

**Hasti Mir-hadi** was born in 1987 in Iran, Tehran. Inspired by a creative and artistic family background, she started her training in visual arts from early childhood. After a while she started to study and learn about Persian art and has done extensive studies in Persian Calligraphy. She came to Canada when she was very young and struggled with growing up within two different cultures. Hasti tries to find herself through her art and most of the elements that she uses in her works are somehow related to Iranian culture and the struggle that she had while she was growing up in Canada. The artwork of Hasti Mir-hadi draws from the language of mostly popular Iranian culture to comment on their relationship to contemporary life. Now she is in her last year getting her BFA at York University and trying very to peruse her dream which is to become a very successful artist.

Soheil Ghorbandayipoor is a young, self-taught photographer currently living and working in Iran.

### Exhibit

Thursday, September 23 to Saturday, September 2, 2010  
(except Monday September 27 and Tuesday September 28)  
From 6:00-7:30pm

**Free Admission**

### Workshops

#### *Water Dance Rituals of Central Asia*

with Sashar Zarif  
Saturday September 25, 2010 6:00-7:00pm

**A Culture Days Event**

**Free Admission**

#### *Water Dance: Ebb and Flow*

with Sashar Zarif  
Sunday September 26, 2010 4:00-6:30pm  
Workshop: \$25 - With Show: \$20

#### *Sufi/Shamanic Dance Rituals*

with live Persian Music  
Sunday September 26, 2010  
From 7:00-9:00pm  
Workshop: \$25 - With Show: \$20

### Celebrating Nuit Blanche

*Crossing Waters*  
Saturday October 2, 2010 10:00pm-4:00am  
A night of music, dance and media arts after the final performance of Water  
**Free Admission**

### Special thanks to:

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**Dance Umbrella of Ontario**  
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Sashar Zarif Dance Theatre presents **Water, go rivering!** - Chiedu Ezeanah

**From Sufi-Shamanic Water Rituals**

September 23, 2010 – October 2, 2010  
The Theatre Centre  
1087 Queen Street West, Toronto

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Shandi

SHAHRVAND - LARGEST FARSI NEWSPAPER IN NORTH AMERICA

# Water, go rivering

**Choreographer:** Sashar Zarif

**Music composition:** Eric Cadesky and Pirouz Yousefain

**Stage Manager:** Shawn Henry

**Lighting Designer:** Sashar Zarif and Shawn Henry

**Costume Designer:** Sashar Zarif

**Creative Facilitator:** Katherine Duncanson

**Outside Eye:** Sashar Zarif solo: Susie Burpee & Katherine Duncanson

**Video Art:** Jeremy Mimmagh

**Dancers:** Lucy Rupert, Heidi Strauss, and Yvonne Ng

*Drop, Drop* poem by Minou Akhlaghi

An abundant shore said,  
although I have lived long,  
it never became clear who I am.

An ebbing wave suddenly rose and said

I exist when I am moving, it is

Only when I don't move that I don't exist

**Iqbal Lahuri**

***Water, go rivering*** is an inquiry into the invisible thread that connects the way we all relate to the world around us. In an investigative attempt to cross cultures and time, this choreography has emerged from the introduction of ancient water rituals to the contemporary world of Heidi, Lucy, Yvonne, and I. The process was masterfully nurtured by our creative facilitator, Katherine Duncanson. The music is a marriage of classical Persian compositions by Pirouz Yousefian and the global village musician Eric Cadesky. The video arts/projection was created simultaneously with the sensitive vision of Jeremy Mimmagh.

## For the Exhibit

**Concept and Direction:** Sashar Zarif

**Collaborative Photography:** Hasti Mirhadi

Soheil Ghorbandayipoor

**Curator:** Mahla Ghasempoor

**Research video collection by:** Sashar Zarif, Maroan Bahrar

## Company Bios

**Sashar Zarif** is an internationally renowned multi-disciplinary artist, educator, and researcher in the field of dance ethnology and ethno musicology. His areas of interest are identity, globalization, cross-cultural collaborations, and Sufi-Shamanic Rituals. His research, artistic practice and education activities are based on the arts of Central and Western Asia including Azerbaijan, Iran, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Georgia, and Chechnya. Sashar has collaborated with such renowned artists as Alim Quasimov and Rizwan-Muazzam Qawwali as well as many esteemed colleagues at York University. He performs nationally and internationally with his company, Sashar Zarif Dance Theatre, and is the recipient of many awards including the New Pioneers Award Arts Award - artistic ambassador for diversity in arts; and a 2008 Dora Mavor Moore nomination for outstanding performance in his dance creation, *Choreographies of Migration*.

The multi-faceted **Lucy Rupert** has collaborated with dance and theatre artists such as William Yong, Sashar Zarif, Peter Chin, Andrea Nann, Puppetmongers Theatre, Volcano Theatre, Circus Orange and Sarah Slean. Lucy runs Blue Ceiling Dance as a vessel for her interpretive and creative work delving into the shimmering and dark places of human psychology through physics, philosophy and dexterous movement. Since 2001, she has been working with Theatre Rusticle, perhaps most notably as the ship Titanic in “April 14, 1912”. Lucy is co-chair of the Board of the Canadian Alliance of Dance Artists, Ontario Chapter, and happy to be Mommy to Pablo. Lucy is a 2010 Chalmers Fellowship recipient and will have a new solo premiering with DanceWorks in April 2011.

