



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Dance Centre: Supporting the Development of BC Dance

Established in 1986 as a resource centre for the dance profession and the public in British Columbia, The Dance Centre has grown into a multifaceted organization offering a range of activities unparalleled in Canadian dance. Driven by an ambitious vision to boost the profile of dance, and to develop a stronger infrastructure for the art form, The Dance Centre devises innovative **programs** supporting dance creators, and presents performances and events to the public; operates **Scotiabank Dance Centre**, one of Canada's flagship dance facilities; **promotes BC dance**; and provides **resources and services** for the dance profession, through its team of experienced professional staff.

Programs

The Dance Centre runs programs which support the professional development of creators and performers, and nurture new audiences. Key programs include **Artist-in-Residence**, where choreographers undertake creation, performance, and outreach activities over an extended period of time; **DanceLab**, in which choreographers collaborate in research with artists from other disciplines such as visual art and music; **Global Dance Connections**, a performance series featuring work by local, Canadian and international artists; and **Discover Dance!**, an accessible event combining performance with artist talkbacks. **Dance In Vancouver** is a biennial showcase of BC's contemporary dance scene, attended both by the public and presenters of dance from around the world. **12 Minutes Max** supports the creation of short works by emerging artists through studio research, feedback, and dialogue. In mid-September the annual **Scotiabank Dance Centre Open House** offers a day of free classes and events, and every April 29 The Dance Centre presents a program of public events for **International Dance Day**.

Other initiatives include the annual **Isadora Awards** recognizing artistic achievement, the biennial **Lola Award** for mid-career and senior artists, and the biennial **Iris Garland Emerging Choreographer Award**. The Dance Centre collaborates extensively with many organizations including the PuSh International Performing Arts Festival, the Chutzpah! Festival, and Dancing on the Edge Festival, and works with artists from a wide range of cultural backgrounds, including Indigenous artists. The **Power of Dance** program offers classes and events for elementary and high school students, immigrant and refugee youth, and seniors.

Scotiabank Dance Centre

For over two decades The Dance Centre spearheaded the drive to create a home for BC's dance community. Today it operates **Scotiabank Dance Centre**, a state-of-the-art facility which opened in

2001 in downtown Vancouver, on a site provided by its title sponsor. The building has become a unique cultural hub for dance activity, housing rehearsals, classes, workshops, performances and events by dance artists and companies from Vancouver and beyond. Since its inception, Scotiabank Dance Centre has welcomed and inspired over one million artists and visitors. The facility is also a popular venue with other art forms, however booking policies ensure that dance receives priority access and preferential rates.

Promoting BC Dance

The Dance Centre is the primary source for information about dance in BC. The **public** can access information about performances around BC, classes, companies and organizations via its website (thedancecentre.ca); and the information centre in Scotiabank Dance Centre's reception handles many enquiries. In addition to events such as Dance In Vancouver, The Dance Centre promotes BC dance internationally, producing information for **presenters and promoters** around the world: the online BC Dance Directory lists hundreds of BC dance organizations.

A Resource for the Professional

The Dance Centre's members include over thirty professional dance companies and hundreds of individual artists, teachers, choreographers, and performers. They benefit from: **information** about funding, jobs, auditions, training and other opportunities; *Dance Central*, an online publication, plus E-Central email bulletins; information sessions and networking events; access to the most extensive dance DVD library in Western Canada; **professional development** including workshops and training initiatives with local and visiting artists; opportunities to apply to Dance Centre programs such as residencies and international exchanges; and consultations with experienced staff on topics such as grant writing, marketing and incorporation.

The Dance Centre received a Downtown Vancouver Association Achievement Award (2000), a Spirit of Vancouver Award for outstanding spirit and commitment to the community and the arts (2002), a Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association Appreciation Award for its outstanding contribution to downtown Vancouver (2012), and was nominated in the Arts & Culture category of the Vancouver Courier Stars of Vancouver (2019).

- 30 -

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