



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE DANCE CENTRE ANNOUNCES 40TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

**2026-2027 SEASON INCLUDES TWO DANCE SERIES,
RESIDENCIES AND COMMUNITY EVENTS STARTING
SEPTEMBER 12 WITH THE DANCE CENTRE OPEN HOUSE**

July 30, 2026, VANCOUVER. B.C. // Traditional territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Skwxwú7mesh and səliłwətał Nations – [The Dance Centre](#) celebrates 40 years of dance programs with a comprehensive 2026-2027 season program. The upcoming season is fueled by a program of exciting performances throughout two dance series, accessible community programs, and creative residencies, featuring a diverse roster of artists working in a variety of dance genres.

“This year is truly extraordinary: we celebrate 40 years of The Dance Centre and 25 years in our landmark building in the heart of downtown Vancouver,” said Mirna Zagar, Dance Centre Executive Director. “It’s a season that honours our past, celebrates our present, and continues boldly into the future. From electrifying world and Canadian premieres in our Global Dance Connections series which include new works that continue to push the boundaries of movement and imagination - to the ever-popular Discover Dance! noon series. Much of this work is the result of numerous collaborations with arts organizations across the country and beyond.”

The **Global Dance Connections series** features *Cedar Woman* by Tasha Faye Evans (Oct 1-3), a final solo from Wen Wei Dance (Oct 23-24), and the North American premiere of Barbara Matijevic & Giuseppe Chico’s *Forecasting* (Nov 13-14). The year concludes with a double bill by Raven Spirit Dance | Vanguardia Dance Projects & Aanmitaagzi (Dec 4-5), before starting again in January with Ebnflōh Dance Company’s *Mōnad* (Jan 30-31, presented with PuSh International Performing Arts Festival). Rounding out the season is a Vancouver edition of *Older & Reckless* (May 7-8, presented with Moonhorse Dance Theatre), and a world premiere by Odd Meridian Arts (May 28-29).

The popular **Discover Dance!** noon hour series includes a contemporary dance ensemble work by tiger princess dance projects (Oct 29), the making of *Winterbourne* by Ballet Vancouver & Yolonda Skelton (Nov 19), Métis Jigging and House Dance

with André Bessette & Josh Cameron (Feb 11), and Bharatanatyam by Vidya Kotamraju and House of Indian Dance (Mar 25).

The Dance Centre's **Associate Artists**, Justine A. Chambers and Ralph Escamillan, are now in the third and final year of their terms. This season Justine will co-curate the Vancouver edition of *Older & Reckless* alongside Allison Cummings, and Ralph will continue to create programming initiatives geared towards QTBIPOCs, with a specific focus on the Ballroom Scene while engaging as mentors and connectors with various communities and artists. With partners in Montreal, Toronto and New Zealand, the **residency exchanges** 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**. The Dance Centre presents free showings and events throughout the year. This year, the **12 Minutes Max** program for emerging artists runs two modules, 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, resources, information, professional development, and other opportunities.

Community programs including the annual Dance Centre Open House (Sept 12) and International Dance Day (April 29) provide free, accessible dance experiences for all. The Power of Dance program offers workshops for elementary and high school students, immigrant and refugee youth and seniors.

Adds Zagar, "This season is a feast for dance enthusiasts! We invite everyone interested in dance to The Dance Centre on September 12 to attend our annual Open House. This is an incredibly special event for us this year. For the first time, we are presenting works in our very own landmark building. After the announcement in April, we have been met with tremendous enthusiasm and support for our 40th anniversary season."

Subscriptions and single tickets for most events are on sale now at www.thedancecentre.ca. All events take place at The Dance Centre, 677 Davie Street.

The Dance Centre gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Province of British Columbia, the BC Arts Council, BC Gaming Commission, Canada Council for the Arts, the Government of Canada, and the City of Vancouver through the Office of Cultural Affairs. Media sponsors for The Dance Centre are Create a Stir and The Georgia Straight. The Discover Dance! Series is sponsored by Citytv and OMNI Television. We also extend our heartfelt gratitude to our many donors and volunteers for their generous support.

2026-2027 SEASON DETAILS

GLOBAL DANCE CONNECTIONS SERIES

Tasha Faye Evans

Cedar Woman

Thursday-Friday October 1-2 | 8pm

Saturday October 3 | 2pm

Cedar Woman is a prayer in a long line of prayers. It is s̓x̓wəḥwəyəm̓, a Coast Salish story of ancestral resilience and hope, honouring our relationship with these lands and a legacy of matriarchs spanning all the way back to a cedar tree. Through song, dance, and ceremony, Tasha Faye Evans and her ensemble call upon Cedar Woman, one of our first grandmothers who faced The Great Flood with fierce love. In this collective vision of hope for the future, we remember our sacred responsibility to all our relations and protecting what we know from the depth of our soul to be sacred.

