

GRAND ONSTAGE  
PLAYBILL



SPIRIT AND  
TRADITION  
**DANCERS OF  
DAMELAHAMID**



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



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.

In honour of Elder Margaret Harris  
whose wealth of knowledge and  
wisdom continues to be invaluable in  
guiding our family.

*Elders*

**Elder Margaret Harris**  
**Elder Betsy Lomax**

*Cultural Consultants*

**David Boxley**  
**Lawrence Trottier**

*Artistic Director and  
Choreographer*

**Margaret Grenier**

*Regalia*

**Rebecca Baker-Grenier**  
**Andrew Grenier**  
**Margaret Grenier**  
**Chantal Harris**

*Carvers* Jim Charlie

**Andrew Grenier**  
**Scott Harris**

*Songs*

**Andrew Grenier**  
**Margaret Grenier**  
**Raven Grenier**  
**Lawrence Trottier**

*Projection and Lighting  
Designer*

**Andy Moro**

*Projection and Set Artwork*

**Andrew Grenier**

*Sound Design*

**Ted Hamilton**

*Production Manager*

**Andrew Grenier**

*Technical Director*

**Andy Moro**

*Production Assistant*

**Carlos Castillo**

*Performers*

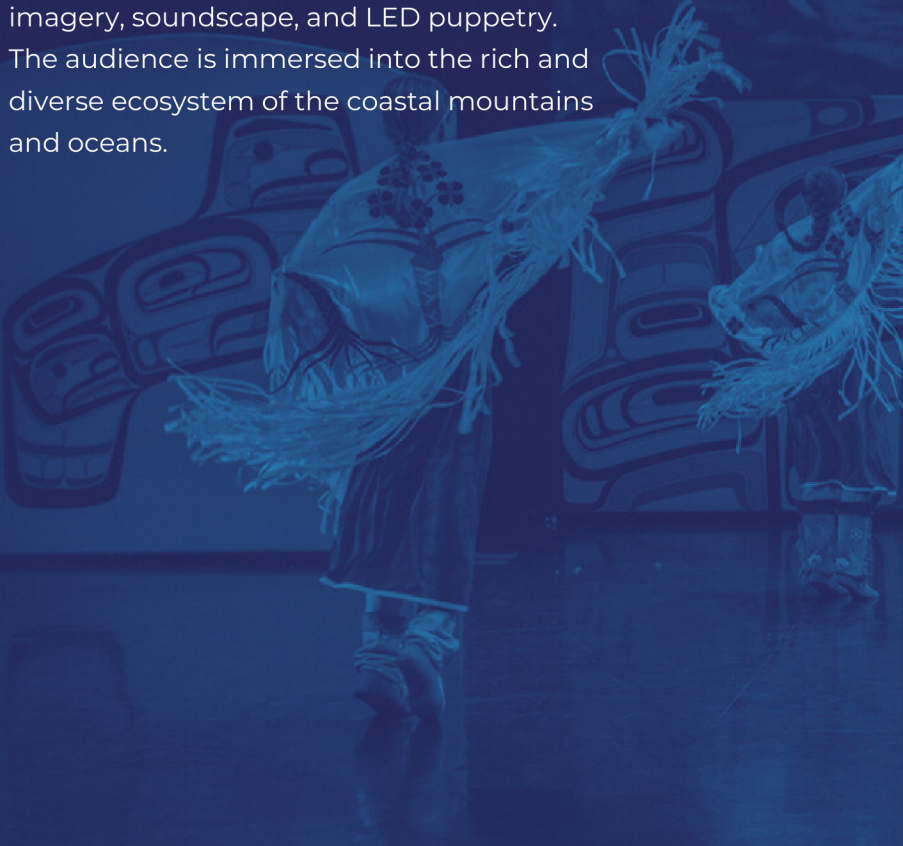
**Nigel Baker-Grenier**  
**Rebecca Baker-Grenier**  
**Margaret Grenier**  
**Raven Grenier**  
**Renée Harris**  
**Scott Harris**  
**Tobie Wick**

