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## Announcing The Dance Centre's 2025-2026 season

*Vancouver, BC:* The Dance Centre's 2025-2026 season presents a comprehensive program of exciting performances, accessible community programs, and creative residencies, featuring a diverse roster of artists working in a variety of dance genres.

Executive Director Mirna Zagar said, "This season encapsulates how The Dance Centre has built up, over more than three decades, a range of activities which is unparalleled in Canadian dance. We look forward to continuing to support hundreds of artists, offering a diverse selection of performances and events, and welcoming audiences to our vibrant cultural hub Scotiabank Dance Centre to experience the art of dance, in the coming year."

The **Global Dance Connections** series features world premieres from Co.ERASGA, (Oct 9 & 10), Action at a Distance/Vanessa Goodman (Jan 26-27, presented with Music on Main and PuSh International Performing Arts Festival) and James Gnam/Plastic Orchid Factory (Jan 30-31, presented with the PuSh Festival). Justine A. Chambers' *The Brutal Joy* receives its West Coast premiere (Feb 5-6, also presented with PuSh Festival) as does Ame Henderson + Matija Ferlin's *Show Gone* (Mar 13-14, presented with Vancouver International Dance Festival). The series concludes with world premieres from Corporeal Imago (May 21-23) and FakeKnot (June 19-20).

The popular **Discover Dance!** noon hour series includes Bharatanatyam artist Sujit Vaidya (Oct 23), Flamenco Rosario (Nov 20), Idan Cohen/Ne. Sans Opera & Dance (Mar 5), and tap star Danny Nielsen (May 7).

**Iris Garland Emerging Choreographer Award** recipient Eric Cheung premieres his trio *Contra* (Nov 28-29) – the eleventh artist to be presented through the Award since its launch twenty years ago. **Partnerships** include F-O-R-M Festival in November, and The Dance Centre's longstanding, continuing collaboration with Matriarchs Uprising Festival in February.

The Dance Centre's **Associate Artists** Justine A. Chambers and Ralph Escamillan move into year two of their three-year terms, where they curate programs and events, build connections with diverse communities, and share new works through the Global Dance Connections series.

**Residency exchanges** with partners in Montreal, Toronto and New Zealand will support artistic growth and creative exchange.

Choreographic research and the development of new work is supported through a comprehensive suite of **residencies, labs, and projects**, with free showings and events throughout the year. The **12 Minutes Max** program for emerging artists runs three cohorts, guided by facilitators Ziyian Kwan and Tasha Faye Evans.

The Dance Centre continues to support hundreds of artists every year through its programs, subsidized or free studio space at Scotiabank Dance Centre, resources, information, professional development, and other opportunities.

**Community programs** including the annual Scotiabank Dance Centre Open House (Sept 13) and International Dance Day (April 29) provide free, accessible dance experiences. The **Power of Dance program** offers workshops for elementary and high school students, immigrant and refugee youth (in partnership with the Vancouver School Board) and seniors.

## [2025-2026 SEASON DETAILS](#)

### **Tickets and Information**

- Subscriptions, and single tickets for most events, are on sale at [thedancecentre.ca](http://thedancecentre.ca)
- Events take place at Scotiabank Dance Centre, 677 Davie St, Vancouver

## [GLOBAL DANCE CONNECTIONS SERIES](#)

### **Co.ERASGA**

#### **Eternal Gestures**

**Thursday-Friday October 9-10, 2025 | 8pm**

A visionary world premiere from Co.ERASGA, *Eternal Gestures* is a trilogy of evocative solo works commissioned from Indigenous Coast Salish-based choreographers Starr Muranko, Michelle Olson and Margaret Grenier, and performed by Artistic Director Alvin Erasga Tolentino. This poetic work uplifts the voices of Indigenous women, asserts our deep connection to the

land, and speaks to truth, healing, and the decolonization of art. Tolentino's captivating performance becomes both a spiritual journey and a vessel for knowledge-sharing. This milestone production celebrates Co.ERASGA's 25th anniversary and reaffirms the company's fierce commitment to cross-cultural, experimental dance which explores identity, ancestry, and the environment.

**Action at a Distance/Vanessa Goodman**

**WAIL**

**Monday-Tuesday January 26-27, 2026 | 8pm**

*WAIL* is crafted as a poem for our present moment, weaving generative sound and movement together to capture the essence of shared experience in a time marked by dissonance. Delving into the intricate dance of navigating joy within community, six dance artists create a living score, intertwining physical and sonic compositions. The work draws inspiration from botanical distortions and auditory illusions to forge a sense of intimacy between humanity and the natural world, ultimately celebrating resilience in the face of chaos. This transformative and timely world premiere sees Vanessa Goodman, an award-winning West Coast choreographer who tours internationally, continue to probe the interconnectedness of bodies, technology and ecosystems. Presented with Music on Main and PuSh International Performing Arts Festival

**James Gnam/Plastic Orchid Factory**

**Catching Up to the Future of Our Past**

**Friday January 30, 2026 | 8pm**

**Saturday January 31, 2026 | 2pm**

This new duet for Natalie LeFebvre Gnam and James Gnam maps the living and shifting territory between memory and possibility. Placing their bodies at the centre of this live cartography, they mark time as both measurable and immeasurable - and articulate midlife not as a static checkpoint, but as a fluid intersection of past and future selves. By exploring the minutiae of their own lived and imagined trajectories, Natalie and James ask audiences to witness not only the passage of time, but its elastic potential: to see how memory propels us into possibility, and how possibility, in turn, reshapes the way we remember.

