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★ WORLD PREMIERE – 4 SHOWS ONLY ★

WHO WE ARE IN THE DARK

Concept, Choreographic Composition, Direction
by Peggy Baker

Composition + Live Music by
Jeremy Gara and Sara Neufeld of Arcade Fire

A Peggy Baker Dance Projects Production Presented by Canadian Stage in
Collaboration with Fall for Dance North

February 21-24, 2019 -- Bluma Appel Theatre

“Peggy... knows how to play up against contemporary orthodoxy and turn it on its head. It’s why she is a great artist.... what she does is always unexpected and always a joy to watch...” -- MIKHAIL BARYCHNIKOV

Toronto, ON – Peggy Baker, one of Canada’s most acclaimed contemporary dance artists, joins forces with members of Grammy Award-winning band Arcade Fire to create a daring fusion of dance, supercharged live indie rock music and cutting-edge visual art in the thrilling new dance creation, *Who We Are in the Dark*, on stage February 21-24, at the Bluma Appel Theatre.

Peggy Baker is an icon. The queen of contemporary Canadian dance, she is celebrated as one of the most outstanding and influential contemporary dancers of her generation. In an award-winning career spanning almost forty years, Baker, renowned for her profound artistry, physical acuity, and unique emotional strength, continues to create experimental, relevant, visionary work.

Who We Are in the Dark explores and illuminates the alluring darkness of the night: the creeping darkness of uncertainty and malice; the confounding darkness of bafflement, secrets, and the unknown; the dreadful darkness of cruelty, suffering, and grief; the comforting darkness of condolence and contemplation.

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With a pulsating original score composed and performed live by violinist Sarah Neufeld and drummer Jeremy Gara, both members of the Grammy and Juno award-winning rock band Arcade Fire, inventive movement by seven extraordinary dancers, and sophisticated video projection, lighting and design elements, *Who We Are in the Dark* is a grand spectacle that probes the secrets that hide in the shadows. At once gripping, fragile, touching, chaotic, volatile, and calm, this collision of music and movement reveals the splendours and complexities of the human soul.

“We are honored to be premiering this monumental work by one of Canada’s greatest choreographers and are proud to be providing Peggy Baker with a platform for her to create at a scale that is deserving of her vision and talent,” says Canadian Stage Artistic Director Brendan Healy. The coming together of these major Canadian artists is electrifying. *Who We Are in the Dark* is brave, ambitious, and absolutely vital.

Following the world premiere at Canadian Stage in Toronto, Peggy Baker Dance Projects will perform *Who We Are in the Dark* in Montreal, Hamilton, Banff, Whitehorse, Kingston and Ottawa.

Who We Are in the Dark is on stage at the Bluma Appel Theatre, from February 21-24. Performances run Thursday at 8 PM, Friday at 7 PM, Saturday at 8 PM, and Sunday at 2 PM

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MEDIA NIGHT: FEBRUARY 21

**To receive further information or for an interview request, please contact
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ABOUT CANADIAN STAGE

Canadian Stage is one of the country’s leading not-for-profit contemporary performing arts organizations. The company produces, presents, commissions, and collaborates with multiple partners on cross-disciplinary work with a focus on performance styles that integrate theatre, dance, film, visual arts and more. Sharing innovative and vibrant performance work from Canada and around the world, it stages performances at three Toronto venues: The Bluma Appel Theatre at Civic Theatres Toronto; The Berkeley Street Theatre; and the High Park Amphitheatre. In July 2018, award-winning theatre director Brendan Healy was appointed Artistic Director.

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ABOUT PEGGY BAKER

Peggy Baker has been a vivid presence in contemporary dance for more than four decades, performing internationally in the work of Lar Lubovitch, Mark Morris (with Mikhail Baryshnikov's White Oak Dance Project), Doug Varone, Tere O'Connor, Molissa Fenley, and Charles Moulton (New York City); and with Fortier Danse-Creation (Montreal); James Kudelka, Dancemakers and Toronto Dance Theatre (Toronto). She established Peggy Baker Dance Projects in Toronto in 1990, and for the first 20 years dedicated herself to solo performance, winning rapturous praise for the eloquence and depth of her dancing, and accolades for her collaborative partnerships with extraordinary choreographers, directors, musicians, and designers. Since 2010 her choreography has focused on works for small ensemble. Over its 29-year history, Peggy Baker Dance Projects has been presented at major festivals and dance centres in North America, Asia and Europe. Under the banner The Choreographer's Trust she has published a series of booklets and DVD that document six of her landmark solos, and she is the subject of a book by Carol Anderson, *Unfold – a Portrait of Peggy Baker*, published by Dance Collection Danse. Among her many honours are the Order of Canada, the Premier's Award for Excellence in the Arts, the Governor General's Award, the Walter Carsen Prize, the George Luscombe Award for Mentorship, and six Dora awards. Ms. Baker is Artist-in-Residence at Canada's National Ballet School and a 2017 fellow of the Boglisaco Foundation in Liguria, Italy.

ABOUT PEGGY BAKER DANCE PROJECTS

Peggy Baker Dance Projects is dedicated to offering experiences of significance, personal connection, and transformative potential to our audience through the power and beauty of the art of dance. Established in Toronto, Canada in 1990 and incorporated in 1996, Peggy Baker Dance Projects is a charitable non-profit organization led by one of Canada's foremost contemporary dance artists – Peggy Baker. Distinguished from the outset by collaborations with extraordinary creators and performers, the company has built an exceptional body of work and a growing slate of education, engagement, and enrichment programs for all ages and abilities. Peggy Baker Dance Projects began as a vehicle for solo dance expression; the company's work now encompasses solo and ensemble dance repertoire, performed to both live and electro-acoustic music and features a company of outstanding dancers.