*Youth Performers*

**Mixk'aax Baker-Grenier**  
**Pisim Baker-Grenier**



Spirit and Tradition's key themes are reciprocity and ecological sustainability, conveying important cultural teachings on balance, interconnectedness, and community. Through the sharing of Indigenous knowledge and artistic practices of the Northwest Coast, Spirit and Tradition layers Coastal masked dances, projected imagery, soundscape, and LED puppetry. The audience is immersed into the rich and diverse ecosystem of the coastal mountains and oceans.





## ABOUT THE COMPANY

### **Dancers of Damelahamid**

Dancers of Damelahamid is an Indigenous dance company founded upon over five decades of extensive work of song and dance revitalization. For countless generations Indigenous dance played an integral part in defining art and culture. In response to the lifting of the Potlatch Ban (1884 – 1951), was the resurfacing of dance and the awakening of an art form that was outlawed for almost 70 years. The Dancers of Damelahamid emerged in the 1960s out of an urgency to ensure that these artistic practices were not lost.

The Dancers of Damelahamid has since established itself as a leading professional Indigenous dance company. The company's artistic approaches have contributed to its abilities to bridge creative practices and to work with innovative mediums, while maintaining commitment to the integrity of their artistic legacy. It is through continual and diligent practice that this dance form endures as non-static and relevant to current innovation, influence, and insights.

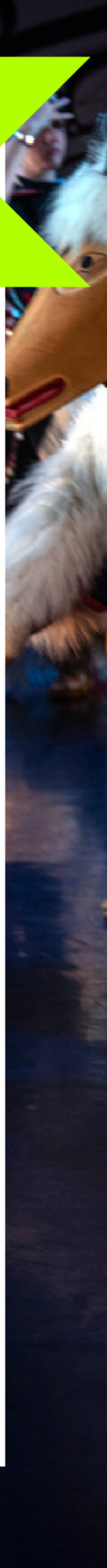
The Dancers of Damelahamid has produced several theatre-based productions and choreographed dance works, with their most recent production, Mînowin, premiering at the National Arts Center in Ottawa, ON. The company has produced the annual Coastal Dance Festival since 2008, presenting Indigenous dance from the Northwest Coast as well as hosting guest national and international Indigenous artists.

## BIOGRAPHIES

### Elder Margaret Harris

Elder


Elder Margaret Harris (1931-2020) is a respected Cree Elder from Northern Manitoba. Her years of experience and her wealth of traditional knowledge and wisdom is invaluable in guiding the Dancers of Damelahamid. As an Indigenous knowledge and performing arts instructor, Margaret deeply influenced the current generation of artists. This included her work at the Institute of Indigenous Government in Vancouver, BC (1994 – 2003) and the Traditional Mothers Dance Group, Vancouver, BC (1992 – 2015). Margaret was instrumental in the revitalization of Coastal dance in the communities of Metlakatla, Alaska & Port Simpson, BC, through the First Nations Dance Revival Initiatives (1973 – 1977). For this work, a pole was raised in her honour at the Metlakatla Indian Community Founders Day Celebration (2003). With her late husband Kenneth Harris, Margaret founded the Haw Yaw Hawni Naw Annual Salmon Festival (1967 – 1986) in Prince Rupert, BC. Margaret owned LaHaine Arts and Crafts art store and studio in Prince Rupert, BC (1973 – 1983). As a foster parent she cared for over 50 Indigenous children between 1957-1986. Kenneth and Margaret Harris were recognized for the impact that they had in Indigenous performing arts, receiving the Centennial Medal from Queen Elizabeth (1967), and the Golden Jubilee Medal from British Columbia's Lieutenant Governor (2003), and were inducted into the National DCD Hall of Fame (2019).



