

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 1st, 2022

**Choreographer Vanessa Goodman
Presents the World Premiere of Contemporary Dance Creation:
*Tuning***

Commissioned by Former Ballet BC Principal Dancer & Artist in Residence Alexis Fletcher, Tuning Marks First-Ever collaboration between Alexis Fletcher, Vanessa Goodman and Ted Littlemore

VANCOUVER, BC – Vanessa Goodman announces the World Premiere of the full evening duet performance *Tuning*, running **February 23 - 26, 2022** at **Shadbolt Centre for the Arts** as both live and livestream performances.

TRAILER: <https://vimeo.com/635502712>

PRESS PHOTOS: by David Cooper

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/u9px6wpfzejt1c/AAADr44yk2_EsacuRbwQKRz_a?dl=0

Tuning is a new duet commissioned by Alexis Fletcher created and directed by Vanessa Goodman, featuring collaborating dance artists Alexis Fletcher and Ted Littlemore. This new work focuses on how we tune to one another in relationships. In *Tuning*, the performers create a live sonic and physical atmosphere using their voices to amplify the conversations of the body. Looking at intimacy between two people, this work explores the body through a sensory, sonic and physical connection. We invite the audience into a sensitive atmospheric environment where trust and care are built between the performers. James Proudfoot's gorgeous, vibrant lighting bathes the performance space. Wallpaper embraces one side of the stage, creating a deconstructed domicile representing the ever-shifting states of comfort and safety within relationships. This work aims to show love in its many forms.

“I am thrilled that Alexis Fletcher is commissioning a duet from me as she expands her body of work,” explains Goodman. “I have had the pleasure of watching Alexis grow as an artist since I began my own professional career on the west coast 18 years ago. She is a remarkable performer and artist, and I know that creating this piece with her is pushing my craft forward. I am excited to expand my practice by incorporating live sound into the work, having the dance artists perform both sonically and physically.

We have asked Ted Littlemore to join the duet, who I have worked with for the past year on this method of sonic/dance hybrid. His voice, musicality and physicality are a perfect fit for this project. We are researching proximity through sound and physicality with a strong emphasis on building togetherness through the interplay of harmony and discord. Intimacy through art is something that I have missed throughout the pandemic. I am not alone in feeling a significant loss of connection to my practice with other people, and this duet is a crucial opportunity for us to explore what it means to actually be together in this new climate.”

A 36 minute version of *Tuning* was shown at Dancing on the Edge Festival in July 2021 and became a festival favourite for many audience members. In partnership with Shadbolt Centre

for the Arts, the artists have now expanded this duet to become a full-length, 56 minute performance.

Fletcher, the commissioning artist and performer alongside Ted Littlemore, reflects that “this is my first commission since leaving Ballet BC, and is an important step for me in building my repertoire as an independent artist. I have always been compelled by duet work, both as a creator and viewer of dance, and this project has allowed me to dive deeply into this curiosity. I have always loved and admired Vanessa’s work and I am compelled by what Ted, Vanessa, and I can bring to the creative table. While coming from different dance backgrounds, we share many interests and approaches in our arts practice: a love of physical rigour and improvisation; the evolution of ballet technique inside of contemporary movement language; and curiosity about exploring physical virtuosity in newfound ways. Showcasing Vanessa’s vision, we are excited to build a new-found community; to challenge and evoke change in one another’s artistic voices; and to bring our diverse audience demographics together through the initial premiere and future dissemination of this work.”

Fletcher goes on to say that “as a performer I am compelled by Vanessa’s unique approach to improvisation, and her ability to transform her concepts and thematic ideas into a sophisticated yet deeply human movement language. Her directives are precise and detailed as we work with the inner landscapes of the human circulatory and vascular systems; mapping these pathways and qualitative possibilities and researching how these internal directions can expand outwards and become a new, unique choreographic language. Vanessa then mirrors this improvisational approach to creation with sound engineering by having Ted and I operate a vocoder, looping devices and microphones, as we sing, speak, breathe and compose our own soundscape in real time during the performance. “

Tuning is being created with generous support from The Canada Council for the Arts, The Dancing on the Edge Festival, Action at a Distance and The Shadbolt Arts Centre.

Ticket and information at: <https://www.burnaby.ca/recreation-and-arts/events/tuning>

About Vanessa Goodman: <https://actionatadistance.ca/>

Vanessa Goodman respectfully acknowledges that she lives, works and creates on the ancestral and unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples, including the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō, Səlílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nations. She holds a BFA from Simon Fraser University and is the artistic director of Action at a Distance Dance Society. Vanessa is attracted to art that has a weight and meaning beyond the purely aesthetic and uses her choreography as an opportunity to explore the human condition. She has received several awards and honours, including The Iris Garland Emerging Choreographer Award (2013); The Yulanda M. Faris Scholarship (2017/18); The Chrystal Dance Prize (2019); The Schultz Endowment from Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity (2019); and the "Space to Fail" program (2019/20) in New Zealand, Australia and Vancouver. Vanessa's work has been presented in Vancouver by DanceHouse, SFU Woodward's, Music on Main, The Firehall Arts Centre, The Dance Centre, The Chutzpah! Festival and The Shadbolt Centre for the Arts. Presentations further afield include the Fluid Festival (Calgary), Kinetic Studio (Halifax), The Dance Made in Canada Festival (Toronto), On the Boards (Seattle), Risk/Reward Festival (Portland), Offset Dance Fest (Brooklyn), Switch Lab (Bucharest), L1 Festival (Budapest), Estorgenuis (New York), BioFriction/ FACTT (Lisbon) and The Bienal Internacional de Dança Do Ceará (Brazil). Vanessa has been artist-in-residence at Cutivamos Cultura/BioFriction

(Portugal), The Dance Centre, Dance Victoria, Harbourfront Centre, The Shadbolt Centre and The Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, where she was also on faculty. Recently, Vanessa presented work and was a facilitator for Trinity Laban's 2020 Co-Lab Project (London). Commissions include works for Alexis Fletcher, Springboard Dansé Montréal, Votive Dance, Lamon Dance, Modus Operandi and The SFU rep class. This season the company will be premiering two new works, "Core/Us" and "Tuning", and be touring "Graveyards and Gardens" with Caroline Shaw in Canada and the US and "BLOT" with Simona Deaconsecu in Canada and Europe.

About Alexis Fletcher (alexisfletcher.ca)

Alexis Fletcher a Vancouver-based dance artist, creator, and producer. She danced with Ballet BC as a principal artist for 14 years, and has held the position of guest artist, rehearsal assistant and Artist in Residence with the company. In 2016, she began creating and performing independently, which has become her current artistic focus, alongside collaborating with other dance-makers in project-based work.

She currently holds Artist in Residence positions at Vancouver's Chutzpah! Festival, Dance Victoria, and Shadbolt Centre for the Arts, as well as membership in Presentation House Theatre's Creative Hub. Her creations have been supported by Dancing on the Edge, InFringing Festival, New Works, Vernon Performing Arts Centre, The Gordon Smith Foundation, BC Arts Council, Canada Council for the Arts, and Dance Victoria.

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