

# DECIDEDLY JAZZ

## DANCEWORKS



### **Jazz Immersion'08** Summer Intensive July 26 - August 1, 2008

#### **What is Jazz Immersion?**

A week-long intensive jazz experience for intermediate-advanced students & dance educators.

DJD, a full-time professional dance company, is dedicated to exploring, evolving and promoting the art of jazz dance. Jazz Immersion provides you with a seven day opportunity to delve into the unique style that DJD has created over the past 24 years.

Classes include Jazz, West African, Improvisation, DJD Repertoire, Swing, Latin Jazz, Rhythm Fundamentals, and Funk Fusions.

All classes taught by DJD's co-founders, as well as past and present company members.

Calgary, Alberta, Canada | Ph: 403-245-3533 | [www.decidedlyjazz.com](http://www.decidedlyjazz.com)

- Dedicated to the rich traditions and boundless future of jazz -

# IMMERSION FACULTY

## Vicki Adams Willis

(Artistic Director, DJD)

Vicki carries on a family tradition that began when her mother, Alice Murdoch Adams opened one of the first dance schools in Calgary in the 1920's. Vicki's passion for dance and jazz has taken her literally all over the globe. Besides teaching and choreographing for countless organizations, including the renowned School at Jacob's Pillow, she founded the Jazz Division in the Faculty of Fine Arts' Program of Dance at the University of Calgary in 1978, and co-founded Decidedly Jazz Danceworks in 1984 where she enthusiastically continues in her role as Artistic Director. She has received U of C's Superior Teacher Award, Global Television's Women of Vision Award, the City of Calgary's Community Achievement Award for the Arts, and an Alberta Centennial Medal. She has also had a U of C Fine Arts Entrance Award named in her honour, and was named one of the University of Calgary's Top 40 Alumni.

## Michèle Moss Johnston

(Co-Founder, DJD)

Michèle is one of the co-founders of DJD and continues to create for the company, most recently for the Twentieth Anniversary Jam in 2004 and Pulse in 2006. Over the years, she has served as performer, choreographer, dance school principal and Associate Artistic Director for the company. Michèle is currently a faculty member in the B.A. Dance Program at the University of Calgary where she is also completing her MA. Her most significant research areas are the West African roots of jazz and the traditions of the West African Diaspora.

## Hannah Stilwell

(Co-Founder, DJD)

Hannah Stilwell is a performer, teacher and choreographer entranced by the relationship between audible and visual rhythms. Throughout her career, she has dedicated herself to the discovery of many dance forms that have fused over the past century to become jazz dance. Her work has taken her to Africa, Cuba, Jamaica, India and throughout North America. Hannah holds a B.A. from U of C where she has instructed dance since 1982, and is a founder of Decidedly Jazz Danceworks.

## Kimberly Cooper

Kimberly began dancing with Decidedly Jazz Danceworks as an apprentice in 1989 and has been Artistic Associate/Resident Choreographer since she returned from a sabbatical funded by Canada Council for the Arts in 2000/2001. In 2001 she created her first full-length work, Popular, that was produced by DJD for One Yellow Rabbit's High Performance Rodeo. Since then she has co-created Velvet and the critically acclaimed cross-cultural mega show iBulla! A Loud Cuban Jazz Experiment, with DJD Co-Founder Hannah Stilwell. In 2002 she was named Emerging Artist of the Year by Alberta Dance Alliance. In 2004 she created the dance film Distemper with Director John Albanis. Funded by BRAVOFact! and the Alberta Foundation for the Arts. In 2006 she created in Charcoal & Crimson, a parallax fairy tale which the company performed at Calgary's newest venue The GRAND Theatre. In the fall of '06 Kimberly took a short sabbatical where she began to research a new project for next season and was guest choreographer at SUNY University in Potsdam New York.