## BIOGRAPHIES

### **Elder Betsy Lomax**

Elder



Betsy Lomax is an Elder from the Gitksan nation. She is fluent in the Gitksan language and a master of its written orthography. She has worked closely with Dancers of Damelahamid on previous projects, aiding in the composition of songs and stories in the Gitksan language. Betsy is also involved in the Gitksan community both in her traditional territory as well as the urban center of Vancouver serving as a language teacher and knowledge carrier. Betsy has worked arduously to ensure that the Gitksan language continues to flourish in generations to come.



## BIOGRAPHIES

### David Boxley

Cultural Consultant

David A. Boxley is a Tsimshian carver from Metlakatla, Alaska. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from Seattle Pacific University. He is a nationally recognized Indigenous artist showing and demonstrating his art in many parts of the United States and Europe and is the first Alaskan Tsimshian to achieve national prominence. Boxley's artworks are in the collections of the King and Queen of Sweden, the Emperor of Japan, the President of West Germany, the Mayor of Chongging (China), Microsoft, Walt Disney World, Knott's Berry Farm and numerous other private collectors of fine Northwest Coast art. He is particularly well respected as a totem pole carver, having carved 85 poles in the last 45 years. He has taught and demonstrated at numerous established museums and institutes around the world, including the Smithsonian Institute, Museum of Natural History, Burke Museum, Heard Museum, Glasgow Arts Center, Museum of Civilization, Disney World, the Alaska Native Heritage Center, and many more. Boxley is deeply involved in the rebirth of Tsimshian culture through organizing and hosting Potlatches in Alaska and Washington, and hosted the first Seattle Northwest Coast Potlatch in one hundred years in 1996. He was also responsible for reintroducing the potlatch back to his home village of Metlakatla, Alaska. David has been directly involved in the formation of four successful dance groups. He led the Tsimshian Haayuuk for 6 years, and now has a new group called the Git-Hoan. David has written over 40 songs in his Native language.



## BIOGRAPHIES

### **Lawrence Trottier**

Cultural Consultant, Songs

Lawrence Trottier is Cree from Onion Lake, Saskatchewan and is a dancer, singer, and artist. Lawrence is a knowledge carrier and was raised traditionally by his grandparents. He is fluent in Cree, speaking it as his first language. He has been dancing pow-wow since he was a baby and has danced all styles, with a focus on grass dance. Lawrence is an accomplished dancer, winning numerous competitions at the largest pow-wows across North America, including placing at the International Hoop Dance Competition in Arizona, US. He has also traveled internationally to dance and has danced at the opening of the United Nations building in Austria. Lawrence is a singer and founded and travelled internationally with his champion drum group, Makao Singers. He has composed numerous songs sung by other drum groups across North America. In addition to being a dancer and singer, Lawrence has been trained in all areas of work in the pow-wow circle, including whip-man and arena director. He is the whip-man for one of the most notable pow-wows, San Manual Pow-wow at California State University in San Bernardino, California. Lawrence is also an artist, he has mastered the art of beading and is highly skilled in a wide range of Indigenous textile work and the creation of regalia and sacred belongings. Before dedicating his career solely to art and culture, Lawrence was an addictions counsellor and Elder for Corrections Canada in Saskatchewan.



## BIOGRAPHIES

### Margaret Grenier

Artistic Director, Choreographer, Regalia, Songs

Margaret Grenier is the Executive and Artistic Director for the Dancers of Damelahamid and is the producer of the annual Coastal Dance Festival, established in 2008. Her choreographic works bridge Gitxsan and Cree dance forms with current expressions, contributing to a redefining of contemporary Indigenous dance. Margaret holds a Masters of Arts in Arts Education at Simon Fraser University. She received her B.Sc. from McGill University with a Geography major and Environmental Science minor. She has extensive experience as a lecturer and presenter, leading workshops and master classes for dance training programs. She was a sessional instructor for Simon Fraser University (2007) and faculty at the Banff Centre (2013). Margaret presented at the World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education in Peru (2011), Hawaii (2015) and Australia (2008 and 2023). She received the Reveal Award (2017) and the Walter Carsen Prize for Excellence in the Performing Arts (2020).





