

Bold Steps & Big Risks: Revisiting *Shumka's Night of Perun*

We needed to break the stereotypes of Ukrainian dance if we wanted to develop the art form. Perun explored the possibilities of where Ukrainian dance could go.

– John Pichlyk, former *Shumka* Artistic Director & *Perun* choreographic collaborator



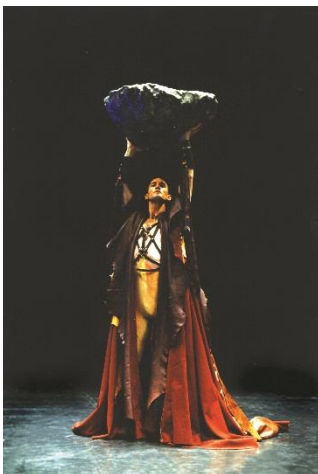
Join us on Facebook Live for a rare screening of *Shumka's Night of Perun*. Premiered 25 years ago on the *Absolutely Shumka* Canadian Tour, *Perun* was the company's first foray into contemporary movement with a theme never yet explored in Ukrainian dance: pre-Christian paganism. A look at blind faith, the piece challenged audiences across the country. Twenty-five years later, we revisit this work which forged a new direction for *Shumka* in terms of development of its unique Ukrainian Canadian art form, and influenced future works including *Pathways to Hopak* and *Shumka's Kobzar*. *Night of Perun* aired nationally on CBC following the 1995 Tour.

After the production screening, join us for a panel featuring choreographic collaborators **John Pichlyk** and **Brian Webb**, and former dancer/current *Shumka* Senior Creative Director **Les Sereda**, as they discuss *Night of Perun's* impetus, creation and ultimate influence.

Saturday, July 4
7pm MST

Live on Shumka's Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/UkrainianShumkaDancers/>

Participate! Message us on Facebook in advance if you have questions for the panel or take part in the live chat during the event.



It was a courageous act for Shumka to do this piece and it laid a path for their future work.

– Brian Webb, Contemporary dancer/presenter & *Perun* choreographic collaborator

The dancers had to buy in 100% to make the piece work. It was a challenge that influenced our dance skill set moving forward.

– Les Sereda, dancer in *Perun* & current *Shumka* Senior Creative Director