



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Dance Centre Programs: Enhancing Artistic Growth, Building New Audiences

The Dance Centre has expanded far beyond its origins as a service organization to offer a range of activities unparalleled in Canadian dance. It has developed programs which support the professional development of dance creators and performers, nurture new audiences, and introduce new ideas into the cultural landscape. Over fifty artists, at all career stages and from many cultural and artistic backgrounds, participate in The Dance Centre's programs every season. These programs are at the heart of the many activities taking place at Scotiabank Dance Centre, the facility operated by The Dance Centre, and contribute towards the establishment of a stronger infrastructure for dance in BC and Canada.

Programs

- Dance In Vancouver is a biennial event showcasing performances by some of BC's most exciting contemporary dance artists. Popular with the public, the event brings dance presenters from around the world, and also features studio presentations and roundtable discussions.
- The Artist-in-Residence program supports choreographers in creation, teaching, outreach and performance activity over an extended period of time. Since 2002 the program has included Helen Walkley's outreach with the GF Strong Rehabilitation Centre, Burnaby Women's Prison and the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre; Co. ERASGA's cross-cultural collaboration with taiko drummer Eileen Kage and pianist Alison Nishihara; Carolyn Deby's site specific work in the Downtown Eastside; and Justine A. Chambers' discussion and writing initiatives.
- DanceLab provides fully subsidized studio space for artists to engage in intensive research with other artforms such as visual art, film, music and theatre, culminating in an informal public studio presentation.
- Global Dance Connections is a contemporary dance performance series which presents artists from BC, Canada and across the world. Past visiting artists include Lynda Gaudreau (Montreal), Nigel Charnock (UK), Eddie Ladd (Wales), Hiroaki Umeda (Japan), Francesco Scavetta (Italy/Norway), Nacera Belaza (Algeria/France), Ballet Preljocaj (France), and Jan Martens (Belgium/the Netherlands).

- Discover Dance! takes place six times per season. These accessible hour-long shows combine performance and discussion, and feature dance styles ranging from contemporary, flamenco, and classical Indian, to Chinese and African.
- 12 Minutes Max supports the creation of work by emerging artists through studio research, feedback and dialogue. Artists show their work informally at the end of each session, and a ticketed performance in June presents a selection of the works.
- Choreographic Projects: The Dance Centre initiates a wide range of choreographic projects. Recent projects include CO:LAB (dance and music), and Migrant Bodies (international choreographic research project, with partners in Montreal, France, Italy, Croatia).
- International Dance Day is celebrated on and around April 29 with a series of events around Vancouver, including performances, workshops and other events. All forms of dance are featured at a variety of locations.
- The annual Scotiabank Dance Centre Open House offers a day of open classes, events and performances every September, marketing the anniversary of the opening of Canada's flagship dance facility.
- The Isadora Awards are presented each year to honour artists who have made an exceptional contribution to dance in BC. The Iris Garland Emerging Choreographer Award is presented every two years to a young choreographer who shows outstanding promise, and the biennial Lola Award supports mid-career and senior choreographers.

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