizm, an award-winning street-dance company that has been instrumental in the preservation and proliferation of street dance in Canada and internationally.

Crazy Smooth was named the 2020 Clifford E. Lee award recipient by the Banff Centre for the Arts for his work-in-progress *In My Body*, currently in creation as the 2019-2021 Long Term Artist in Residence at the Centre de Création O Vertigo in Montreal. The project has received a CanDance Creation Fund grant and significant investment from the NAC National Creation Fund.

In 2004, Smooth founded Bboyizm and the company has successfully brought authentic street dance into the professional theatre setting. Three of his full-length creations— *The Evolution of B-boying*, *IZM*, and *Music Creates Opportunity*—have toured throughout Canada. The company has been nominated for a Dora award (2012) and won both the Atlantic Presenters Association Touring Performers of the Year Award (2013) and the Ontario Presenters Network Emerging Touring Artist of the Year (2012). Crazy Smooth has performed, taught, and judged competitions in cities and events throughout North America and Europe. He continually strives to be a positive example for the community and an ambassador of the street dance culture at large.



Bio

Julie Rock

As a child, Julie trained mostly in technical dances, but as a teenager she was introduced to, and fell in love with, Street and Latin Dances. Versatility has always been one of her strengths, both as a dancer and as a person. Along with her strong skills as a teacher, Julie used her knowledge of so many dance styles as a tool to diversify her dance career. For the past 15 years, she has been performing nationally and internationally. Julie diverse activity in the milieu includes teaching b-boying/b-girling in Northern Canada, performing at multiple theaters across Canada and abroad (highlights include the Alvin Ailey Theater (NYC) and Saddler's Wells (UK)), she has danced/walked the catwalk during Toronto Fashion Week, impersonated a character for the Holiday season in Bahrain and for Gatineau's premiere of Cirque du Soleil's show VOLTA, she was featured in a TV commercial in Taiwan and performed in a circus show at the Atlantis Hotel (Bahamas), amongst others. Julie also performs with Las Tchutchucas Locas, a group she co-founded in 2011 while abroad. Julie Rock is proud to have been a Bboyizm company dancer since 2006 and continues to be active in the Bboyizm mission of promoting and preserving all street dances.



Bio

Jayson Collantes

Jayson Collantes is a 24-year-old professional B-boy who currently resides in Toronto, Ontario. He started dancing at the age of 14 and has been competing internationally for 5 years, including You Be Ill - The Vaccine (2020), Battle Of The Year (2019), The Legits Blast Prague (2018), and several other competitions worldwide.

Jayson is known for his explosive transitional moves while maintaining fluidity and continuity, a style that creates an unpredictable and sporadic feel to his dance.

Aside from breaking, Jayson has also immersed himself in different art mediums such as the culinary arts, fashion, clothing design, and other dance styles. He is part of Breadcrumbs Crew (Ottawa) and Unknown Floor Force (Toronto).

As a member of Bboyizm, Jayson has discovered mentors who have helped him continue to grow as a dancer. He hopes to pass on the valuable experience and knowledge that is helping expand his creativity and skills as an overall artist to future generations.



Bio

Mark Collantes

A Graphic Designer by training, Mark Collantes is a multi-disciplinary artist. Apart from his career focus on visual art and design, Mark started Breaking at 15 years old, and in time Breaking has grown into an obsession, falling in love with the culture of Hip Hop. The dynamic between his two passions of visual art and dance creates a symbiotic environment for his creative energy. Mark's style revolves around dynamic movements, transitions and power moves. He aims to create a style and approach to Breaking uniquely his own, intending to never look or feel like someone else with his movements. Mark is one of the members of Unknown Floor Force, a crew that started between siblings and now has grown since. Other crews that he represents are Breadcrumbs Crew(Ottawa) and Jamillz(Japan). Mark's goal is to leave a lasting legacy in Breaking and inspire future generations of Breakers and artists.