Presented with PuSh International Performing Arts Festival

**Justine A. Chambers**

**The Brutal Joy**

**Thursday-Friday February 5-6, 2026 | 8pm**

*The Brutal Joy* unfurls Black line dancing and sartorial expression as intellectual discourse, reverie, and devotion to Black-living. Created by the acclaimed Vancouver-based choreographer Justine A. Chambers, the work is rooted in her childhood memories and is a collaboration with her Black matrilineal heritage. It centers dance and fashion as living counter-archives, and considers how movement and personal style are tools for self-determination and the reclamation of Black humanitarian value. A dazzling scored improvisation for dance, lighting, and sound, *The Brutal Joy* draws from the Electric Slide and Black dandyism as embodied knowledge sources for self-actualization in the present through a dance of future possibilities.

Justine A. Chambers is Associate Artist with The Dance Centre

Presented with PuSh International Performing Arts Festival

### **Ame Henderson + Matija Ferlin**

#### **Show Gone**

**Friday-Saturday March 13-14, 2026 | 7pm**

Collaborating across borders and disciplines, Canadian choreographer Ame Henderson and Croatian director Matija Ferlin are known for their playfully rigorous conceptual performances. In this new duet, they play with light and darkness to explore the felt experience of endings - political, social and personal ones. The “snap to black” and the revealed tableaux that follow become a motif exposing the impossibility of controlling the narrative. From endless endings gradually emerges the feeling of a beginning.

Presented with Vancouver International Dance Festival

### **Corporeal Imago**

#### **Drift**

**Thursday-Saturday May 21-23, 2026 | 8pm**

Choreographers Gabrielle Martin and Jeremiah Hughes unveil a striking world premiere in which the human form recedes into a scarred and shifting landscape. *Drift* unfolds through suspended bodies, cosmic noise, and immersive atmospheric effects, conjuring the silent reign of ancestral whispers, unseen life, and planetary rhythms. With this latest work, the award-winning co-directors push the boundaries of physical and visual performance, imagining an altered ecology where movement becomes a quiet meditation on transformation.

Presented through the Artist-in-Residence program

### **FakeKnot**

#### **MY HOUSE**

**Friday-Saturday June 19-20, 2026 | 8pm**

*MY HOUSE* is a bold new work by the award-winning queer, Canadian-Filipinx choreographer Ralph Escamillan (aka Kiki Legend OA Mother Posh Gvasalia and Canadian Mother Posh Basquiat). This fabulous performance celebrates Ballroom Culture, and the familial bonds embedded within the structure of a HOUSE. Bringing the BALL from the runway to the stage, the piece features Voguers from the Canadian Scene, with local Ballroom Commentators and DJs. Subversive, joyful, and playful, *MY HOUSE* uses the motif of trompe l'oeil to build fantasy, beats that make you pump, and movement that carries the liberating truth of being fully oneself on the floor.

Ralph Escamillan is Associate Artist with The Dance Centre

**TICKETS** Series subscriptions (3, 5 and 7-show packages), single tickets from \$29 + \$1 facility fee, available at [thedancecentre.ca](http://thedancecentre.ca).

(\*Single tickets will go on sale in the fall for: Action at a Distance at [musiconmain.ca](http://musiconmain.ca); James Gnam/Plastic Orchid Factory at [pushfestival.ca](http://pushfestival.ca); Ame Henderson + Matija Ferlin at [vidf.ca](http://vidf.ca).)

### [DISCOVER DANCE! SERIES](#)

#### **Sujit Vaidya**

**Thursday October 23, 2025 | 12 noon**

Sujit Vaidya's practice is firmly rooted in the Indian classical dance form of Bharatanatyam, and he works within and beyond traditional repertoire with artistry and rigour. This stimulating presentation will offer a conversation between past and present, with excerpts from dances passed down through the generations as well as new creations.

Presented through the Artist-in-Residence program

#### **Flamenco Rosario**

**Thursday November 20, 2025 | 12 noon**

A trailblazing force in Vancouver's flamenco scene for over 35 years, Flamenco Rosario honours the authentic traditions of flamenco while nurturing its evolution, crossing boundaries of history and cultures. Led by its celebrated Artistic Director Rosario Ancer, the company will share a powerful program of electrifying dance, emotional intensity, and stirring music.