Wen Wei Dance

Last Solo

Friday-Saturday October 23-24 | 8pm

Wen Wei Wang began dancing in China, where the expressive language of the hands, arms, and upper body shaped his artistic voice. As he grew older, he came to understand that his sexuality was different, a realization that deeply influenced his life and creative journey. Now, returning to the stage as a senior artist, he reflects on memory, mortality, and the connection between body, mind, and the universe. Through this final solo work, he invites audiences to contemplate aging, transformation, vulnerability, and resilience.

Barbara Matijevic & Giuseppe Chico

Forecasting

Friday-Saturday November 13-14 | 8pm

Forecasting takes you on a mesmerizing journey through the vast, intimate, and often absurd world of amateur YouTube videos. On a bare stage, a single performer and a laptop become a portal into thousands of ordinary lives — food lovers, fitness buffs, gardeners, pet owners, quiet walkers, secret confessors. As the screen shifts between mask and mirror, her voice weaves into the videos until the boundary between self and stream dissolves. Part performance, part meditation, *Forecasting* is a poetic portrait of who we are when we think no one — and everyone — is watching.

Raven Spirit Dance | Vanguardia Dance Projects & Aanmitaagzi

Double Bill: Spine of the Mother | Conversations: Hidden Stories

Friday-Saturday December 4-5 | 8pm

A double-bill evening tracing stories, memories, and connection across landscapes and generations. Raven Spirit Dance presents *Spine of the Mother*, exploring the body as landscape and our kinetic connection to the Andean mountain range Elders call the "Spine of Mother Earth," linking North and South across the continents.

Sharing the program, Vanguardia Dance Projects and Aanmitaagzi bring *Conversations: Hidden Stories*, a collaboration between artists from both companies exploring the land, people, culture, and stories that connect them. Through soil, fabric, land, and water, this work journeys through displacement and erasure to reaffirm a sovereign right to ancestral memory, connection, and future.

Ebnflōh Dance Company

Mōnad

Saturday-Sunday January 30-31 | 8pm

Mōnad (from the ancient Greek "monas", meaning "unit") refers to the idea of a self-sufficient, unicellular organism containing multiple universes. Major player on

Québec's Hip Hop dance scene, Alexandra 'Spicey' Landé embodies this Mōnad. Inspired by this primary matter and energized by her symbiotic relationship with dance and Hip Hop culture, Alexandra 'Spicey' Landé and Jai 'Nitai' Lotus welcome materials and sounds that form and deform, adapt and transform as they interact. How can we approach different incarnations of a single life? *Mōnad* is a vibrant consideration of the relationships in interrelated universes, questioning the notion of eternity.
Presented with PuSh International Performing Arts Festival

Moonhorse Dance Theatre
Older & Reckless: Vancouver Edition
Friday-Saturday May 7-8 | 8pm

Toronto-based Moonhorse Dance Theatre brings their longstanding acclaimed series *Older & Reckless* to Vancouver. The evening of three new short works curated by Justine A. Chambers and Allison Cummings explores Toronto/Vancouver collaborative exchanges by three pairs of lifelong artists: Jennifer Dahl and Andrea Nann, Johanna Householder and Margaret Dragu, and Justine A. Chambers and Allison Cummings. The work curated into *Older & Reckless* is sought out to redefine destructive assumptions about age and dance ability, celebrating artists over 45 who continuously take risks, ask pertinent questions and dig deep into nuance.
Presented with Moonhorse Dance Theatre

Odd Meridian Arts
58 Wonder Lane
Friday-Saturday May 28-29 | 8pm

Through a divining of images, words and movement, this new creation by Ziyian Kwan summons gratitude for the everyday extraordinary. Performers Juolin Lee, Kaya Tsurumi, Lyzah (Alyssa Favero), and Romi Kim (SKIM) share first-person truths and practice the art of noticing. With playful reverence for off-normal, the artists turn wonder into a home address: a kinetic garden, a slow-time dwelling, and a living space furnished with ordinary awe.

TICKETS Series subscriptions (3, 5 and 7-show packages, starting from \$92 + \$3 facility fee), single tickets from \$29 + \$1 facility fee, available at thedancecentre.ca.
(*Single tickets will go on sale in the fall for Ebñflōh Dance Company at pushfestival.ca)

DISCOVER DANCE! SERIES

tiger princess dance projects
Thursday October 29 | 12 noon

All That Is Between by Yvonne Ng | 黃碧琬 unfolds through five dancers exploring the shifting space between isolation and connection. Through attentive interactions, proximity, distance, and subtle gesture, the work invites audiences to reflect on how presence, care, and meaning emerge within the spaces we hold together.