Bio

Miss Marie Monsta

Marie Benoit A.K.A. B-girl Miss Marie Monsta started dancing when she was 10. She started with Irish Step Dance and was introduced to Street Dances about 2 years later. That is when she discovered her passion for dance and tried every dance style she could. She now specializes in Bboying and Samba but also practices other styles such as: Old School Party dances, Rocking, House dance, Salsa, Bachata, Hustle, to name a few.

Her love for dance led her to travel, perform, compete and teach in Dominican Republic, Brazil, Colombia, Thailand, France, England, USA, Argentina and across Canada. She started teaching at the age of 14. Growing up, she really loved battling and getting down in cyphers, it has always been a great way for her to release her ton of energy. Through the mentorship of Bboy Crazy Smooth, her and her sister Bgirl Julie Rock had the privilege to travel to the Mecca of Street Dances (New York City) to meet some of the legends and pioneers of the dance and train with them. At the age of 16, she was chosen to work as a facilitator for Blueprint for Life "social work through hip hop" company and taught in many Indigenous communities and cities in Canada. In 2008, she moved to Alberta and got to discover the



west coast Street Dance scene and eventually joined the well known Original Rudes Crew. As a core dancer of the Bboyizm Dance Company she took part in many National tours. Miss Marie Monsta performed on stages such as the National Art Center in Ottawa, the Harbourfront theatre in Toronto, the Banff Art's center, LA's famous Conga Room, The Avalon Theatre in Hollywood and the Saddler's Well Theatre in London. She worked with Artists such as Black Eyed Peas, Mohombie, J Balvin, Farruko, and A Tribe Called Red when they performed at the JUNO Awards.

She trained with world known teachers in establishments such as the Broadway Dance Center in New York and the Cirque du Soleil in Las Vegas and master teachers you might have never heard of in hidden corners of the world. Miss Marie Monsta still works with Bboyizm, Blueprint for Life, Rhythm Works, Create of, and started Las Tchutchucas Locas with her sister.

Bio

DKC Freeze

Born in Montreal in 1965, DKC Freeze belonged to the original generation of the organized street dance movement in Canada. A street dancer from the get-go, he has no formal dance training and is a first-generation autodidact of the Canadian street dance scene.

From 1982 – 1983 DKC Freeze was a member of the Flash Trick crew. From 1983 – 1987 DKC belonged to the legendary crew New Energy, one of Canada's most influential groups of the time. In 1995 he joined the Flow Rock crew and in 2004 he was a founding member of Legz Crew.

DKC has been active as a competitor and judge in events all over the world. He has been invited to judge at the renowned Just 4 Rockers breaking event in France three times: 2016, 2017 and 2019.

DKC Freeze has performed for James Brown (1985 live concert), DJ Grand Master Flash and during the 1986 Les Expos de Montreal series. His festival appearances include Les

Francofolies (Montreal), Jazz Festival de Montreal and the Nancy Jazz Pulsation Festival in France.

DKC has been an active community leader for decades. Over the past 20 years he has been a positive influence on generations as the youth coordinator at both the Cotes de Neiges and Laval community centers. He is the founder and organizer of one of the longest running street dance events in Montreal, Gravity Rock.

DKC Freeze is a living library for the Canadian Street Dance community and is one of the newest members of Bboyizm Dance Company, where he continues to influence the evolution of B-boying.



Bio

Vibz

Professional breaker originally from Toulouse (France), now based in Montréal, Romain Gailhaguet (Bboy Vibz) discovered bboying in video clips at the age of 14. He rapidly developed a passion for this form of art, attracted by the creativity and the energy that emerges from it. He learned the rudiments of this dance with young dancers from his neighbourhood who train in halls of buildings and at his university. Very influenced by the martial arts he has been practising since the age of 7, Romain learned very fast and quickly made a name for himself in the Battles (breakdance competitions) of his region. In 2006, he became a founding member and leader of the FreeZtyle Impakt dance collective, with which he won numerous competitions.