## BIOGRAPHIES

### **Andrew Grenier**

Production Manager, Projection and Set  
Artwork, Carver, Regalia, Songs

Andrew spent 20 years training with the company and has performed with the company since 2004. Andrew has worked with cedar and textiles, creating the sets for the Dancers of Damelahamid productions since 2004 and for the annual Coastal Dance Festival since 2008. Andrew oversees all the technical and set requirements for the Dancers of Damelahamid and is the Production Manager for the Coastal Dance Festival. Andrew has a BSc from McGill University and Masters in Environmental Education from Simon Fraser University.

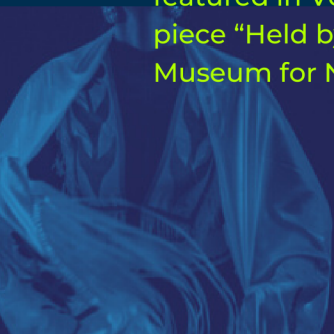


## BIOGRAPHIES

### Rebecca Baker-Grenier

Regalia

Hawilkwalał, Rebecca, is of Kwakiutł, Musgamagw Dzawada'enuwx, and Skwxwú7mesh ancestry. She is a multidisciplinary artist with a BA from the University of British Columbia. Rebecca is the Artistic Associate for the Dancers of Damelahamid and the Festival Associate for the Coastal Dance Festival. Rebecca has been dancing with the company since 2014 and is a pow-wow dancer with over 20 years of experience. She is the Regalia Designer for the Dancers of Damelahamid's productions Flicker (2016), Mínowin (2019), Spirit and Tradition Remount (2020), Raven Mother (2024). She began fashion design in 2021, apprenticing under Pam Baker and attended the Banff Centre for the Arts, Indigenous Couture Program 2022. She was the recipient of the YVR Art Foundation, Emerging Artist Award, 2021. Rebecca debuted her first collection at New York Fashion Week, 2022. Her most recent collection "we are warriors" debuted at SWAIA Fashion Show – Santa Fe Indian Market, August 2023, followed by Vancouver Fashion Week, Vancouver Indigenous Fashion Week 2023, and Indigenous Fashion Arts Toronto, May 2024. Her work has been on exhibit at the Bill Reid Gallery, Museum of Vancouver, YVR Vancouver Airport, and featured in Vogue, Vogue Italia, and Elle Canada. Her piece "Held by Generations" will be at the American Museum for Natural History in New York, 2024-25.





## BIOGRAPHIES

### Jim Charlie

*Carver*

Jim Charlie is a member of the Squamish Nation, whose territory stretches from North and West Vancouver to Whistler, BC. As the grandson of the late Dominique Charlie, an accomplished carver, Jim was educated in the histories and culture of the Salish peoples throughout his youth. He has been inspired by those traditions in his artwork. Charlie began carving in his adolescence and has been creating Northwest Coast art for over three decades almost exclusively with wood. Over the years, he has studied under Salish carvers Floyd Joseph and Jacob Lewis as well as the renowned Gitksan artist Phil Janze. Charlie's work represents a variety of Northwest Coast legends and is notable for its broad and accessible style. He has exhibited pieces at the Seattle Art Fair and most recently completed a commission at the Vancouver International Airport.





## BIOGRAPHIES

### Scott Harris

Carver

Scott Harris began his dance training in Prince Rupert, British Columbia under the traditional training of his grandparents Chief Kenneth Harris and Elder Margaret Harris. He is a masked dancer, visual artist and carver. Scott has performed as a dancer in the following Dancers of Damelahamid performances: Setting the Path, Sharing the Spirit, Visitors Who Never Left, Dancing Our Stories, Spirit and Tradition. He also danced in the Gawaii Ganii Tour in collaboration with Karen Jamieson Dance Company 1991 and Canada Day Celebrations, Expo 2010, Canada Pavilion, Shanghai, China, July 2010.







