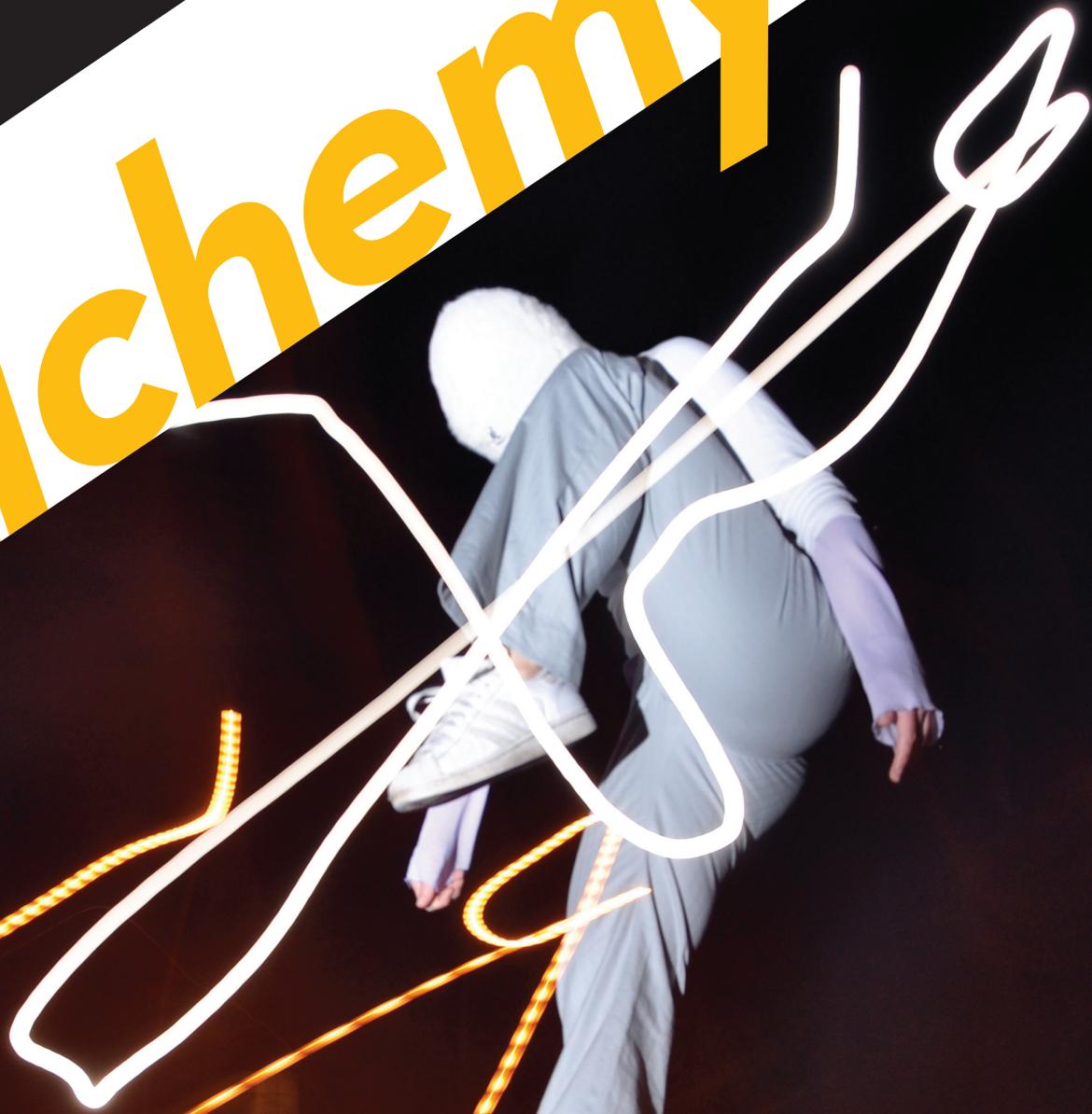


25 YEARS
DECIDEDLY JAZZ
DANCEWORKS
PRESENTS

Alchemy



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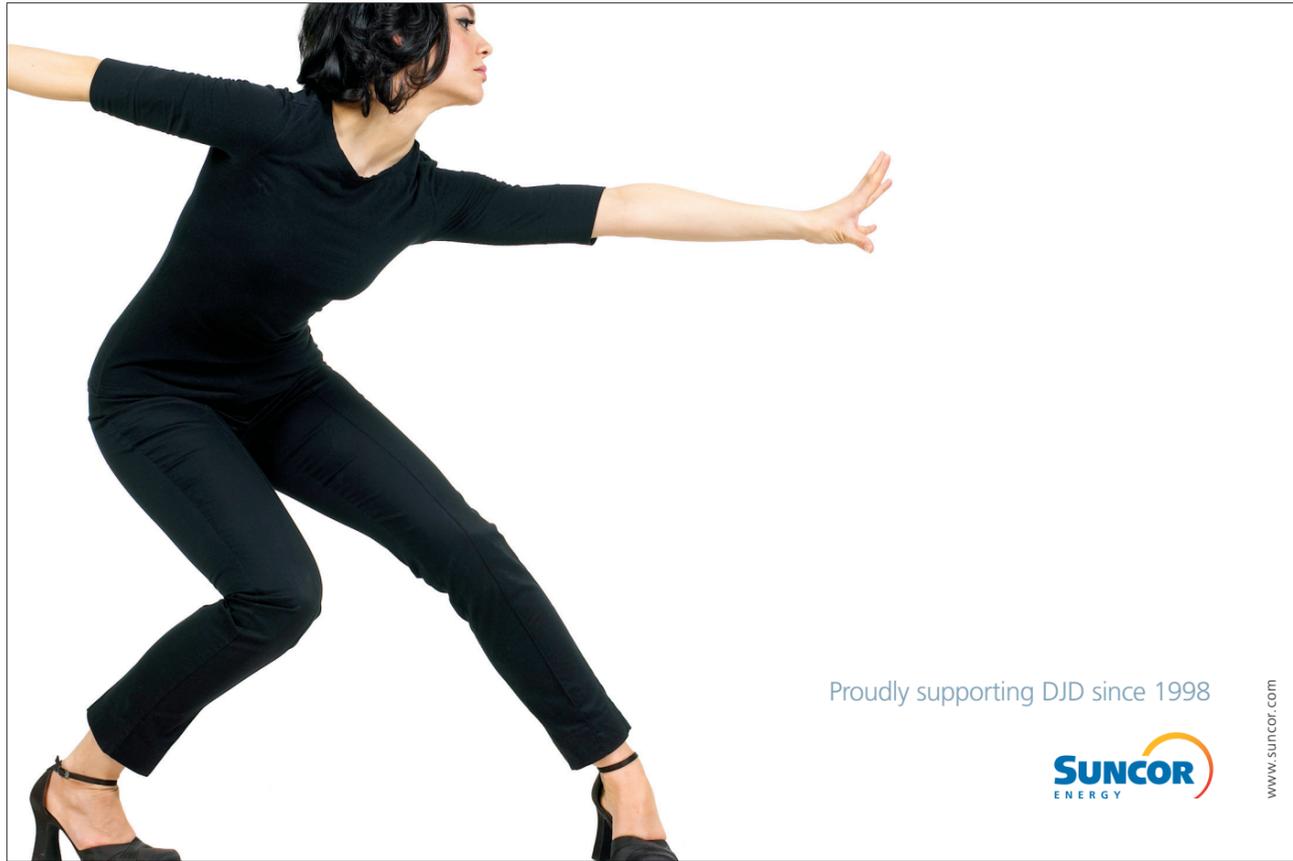
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Vicki Adams Willis

MESSAGE FROM DJD'S ARTISTIC DIRECTOR VICKI ADAMS WILLIS

Well here we are - happily and amazingly in the midst of our 25th year at DJD. In a season that is an obvious invitation to celebrate our past, instead we are starting things off with a peek into the wonderful promise of our future. Once again we are giving our company dancers an opportunity to test their choreographic chops and in doing so we are indeed investing in that future.

You see, the future of our art form is dependent on the nurturing of up and coming choreographers who ideally have had an opportunity to spend time immersed in the root and classic forms of jazz. For in order to move an art form forward one first needs to have a deep understanding of the place one is moving from, and it is also my belief that the integrity of an art lives in its respect of the past.

Now, the challenge with jazz dance is that there are very few choreographers in the world with that knowledge of and connection to the form's history. The art of jazz dance derailed decades ago when the vast majority of elements that had defined the art form in its early and classic years eroded and disappeared, so one is now left wondering why many of today's pop, Broadway and commercial dance forms are being labeled jazz. That's precisely why we created DJD 25 years ago - to reclaim and reignite those lost elements and that's why biannually we produce a dancer-choreographed show in order to cultivate promising jazz-inspired choreographic talent.

I am often asked, "How does one learn how to choreograph?" Well, by doing just that - by choreographing. But creating dances requires dancers to realize a choreographer's vision, space for those dancers to rehearse, peers to provide feedback and indeed an audience to eventually add the final important element. It is the energy of the audience mixing with the creative energy of the dance that completes the formula and this is what *Alchemy* is all about.

In celebration of our 25th we decided to invite the two dancers/choreographers/artistic directors who have artistic directed all of our past dancer-choreographed shows to join forces on *Alchemy*. As individuals Kim Cooper and Sarisa Figueroa are indeed forces to reckon with and as a team they are entirely magnificent.