Since 1994, Toronto-based **Heidi Strauss** has worked as an independent dancer and choreographer. She has toured with Tribal Crackling Wind/Peter Chin and Sylvain Émard Danse. In 2007 Strauss founded **adelheid**, a company to support her choreographic work. Over the last 2 seasons she has been dance-artist-in-residence at the Factory Theatre. Last year her work *as it is* was named one of the top 10 dance shows of 2009 by NOW magazine. In 2010, she created *this time*, which was awarded Dora Awards for outstanding choreography and performance. She has given workshops across Canada and in the Czech Republic, Germany, Italy and Singapore, and worked as a movement coach (Necessary Angel Theatre Company and Volcano Theatre), choreographer for opera (the Frankfurt Opera and the Canadian Opera Company), rehearsal director (Peter Chin, Chartier Danse and OVertigo). She is a co-director of hub14 ([www.hub14.org](http://www.hub14.org)). For more information visit [www.adelheid.ca](http://www.adelheid.ca)

**Yvonne Ng** graduated with a BFA Honours from York University (Toronto, Canada), is a dancer, choreographer, presenter, producer, teacher and artistic director of tiger princess dance projects (since 1996). Yvonne is a certified Ashtanga Yoga and Open Source Forms teacher. The company's repertoire includes works choreographed by Ng and commissioned works. She has created roles for choreographers such as Bill James, José Navas, Menaka Thakkar, Peter Chin, Dominique Dumais and Tedd Robinson. tiger princess dance projects has toured their repertoire in Singapore, Ireland, Germany, Australia, China and across Canada. She has also been commissioned to create works for Toronto Dance Theatre, York University and Ryerson University. Yvonne, of Peranakan Chinese descent, was born and raised in Singapore and moved to Canada in 1983.

Ng has received the K.M. Hunter Artist Award, Dance (2002), the New Pioneers Arts Award (2003) and the Chalmers Arts Fellowship (2002). In 2000, she was honoured with a Dora Mavor Moore Award for best performance and multiple nominations. In 2007, Ng received the Ontario Premier's Award for Excellence in the Arts – New Talent Award along with Canadian dance legend Peggy Baker. Ng is the Artistic Director of Series 8:08 (since 1994) and currently teaches in the Theatre department at Juniata College, PA, USA. [www.princessproductions.ca](http://www.princessproductions.ca)

A photographer, electronic music and video artist, **Jeremy Mimmagh** has been working as an independent artist since 2002. His interest in performance-based works has involved collaborations in contemporary dance, music, theatre and film, creating immersive film/video designs and sound scores. In 2009 *as it is*, for which Mimmagh designed the sound, was named one of the top 10 dance shows of the year. His video design for Chartier Danse's *Bas Reliefs* earned him recognition in Germany's Ballett und Tanz Jahrbuch 2006. In recent years he has also pursued an interest in documenting creative

process with still photography and film, leaving evidence of the ephemeral evolution within the creative process. Exhibitions of some his still collections have been installed at throughout Canada and internationally. Upcoming projects for the fall / winter include collaborations with celebrated artists Peter Chin, Heidi Strauss and the screening of a short film shot in Cambodia. For more information visit [www.mimnagh.ca](http://www.mimnagh.ca).

**Katherine Duncanson** – creative facilitator- is an interdisciplinary performer, vocal director, music educator and creative facilitator. One of Toronto's most prolific performers, she has collaborated with a wonderful array of Toronto dance artists, composers, actors, writers, visual artists, performance artists, magicians, musicians and clowns. For many years she was on the faculties of York University and the School of Toronto Dance Theatre, teaching Music for Dancers. Katherine has performed and taught voice and movement workshops across Canada and is one of Toronto's most sought after Kundalini Yoga instructors.

**Eric Cadesky** has been composing for ballet and modern dance since 1983 and has created more than 60 works for that medium. He has created pieces for the National Ballet of Canada, Ballet BC, Lyon Opera Ballet, Mannheim Ballet, Ballet Jorgen, Montanaro Dance and was Composer In Residence for Desrosiers Dance Theatre for 8 years. He has worked with many of Canada's most gifted independent choreographers. The premier of his dancing career was also that career's swan song. His one performance in the National Ballet's *Nutcracker* of placing an injured cookie on a stretcher and racing off stage did not inspire the critics.

**Shawn Henry** is the Stage Manager for *Water*. She is a Lighting Designer, as well as a Production Manager. Shawn's lighting design credits include: *Hiding Words (For You)*, *I Garvey*, *Lady of Spills*, *rock.paper.sistahz 7 and 8*, *Neverman's Land*, and *Love and Marriage*, to name a few. Her production management experiences include a recent apprenticeship at Factory Theatre for half their season as well as working with b current performing arts for a season. When Shawn isn't being a lighting designer, production manager or stage manager she is an Artist Mentor to at risk youth that are interested in learning about and working in theatre.

**Mahla Ghasempour** was born in Esfahan, Iran. She received her MFA from University of Windsor, in Windsor (Ontario) and her BFA Honour from York University, in Toronto (Ontario). She has curated, and exhibited shows both nationally or internationally for the past four years. Her work has been immersed within the richness and diversity of historical and traditional art her entire life; it has become a part of who she is, not only as an artist but simply as a human being. The relationship between place and memory is very strong and plays a significant role in her creative practice. She is currently based in Toronto.

Born in Mahmoud Abad, Iran in 1954, **Pirouz Yousefian** initially discovered his interest in the santour at the tender age of six. From there Pirouz led a fulfilling musical-career by learning, playing, teaching, and composing. As a professional santour player, Pirouz has explored various musical genres ranging from traditional to fusion. He continuously invents and reinvents paths for his music and instruments involved. In keeping with ancient Persian art triad (namely music, poetry, and dance), Pirouz has composed and performed pieces for classic as well as modern poetry and dance. In 1994, 2004 and 2009, he established the Mehrvarzan, Naseem and Noubag ensembles respectively, performing in numerous venues throughout Canada, the United States, and Europe.