Ballet Vancouver & Yolonda Skelton
Thursday November 19 | 12 noon

A rare glimpse behind the curtain, this Discover Dance event explores the making of *Winterbourne*, which enjoyed its world premiere at Ballet Vancouver's inaugural program. Choreographed by Artistic Director Joshua Beamish with visual design by Gitxsan fashion designer Yolonda Skelton, and set to a score by Cree composer Cris Derksen, *Winterbourne* is a harmonious integration of Indigenous design and ballet exploring the interconnectedness of all living things. Audiences will experience duet excerpts from the work alongside insight into the creative collaboration. Presented in celebration of Vancouver Indigenous Fashion Week (vifw.ca).

André Bessette & Josh Cameron
Thursday February 11 | 12 noon

André Bessette & Jammin' Cameron reflect on the inherence of community and self-expression found in both House Dance and Métis Jigging. These dances that originated in underground clubs, kitchen parties, and social gatherings where folks gathered to share joy, movement, and interconnectedness, will now be shared with you in this lively program.

Vidya Kotamraju | House of Indian Dance
Thursday March 25 | 12 noon

Vidya Kotamraju and the dancers of House of Indian Dance perform Bharatanatyam, one of India's oldest classical dance traditions, accompanied by live Carnatic musicians. Built on intricate footwork, gestures, and facial expression, the form can transform a single dancer into a god, a lover, or a warrior. This program of solo and ensemble works brings centuries-old stories to today's audiences.

TICKETS Series subscription (4-show package; \$52 + \$4 facility fee), single tickets from \$15 + \$1 facility fee, available at thedancecentre.ca.

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 continue to 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 continue to create programming initiatives geared towards QTBIPOCs, with a specific focus on the Ballroom Scene.

Residency Exchanges

- CanAsian Dance led National Residency Exchange (Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver) in partnership with SummerWorks, Toronto Dance Theatre, Tangente, Studio 303, and Morrow supported through the CanDance Network Exchange Fund Award

- New Zealand-BC Residency Exchange in partnership with MOVE (Christchurch)
- Quebec-BC Residency Exchange in partnership with Circuit-Est centre chorégraphique (Montreal)
- Toronto-Vancouver bespoke Exchange in partnership with SummerWorks

Residencies, Labs and Partnerships

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** Odd Meridian Arts | Rising Together Arts Futures: Kaili Che 謝祖弘; Ysadora Dias; Jullianna Oke; Krystal Tsai | Sarah U 余衍晴 | Tara Cheyenne Performance | Wen Wei Dance
- **DanceLab Interdisciplinary Research** Arno Kamolika, Meghna Haldar and Anju Singh | Cori Caulfield and Jai Djwa | Joe Ink and Cindy Mochizuki | Nellie Gossen, Su-Feh Lee, Jae Woo Kang and Vanessa Goodman
- **Partnerships** Aphotic Theatre/Fay Nass | Ballet Vancouver | Dance//Novella | Dancing on the Edge Festival and Action at a Distance | Danny Nielsen | Fall for Dance North | F-O-R-M Festival | Helen Walkley | Karen Jamieson Dance | Kay Huang | Matriarchs Uprising Festival | Morrow | PuSh International Performing Arts Festival | Queer Arts Festival | Raven Spirit Dance | soma anima arts | SQxDance Company | Sunkosi Galay-Tamang and Victoria Hunt | Training Society of Vancouver (TSV) | Vancouver Ballroom Arts Society | Vancouver Kiki Ballroom Alliance | Virginia Duivenvoorden

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

The Dance Centre Open House

Saturday September 12, 2026

The 25th 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

Thursday April 29, 2027

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.

40th Anniversary

Season-wide

The Dance Centre celebrates our 40th anniversary and 25 years in our landmark building. Throughout the season we will be featuring exhibitions, installations, special edition collections, and activations including a collaborative event animating The

Dance Centre, neighbourhood, and downtown core. More details to be announced this Fall.

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.

Dance on the North Shore

Thursday September 3, 2026

The inaugural Dance on the North Shore showcase features select dance artists and companies working on the North Shore alongside members of The Dance Centre, in an effort to highlight the increasingly vibrant and diverse North Shore contemporary dance community.

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 The Dance Centre building, 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'ílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

thedancecentre.ca facebook.com/thedancecentre
instagram.com/thedancecentrebc tiktok.com/thedancecentrebc
youtube.com/thedancecentrebc

THE DANCE CENTRE MARKETING CONTACT:

Jullianna Oke – Marketing Coordinator

marketing@thedancecentre.ca

Direct: 604.606.6412

Main: 604.606.6400