Countless thanks to Kim, Sarisa and our beautiful dancers for making me smile when I think of the future.

Vicki Adams Willis
Artistic Director

MESSAGE FROM DJD'S GENERAL MANAGER KATHI SUNDSTROM

Welcome to our 25th Anniversary Season. We've come such a long way since our humble beginnings, which started with a captivating dream by a trio of creative, talented, and visionary women - Vicki Adams Willis, Michèle Moss, and Hannah Stilwell - to reclaim the true spirit of jazz and to develop a compelling contemporary dance form. And look at what has transpired from an experiment that began 25 years ago.

Since its beginning DJD has created over 40 full-length productions, at least one per year featuring live music; six dancer-choreographed shows; national and international tours; audiences of more than 25,000 people annually; a resident company of professional dancers; a Professional Training Program for pre-professional dancers; and the School of Decidedly Jazz, which has also grown in leaps and bounds and now employs more than 40 dance teachers and draws more than 1,000 students per week of all ages to its classes.

These accomplishments couldn't have been realized without a tremendous amount of support from government funders, corporations, and individuals. There have been many, many supporters over the years and we appreciate the generous contributions of each and every one. Tonight, we thank the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Calgary Arts Development, and Canada Council for the Arts; our season sponsors Suncor Energy and The Calgary Herald; and the many individuals who give of their time, talent, and treasure. You have contributed to the alchemy of turning dreams, skills, talent and tenacity into a vibrant company that produces memorable jazz experiences for thousands of people each year.

Thank you and enjoy the jazz experiments our dancers have created for you tonight.

Kathi Sundstrom
General Manager



Kathi Sundstrom

CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTORS' NOTES BY KIM AND SARISA



Sarisa Figueroa de Toledo

Alchemy is the sixth dancer-choreographed show. Experimentation was where we began; we took time as a group at the beginning of the season to allow for research, workshops and discussion on the choreographic process. We have tried to hang on to some of that in order to share some of the artistic process and behind the scenes elements with you. Hopefully you will be able to leave the theatre feeling like you have learned a little about how we do what we do.

We chose the title "Alchemy" because we like that alchemy is the magical science of turning ordinary metals into gold. Sometimes choreography can be like this too: turning ordinary movement into something precious.

All dancers are not choreographers but we are really happy that every one of the DJD dancers (for the first time in the history of the dancer-choreographed shows) chose to bravely jump in with both feet. Some are choreographing for the first time while others have more experience. Regardless of where you are in your choreographic career the process can be daunting, frightening and wonderful all at the same time. It's always a huge learning process and can actually make you a better dancer as well.

This has been a particularly fantastic time in a particularly significant season and we are thrilled to share it with you. Congrats to all the dancers for their courageous experiments. You have all found a way to bring the gold in each of you to what is golden in your pieces.



Kimberley Cooper

Kimberley Cooper
Artistic Associate
and Resident Choreographer/Dancer

Sarisa Figueroa de Toledo
Artistic Assistant/Dancer

ABOUT DECIDEDLY JAZZ DANCEWORKS

The beginning was a dream shared by Vicki Adams Willis (then founding head of the Jazz Division in the Program of Dance at the University of Calgary) and two of her graduating students, Michèle Moss and Hannah Stilwell.

In 1984 they created Decidedly Jazz Danceworks with the goal of preserving and promoting the rich history and spirit of jazz. The original company consisted of four dancers and an artistic director intent on sharing their vision of jazz with others. Now celebrating its 25th year, DJD has carved a niche for itself in the heart of Canada's dance audience. DJD is one of the few professional dance companies worldwide with jazz music and dance as its *raison d'être*.

Jazz dance is a North American performing art form with its roots in African and European dance and music. It was born on the streets of America as an Afro-American vernacular social dance form. It is a contemporary dance expression that has evolved and changed drastically over the years through the influence of virtually all dance genres. In its purist form it is deliberately and inherently accessible - in essence, a type of folk dance. It is expressive of human nature, grounded in the emotions of human experience, and therefore has a universal appeal. It is sophisticated rhythmically, as well as playful, competitive, soulful, and a direct reflection of jazz music.

The DJD style has evolved out of the work of the three company founders. As progressive historians, these artists are purposefully aware of and connected to the African and historical roots and spirit of jazz, as well as committed to the evolution and future of the form.

Historically, much of the integrity of jazz dance has depended on the interaction between dancer and musician, and in order to honour this tradition the company works primarily with live music. DJD has performed with numerous music notables including Big Miller, Mark Murphy, Tommy Banks, P.J. Perry, Jackie Richardson, Tim Williams, Diane Miller, George Koller, Julie Michels, Kristian Alexandrov, iBomba! And The Edje, as well as with tap notables Buster Brown, Josh Hilberman and Heather Cornell. The company's trademark respect for and connection to the music has lead many to describe DJD performances as "music for the eyes".

