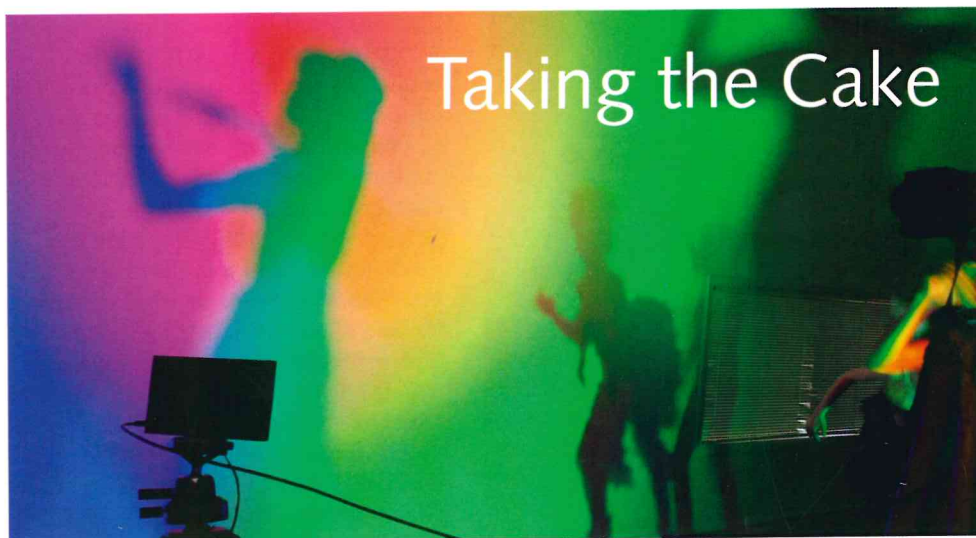


# dance

INTERNATIONAL

4 years

SUMMER 2017 | \$7.50



*Take the Cake*, an art installation by Hadley+Maxwell, illuminates the top of Calgary's new Kahanoff II Tower, where the DJD Dance Centre occupies six floors. The mural represents shadows cast by DJD (Decidedly Jazz Danceworks) company members performing an interpretation of a cakewalk. The high chroma figures are animated by an accompanying multi-coloured LED light choreography that adds movement, making it appear as though the figures are parading across the top of the building.

The cakewalk was first practised in the 1850s by African-American slaves working on plantations. Parodying the minuet popular at the parties of plantation owners, participants would parade in pairs in a grand march with an exaggerated grace that was often comedic; the couple judged to be the winners would "take the cake." The cakewalk later became a popular form in musical theatre and contributed to the development of ragtime, jazz and contemporary competitive dance forms like breakdance, voguing and freestyle battles.



Above: Hadley+Maxwell's *Take the Cake* at the top of Calgary's Kahanoff II Tower

Above left: DJD company dancers in studio shoot to create the mural

Photos: Noel Bégin