## Joanne Baker

Joanne spent 7 years on stage with DJD and is currently the Dance School Principal and Arts in Education Coordinator. She has been a passionate teacher for 17 years and shares her love of jazz music and dance with students of all ages at the DJD School. Joanne has taught workshops across Canada and her choreography has been set on the talented youth dancers of eko dance projects and the DJD Company

## Sarisa Figueroa

Sarisa began her formal dance training in classical ballet at the age of seven, graduated from the Edmonton School of Ballet's Professional Program in 1993, and has danced with Decidedly Jazz ever since (apart from a year-long sabbatical during the 2003-2004 season to pursue independent interests in theatre and dance). Her dance studies have taken her to New York, Los Angeles, Montana, Cuba, Spain, Brazil and across Canada studying jazz dance and many of its root forms. Apart from dancing with DJD, she has performed with One Yellow Rabbit, Springboard Dance Collective, Theatre of the Living Statue, Sage Theatre as well as for various independent choreographers and directors. She was Artistic Director for DJD's dancer-choreographed evenings Larimer St. in 2005 and root 7 in 2006. She also choreographs, acts, and teaches in Calgary and throughout Western Canada

## Jaime Freeman Cormack

Jaime has been dancing, teaching and choreographing in the Calgary dance community for over a decade. A former Company dancer (1994-2002), Jamie is currently a teacher and director of the Pre-Professional Program at the DJD School. She has lived and studied in New York City and London and has attended several jazz and swing festivals in Sweden, Boston, and Montreal.

## Kathryn Pollack

Kathryn began dancing in her hometown of Regina. Her studies took her to Toronto, Winnipeg, and then to Montreal. Upon graduating from L'École Supérieure de Danse de Québec, she danced with Le Jeune Ballet de Québec. Returning to Toronto, she danced with Ontario Ballet Theatre from 1994-1997. Kathryn also had the opportunity to dance with Banff Festival Ballet during the summers of '96 and '97. She joined DJD in the fall of 1997. Since arriving in Calgary, Kathryn has also worked independently as a dancer, choreographer, and teacher in a number of performances, workshops and films.

## CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

(ALL CLASSES WILL BE TAUGHT AT AN INTERMEDIATE-ADVANCED LEVEL)

**JAZZ** - A class that combines technique with groove while exploring some of the many influences that have contributed to DJD's unique approach to jazz - a physically grounded and rhythmically propelled method that balances innovation with a deep connection to the history of the form.

**CREATIVE PROCESS** - DJD's creative process is unique in that it requires invested creative participation from its artists. Many elements must align for inspiration to flow and the work to unfold; musicality, improvisation, commitment, honesty to name a few. This class will guide participants through exercises that will tap into some of these elements as well as actively involve them in a rehearsal/creative process with DJD's resident choreographer.

**DJD REPERTOIRE** -The DJD style can be best expressed and showcased through its choreography. Using personal anecdotes and video, participants will be lead through dances from DJD's creatively prolific 24-year history.

**FUNK FUSION** - DJD's creators and dancers have always added a touch of groove to help create the style we have become known for. This class has been designed to push the limits of fundamental funk/hip hop vocabulary. A fusion of jazz, funk, hip hop, West African, Afrocuban and popular dance.

**LATIN JAZZ** - DJD first created work inspired by AfroCuban rhythms in 1994, after two of our founders participated in an intensive Cuban dance workshop at the Banff Centre. Cuban and other Latin influences have since provided our creators with fertile springboards for innovation within the jazz dance idiom. This class will present a combination of Cuban footwork patterns (AfroCuban, son, cha cha cha, mambo, salsa), samba footwork and jazz dance vocabulary. An understanding of basic Latin rhythms will be introduced and participants will be encouraged to find upper body Latin feel while keeping a grounded lower body.

