



MEDIA RELEASE

April 27, 2009
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Decidedly Jazz Turns Twenty-Five

CALGARY, AB... Decidedly Jazz Danceworks, which was conceived, born, and raised right here in Calgary has turned twenty-five! One of the only concert jazz dance companies in the world, DJD has developed a solid fan base in Calgary and across Canada, as well as attracting international acclaim for its authentic and innovative approach to the art of jazz.

To celebrate this milestone DJD presents *twentyfive*, a show that features 25 things that have made DJD what it is today. And, who would know better than co-founder and artistic director **Vicki Adams Willis**, who, together with **Hannah Stilwell**, and **Michèle Moss**, created the company in 1984. Since then Ms. Adams Willis has worked with hundreds of dancers, musicians, designers, and choreographers including a long list of guest artists such as Big Miller, Mark Murphy, Tommy Banks, P.J. Perry, Jackie Richardson, and Buster Brown to name just a few. The company's trademark respect for and connection to the music led someone to describe their work as "music for the eyes."

twentyfive is a joyously unrestrained retrospective featuring a selection of favourite moments, dance pieces, choreographers, dancers, musicians, and the range of styles the company has and continues to explore. Audience favourites from past productions as well as a visual History of Jazz and a new Tap piece will make this an invigorating show for all ages. Dancers include **Kimberley Cooper**, **Edgar Gilbert-Reyes**, **Catherine Hayward**, **Shayne Johnson**, **Dinou Marlett-Stuart**, **Ivan Nuñez Segui**, **Malika Srivastava**, **Kaleb Tekeste**, **Deanne Walsh**, and **Danielle Wensley**. Collaborating with the dancers is a five-piece band under the direction of **Kristian Alexandrov** (band leader, Keyboards), with **Rubim de Toledo** (Bass), **Jim Brenan** (Sax), **Bob Tildsley** (Trumpet), and **Tyler Horsby** (Drums). Set and lights are designed by long-time DJD collaborator **Harry Frehner** with costumes by **Nicole Minogue**.

twentyfive runs from June 3 – 14 at The Max Bell Theatre, EPCOR CENTRE for the Performing Arts, with a Gala Performance on June 4th, and a free pre-show chat on June 10th. In tribute to the wonderful collaboration DJD enjoyed with blues icon Clarence "Big" Miller in the early nineties, a special evening of "Big" conversation, called *Talkin' Jazz*, takes place on May 21 at 7 pm at Hotel Arts. Hear **Vicki Adams Willis**, **Holger Petersen**, **Rubim de Toledo**, **Tommy Banks**, and other special guests reminisce and exchange ideas about the impact Big Miller had on both DJD and on the Alberta music scene, while you enjoy coffee and dessert. Tickets for *twentyfive* or for *Talkin' Jazz* can be purchased through Ticketmaster, by calling 403-245-3533, or by visiting www.ticketmaster.ca.

twentyfive is generously sponsored by the Calgary Herald, Suncor Energy, FirstEnergy, Hopewell Residential Communities, The Calgary Foundation, and Hotel Arts, with the support of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Calgary Arts Development and Canada Council for the Arts.

– 30 –

For further information, please contact:

Helen Moore-Parkhouse 403-802-3406

helenmp@decidedlyjazz.com or visit www.decidedlyjazz.com