For more than 10 years, he perfected his dance with big names in Bboying such as: Swift Rock (Battle Squad, Germany), Karim Barouche (Aktuel Force, France), Roxrite (Renegades, USA), Hong10 (Drifterz, Korea), Ken Swift (Rock Steady Crew, USA) etc.

With several victories during Battles in France and in Canada, Romain Gailhaguet, enriched his artistic career with his participation as a professional dancer in several public events such as Shower Light Blues (France 2012), Qui bougera le dernier



(Montréal 2015), Le Musée s'éclate au rythme de la diversité (Montréal 2015), La Bacchanale du Vieux-Port de Montréal (2015).

In 2015, he was recruited by the company Ample Man Danse, for which he became one of the main dancers. He appeared in the shows KLIMA, Fragment, Divisible and Piano public which brought him to discover the new creative possibilities offered to him by contemporary dance.

Since then, he has danced for renowned dance companies such as: Ismaël Mouaraki's Destins Croisés or Bboyizm by Yvon Soglo (bboy Crazy Smooth), and he also created his own organization: the Flow collective with Émilie Demers and thus continues to flourish on the stage.

A good communicator, full of passion and driven by the thirst to pass on his knowledge, Romain Gailhaguet stays active in the development of his discipline by giving introductory and advanced breaking courses, both in France and in Canada.

Bio

Tash

Natasha "Tash" Jean-Bart was born in 1971 in Montreal, and has been dancing professionally for 34 years. A member of the renowned Montreal Canadian breaking crew Flow Rock since 1998, her love and dedication to learning the street dance styles led her to search and learn from the creators and pioneers of the street dance culture internationally.

In 2005, Tash was nominated Head Judge of Hip Hop International (HHI) street dance competition, a position she held for six years. That same year she also landed the lead role of « Lady Madonna » in the acclaimed production of The Beatles "LOVE" by Cirque Du Soleil at the MGM Mirage in Las Vegas. In 2006, she was invited by the late Greg « Campbelllock Jr » Pope and Frank « Sundance » Sams to contribute to the growth of the Elite Locking Camp. The camp's organization was passed down to her in 2014 as she re-branded it « Las Vegas Locking Camp.»

In 2011, she co-founded the Wättssoul company with her husband and helped produce and sponsor multiple events over the past seven years. Tash is a connector and has created hundreds of opportunities for artists and companies alike. She now travels internationally to pass on the knowledge she has accumulated throughout the years to a new generation of dancers. Tash recently completed a three-month tour with the biggest European Street Dance competition as the Juste Debut 2018 Locking Judge. She is still studying and training with the pioneers and forever will be a student of this culture.



Bio

Nubian Néné

Nubian Néné is a Montreal native and a New York-based dancer/choreographer who

weaves Street & Club dances to create her unique captivating style. Her resilience and

hard work stem from her Haitian roots, enabling her to expand into a producer, a creative director, a curator, a visual artist, and a teacher. She's a reliable asset

to the innovative Montreal-based multidisciplinary collective: FRGMNT. Her mentors, some of the pioneers of the Street & Club dance cultures, support, encourage, and inspire her to identify cultural references, to be involved and engaged in community, and through pedagogy help carry the weight of legacy. Signature Verses Liberation (2022), an ode to architecture, dance, and drawing, is her first visual art installation, and proof of harmony. A hybrid context, with an amalgam of texture, layers, and patterns examined and imagined by the artist. She's the creator of Waack Bazaar, The Essence Experience, Glasses & Laces, and A Lady in The House Dance Company.



Presented by Grand OnStage and the City of Kingston, Arts & Culture Services Department.

Learn more about Grand OnStage at
KingstonGrand.ca.

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The City of Kingston acknowledges that we are on the traditional homeland
of the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and the Huron-Wendat, and thanks
these nations for their care and stewardship over this shared land.