

COMING UP: Motus O marks anniversary at Nineteen on the Park this week

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STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Motus O's Sarah Felschon (from left), Jack Langenhuizen, Cynthia Croker, Laura Day and Melissa Spence dance in a piece called Utopia. The company is marking its 20th anniversary.

Dance still goes on 20 years later

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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Nestled in the back of a quaint Second Street home is a worn-out looking garage.

Open the door and a magical world of music, dance and costume envelops you.

It's the brainstorming centre of Motus O.

Their latest creation – Perspectives II – is a collaboration of the old and new in celebration of the dance company's past 20 years.

The show, being staged this week in Stouffville, includes pieces from the group's previous 13 productions as well as a new number – Momentum – that goes even further back and explains how Motus O came to be.

"Our lives sort of crashed into each other," said Cynthia Croker, the group's co-artistic director, costume designer and performer.

There are three co-artistic directors who each have vastly different backgrounds.

Mrs. Croker is a trained vocalist, flutist and gymnast, her husband, James, grew up as a sheep shearer, something he still does and Jack Langenhuizen is a financial controller.

There is one thing, however, that drew them together more than 20 years ago and that was their love for dance and utilizing it as a communication tool.

"We found that we had a common vision that (was to) create dance visions that would speak. Although choreography was the genre, we wanted to engage an audience," Mrs. Croker said.

Over the past two decades, Motus O has created and performed shows such as East of the Sun, West of the Moon, which was a

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Cynthia Croker
Motus O's co-artistic director, costume designer
and performer

mythical exploration of love, human error and redemption.

There was also Alice, an adaptation of Alice in Wonderland and Petrouchka, which is about an unlikely hero who outwits a strongman, tames a bear, dances with a feather, juggles bowling balls and goes fishing.

For their newest piece, Momentum, the

troupe had music written specifically for it.

The first time Mrs. Croker heard York Region musician Vincent Cheng's composition "I just started tearing up and weeping. I just thought this is wow, this is music."

Motus O will perform Perspectives II at the Lebovic Centre for Arts and Entertainment - Nineteen on the Park, tonight, tomorrow and Saturday at 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$35 regular, \$30 subscribers and \$18 for students. As of Tuesday, tickets were available for all three performances.

Motus O returns to Nineteen on the Park with A Christmas Carol (Dec. 10 to 12) and Carmina Burana (May 5 and 6).

For tickets go to www.nineteenonthePark.ca

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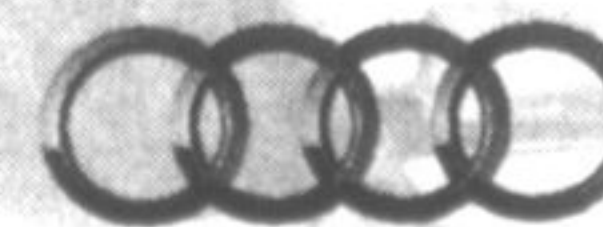
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