#### **Idan Cohen/ Ne. Sans Opera & Dance**

**Thursday March 5, 2026 | 12 noon**

Meticulously crafted and suffused with musicality, Idan Cohen's exquisite creations emerge from the intersection of opera, music, and contemporary dance. This intimate program will share

excerpts from the company's repertoire, including a glimpse of a new work in development - *Bach Dances*, which reimagines Bach's famous Solo Cello Suites through dance. Presented through the Artist-in-Residence program

### **Danny Nielsen**

**Thursday May 7, 2026 | 12 noon**

Tap dance star Danny Nielsen's vibrant collaboration with pianist/percussionist Kristian Alexandrov, *In Conversation*, delves into the symbiotic relationship between tap and jazz. They will share excerpts from this fresh take on a beloved art form: a wonderful celebration of tap and musical artistry. With Miles Hill on bass, and lighting design by Jack Chipman.

**TICKETS** Series subscriptions, single tickets from \$15 + \$1 facility fee available at [thedancecentre.ca](http://thedancecentre.ca).

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

#### **Eric Cheung**

##### **Contra**

**Friday-Saturday November 28-29, 2025 | 8pm**

The award-winning young dance and interdisciplinary artist Eric Cheung's *Contra* examines the universal human desire for transcendence and the endless journey towards fulfilling our potential, exposing the contradictions of human nature. Drawing on Cheung's roots in street dance, this dynamic and richly visual work is a multi-disciplinary collaboration with digital media artist Cristian Gonzalez and composer Matthew Tomkinson, and utilizes real-time interactive immersive projection mapping.

Presented through The Dance Centre's Iris Garland Emerging Choreographer Award

**TICKETS** go on sale in September.

### **ASSOCIATE ARTISTS, EXCHANGES, RESIDENCIES**

#### **Associate Artists**

The Dance Centre's Associate Artists are engaged for a three-year term where they will choreograph new works, curate programs and events, and nurture connections with diverse communities.

**Justine A. Chambers** is Assistant Professor at the School for Contemporary Arts at SFU and an acclaimed dance artist. She will research her new creation *The Brutal Joy*, develop discursive

platforms around performance-making, and foster relationships between The Dance Centre, students, and academics.

**Ralph Escamillan** is a Queer, Canadian-Filipinx artist, teacher and community leader, and Artistic Director of FakeKnot and Van Vogue Jam. He will develop his new work *MY HOUSE*, and create programming initiatives geared towards QTBIPOCs, with a specific focus on the Ballroom Scene.

### **Residency Exchanges**

New Zealand-BC Residency Exchange in partnership with MOVE (Christchurch)

Quebec-BC Residency Exchange in partnership with Circuit-Est centre chorégraphique (Montreal)

Toronto-Vancouver Residency Exchange in partnership with SummerWorks

TvT Interlink (Toronto, Vancouver, Taipei) in partnership with the Vancouver Art Gallery

### **Residencies, Labs and Projects**

The Dance Centre supports choreographic research and the development of new work throughout the season with a comprehensive suite of residencies, labs, and programs.

**Artists-in-Residence** Harmanie Rose | Idan Cohen/Ne. Sans Opera and Dance | Sujit Vaidya

**DanceLab Interdisciplinary Research** André Bessette | Rachel Helten/soma anima arts | Sarah Hin Ching U | Sophie Dow | Yurie Kaneko

**Partnerships** F-O-R-M Festival | Matriarchs Uprising Festival | Raven Spirit Dance

## **COMMUNITY PROGRAMS**

### **The Power of Dance**

#### **Season-wide**

Power of Dance classes and workshops bring the joy of dance to elementary and high school students, immigrant and refugee youth, and seniors.

### **Scotiabank Dance Centre Open House**

#### **Saturday September 13, 2025**

The 24th annual Open House offers a chance to experience a host of different dance styles, in a day of free classes, workshops, studio showings and events. Details TBA.

### **International Dance Day**

#### **Wednesday April 29, 2026**

## **Various locations**

International Dance Day is marked annually on April 29 across Canada and around the world. Each year The Dance Centre presents a program of free events celebrating the vitality and diversity of dance in Vancouver. Details TBA.

## **ABOUT THE DANCE CENTRE**

Established in 1986 as a resource centre for dance in British Columbia, The Dance Centre is a multifaceted organization offering a range of activities which is unparalleled in Canadian dance. It presents performances and events, building audiences and nurturing public awareness; invests in programs, resources and support for hundreds of dance professionals working in all genres; operates Scotiabank Dance Centre, a cultural hub and one of Canada's flagship dance facilities which welcomes tens of thousands of visitors annually; and works to promote BC dance.

Through programs, outreach and education, The Dance Centre is committed to sustaining a strong and vibrant community through dance.

The Dance Centre is situated on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the xwməθkwəy'əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səl'ílwəta?/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

**Information: 604 606 6400 [www.thedancecentre.ca](http://www.thedancecentre.ca)**

**SOCIALS:**

**Facebook @thedancecentre**

**Instagram, YouTube, TikTok, Threads @thedancecentrebc**

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The Dance Centre  
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