**RHYTHM FUNDAMENTALS** - This class will highlight the rhythmic play that is integral to DJD's approach to jazz. Rhythm basics as well as jazz specific rhythmic patterns will be introduced and practiced, and the relationship between musician and dancer will be explored. Participants will listen to jazz music from a rhythmic perspective, and be guided in finding ways to express physical rhythm with clarity, sparkle and confidence. All Immersion participants will be placed into one of three levels of Rhythm Fundamentals based on skills determined in the Saturday July 26 placement class. If you have them, please bring tap shoes or non-marking, hard-soled shoes. **Previous tap experience not required!**

**ROOT FORMS** - Many West African and Cuban Folkloric dances, have offered endless playful movement experiments to our dancers and creators. Traditional dances, rhythms and songs from West Africa and Cuba will be taught with live drumming accompanying this high-energy class.

**SWING** - Focusing on vernacular dances such as the Shim Sham and the Jitterbug Stroll this class will teach a variety of swing jazz steps that will move across the floor and be put into a cumulative combination. Incorporating some of the history of swing dance and music, this class will also spend some time teaching couples swing/social dance. Swing at DJD's Jazz Immersion is designed to help people understand what it means to swing musically and how to put that swing feel in the body and use it in an improvisational way.

**TALKING JAZZ** - The elements and spirit of the traditional jazz forms that have inspired the DJD philosophy will be revealed through a bit of history a bit of music, a bit of video footage and much discussion. We'll be talkin' about jazz, plain and simple.

# APPLICATION FORM

(Participants must be at least **16 years** of age to attend Jazz Immersion)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date: M/\_\_\_\_ D/\_\_\_\_ Y/\_\_\_\_\_

Have you attended Immersion before?  Yes  No

## Class Schedule

Participants will be placed into the appropriate level for the **9:15-11:15 jazz class** and the **2:00-3:15 rhythm class**. The placement class is on **July 26 at 5:45pm** - the class will be preceded by an **Immersion orientation meeting at 5:00 p.m.**

Please number your **1st, 2nd & 3rd choice** in each time slot below. All classes will be taught at an Intermediate-Advanced Level

### Schedule

9:15-11:15	J a z z		
11:30-1:00	Root Forms (West African/ Cuban Foloric)	Funk Fusions/ Latin Jazz	Swing
2:00-3:15	Rhythm		
3:30-5:00	Creative Process	DJD Repertoire	Talking Jazz
5:00-5:30	Open Stretch Time		

Classes are first come first serve. If your first choice class is full we will place you in your 2nd or 3rd choice of class and notify you of the change.

## Payment (in Canadian funds)

Tuition

for professional and teachers \$440

for all others \$480

Swingin' Soiree (end of week event) \$25

Sub Total \_\_\_\_\_

Add 5% GST \_\_\_\_\_

Payment in Canadian funds TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment:  Visa  MasterCard  AmEx

(IN CANADIAN FUNDS)  Cheque  Money Order

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Signature:\* \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed the following required materials:

- Resume of dance background
- Full Payment
- Season performance program or school brochure (if applying as professional or teacher)
- T-shirt Size:  small  medium  large  XL
- Did you include payment for Swingin' Soiree? If so please list any dietary restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete application form and mail with your payment to:

**Decidedly Jazz Danceworks**  
1514 - 4 Street S.W.,  
Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2R 0Y4  
Fax: (403) 245 - 3584  
Email: jwillis@decidedlyjazz.com

Due July 7

## JAZZ IMMERSION SHIRTS

Your very own Jazz Immersion shirt is included in your tuition so please ensure that you indicate your preferred size on the application form.

## SWINGIN' SOIREE

A time to relax, gab, reload needed carbohydrates and celebrate the finish of a great week of dancing. This optional social event (catered dinner) will take place **Thursday, July 31. Cost is \$25 CDN.** Please indicate on the application whether or not you plan to attend and if you have any special dietary needs.

## ACCOMODATION

Please visit: [www.decidedlyjazz.com](http://www.decidedlyjazz.com), for a list of accommodation options. Prices range from \$350-\$800/week (shared accommodation available).

**Please note:** It is the responsibility of the Immersion participant to arrange and book their own accommodation.

## CANCELLATIONS

Cancellations must be given by written notice no later than July 9, 2008 for a refund less a \$100 deposit.