## BIOGRAPHIES

### **Raven Grenier**

#### Songs


Raven was trained from a young age by her grandparents Elders Kenneth and Margaret Harris. She performed in the productions *Setting the Path* in 2004 and *Sharing the Spirit* in 2007 and toured with the company to New Zealand in 2008 and to the 2010 World Expo in Shanghai, China. She also performed in the productions *Visitors Who Never Left* (2009), *Dancing our Stories* (2010), *Spirit Transforming* in 2012 and 2015, and *Flicker* (2016). Raven is a dancer, singer and visual artist. Raven is an accomplished championship level dancer with the Nora Pickett Irish Dance Academy. Raven is currently completing her Bachelor of Arts at the University of British Columbia.



## BIOGRAPHIES

### Andy Moro

Technical Director, Projection and Lighting  
Designer



Andy Moro is the Artistic co-director of ARTICLE11 with Tara Beagan, upholding the 11th Article of the UN's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Current and recent work includes: Rise Red River (ARTICLE 11 Theatre Cercle Moliere, PTE), The Last Epistle of Tightrope Time (Neptune/Tarragon/NAC), PISUWIN (Atlantic Ballet) NOMADA (Diana Lopez Soto), Extractionist, Gaslight, Sleuth (Vertigo) F WORD (Downstage, ATP) Ministry of Grace, Reckoning, ROOM, Declaration, Deer Woman (ARTICLE11), Little Women, Honour Beat (Theatre Calgary) Hookman (UofC/Chromatic) Post Mistress, Rez Sisters (RMTC), Unnatural & Accidental Women (NAC), Blackhorse (Caravan), The Herd (Citadel/Tarragon), Frozen River (MTYP), Third Colour, Spacegirl, War Being Waged (PTE), Ministry of Grace, Time Stands Still, O'Kosi (MT7), SkyDancers (Anowara Dance), Flicker, Minowin and Raven Mother (Dancers of Damelahamid), Finding Wolastoq Voice (TNB), Blood Water Earth, Blood Tides, The Mush Hole (Kahawi Dance Theatre). Film & Video: RECKONING (ARTICLE 11) Road to Hasalala Danxalax (Chan Ctr/Marion Newman) Upcoming: The Ring Cycle: Das Rheingold for Edmonton Opera. Andy is of mixed Euro/Omushkegowuk descent, and is currently based in Calgary.



## BIOGRAPHIES

### **Ted Hamilton**

*Sound Design*

Ted Hamilton is a Vancouver based musician, multidisciplinary composer and sound artist working in contemporary dance, theater, film/TV and performance art. His music and collaborative creations have been produced and performed in Canada and internationally for over two decades. Ted is also a songwriter, a musical theatre writer and has composed music for many ensembles including string trio, string orchestra, art song (voice and piano) and 50 voice SATB choir.





# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Spirit and Tradition (2010) was commissioned by Centennial Theatre in North Vancouver. It was presented at All Over the Map by New Works (2011, 2012), Talking Stick Festival (2012, 2013), Spirit Within Festival, Whistler, BC, (2012, 2013). It toured to the 2010 World Expo in Shanghai, China, to Germany (2010), and Festival de Danzas, Cusco, Peru (2011) and VII internacional de danza folklórica, Ambato, Ecuador (2014). Spirit and Tradition was presented at the Pan Am Games in Toronto (2015), Asia Pacific Festival in Hawaii (2019) and the Scottish International Storytelling Festival (2019). In 2021 the piece was presented at the World Expos in Dubai, and in 2022 at the Vancouver International Children's Festival.

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Learn more about Grand OnStage at  
[KingstonGrand.ca](http://KingstonGrand.ca).

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