The Calgary-based company has toured extensively throughout Canada as well as to Chicago, Japan, the Turks and Caicos Islands and Cuba.

In addition to performing and touring, DJD's mandate includes a strong education component. To this end, the company offers educational performances as well as residencies, workshops and master classes for all ages and levels. The School of Decidedly Jazz, which programs both recreational and professional training, has an annual enrollment of 2400 students between the ages of 2 and 82.

For more information visit www.decidedlyjazz.com

VICKI ADAMS WILLIS, DJD ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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 1920s. 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 Woman 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, was chosen as one of the University of Calgary's Top 40 Alumni and has been honoured by U of C's Women's Resource Centre.

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BIOGRAPHIES

Kimberley Cooper, Alchemy Co-Artistic Director and Choreographer

Kimberley Cooper has seen or danced in every DJD production since its birth in 1984. She has been dancing with the company since 1989 and has been Resident Choreographer/Artistic Associate since 2001. She artistic directed the DJD dancer-choreographed shows, *Whitehorn* in 2000 and *Lime* in 2001, and in 2002 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* (2003) and *iBULLA! a loud Cuban Jazz Experiment* (2005), with DJD co-founder Hannah Stilwell and *in Charcoal & Crimson* (2006) on her own for DJD. Throughout this time she has continued to dance with the company. In addition to her work with DJD she has also danced and choreographed independently. Her work has been produced locally by Dancers' Studio West, the University of Calgary's Program of Dance, One Yellow Rabbit, eko dance projects, Springboard Dance, in Edmonton by Alberta Dance Alliance, and in Vancouver by Dances for small Stages. 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 Albis. In 2006 the two released their next short film *Methuselah*, with Jason Stroh as a co-choreographer. Both films were set to music by Amon Tobin. Her latest work *wowandflutter* premiered in Calgary in January 2008. Kim will be creating *Skyscraper* a site-specific piece in the Grain Exchange Building for the High Performance Rodeo in January 2009.

Sarisa Figueroa de Toledo, Alchemy Co-Artistic Director and Choreographer

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). In addition to dancing with DJD, she has performed with One Yellow Rabbit, Springboard Dance Collective, Theatre of the Living Statue, Sage Theatre and Edmonton Festival Ballet 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. In addition she artistic directed *Tinge & Tone* for DJD in 2008. Sarisa also choreographs, and teaches in Calgary, throughout Western Canada and most recently in Vada, Italy.

Heather Crossan, Stage Manager

Heather began stage-managing back home, in Newfoundland, over 10 years ago. She has had the pleasure of working on countless productions and tours on the island as well as across the country. Most notably was the Canadian tour of *Underwraps: A Spoke Opera*, which first brought her to Calgary. A few years later, after graduating from the National Theatre School of Canada, she decided to make Calgary her home with Chris, Marley and Sifu. *Alchemy* marks Heather's 6th production with DJD as Stage Manager and she's thrilled to be back with everyone again.

Rubim de Toledo, Audio Engineer

Composer, bassist and audio engineer, Rubim de Toledo, is best known for his work with Latin-Jazz group Bomba, as the founder of Improv collective reclaim and as frequent musical director for Decidedly Jazz Danceworks. As an audio engineer Rubim has recorded, produced or mixed music for artists and corporations including, CKUA, CBC radio, Sobey's, Dittybase, Jim Brennan, Rawlco radio, Chris Andrew, Bomba, Victoria School for the Arts and Decidedly Jazz Danceworks. As a musician and composer, Rubim has toured internationally to Europe, South America and Asia. He has performed at all major Canadian music festivals and is currently set to release his third solo release. www.rubim.com

Edgar Gilbert-Reyes, Apprentice Dancer

Born and raised in Calgary, Edgar started dancing at the age of eight at The School of Decidedly Jazz. He began his training mainly in the field of Hip Hop, but quickly developed a taste for Jazz at the age of twelve. Edgar has studied in cities such as Toronto, Vancouver, and Los Angeles and worked with artists such as Canadian Idol winner Eva Avila, and Keshia Chante. This is his first year as an apprentice in the company and he is excited and looking forward to all of the challenges that are to come.

Catherine Hayward, Dancer

Catherine grew up in Winnipeg where she began dancing at the age of five. Her dance studies led her to Ryerson University where she graduated with honours from the dance program earning her BFA. At Ryerson, Catherine had the opportunity to work with independent choreographers such as Heidi Strauss, Kathleen Rea, and Vicki St. Denys. An interest in jazz dance brought her to Calgary to train in the Pre-Professional Program at DJD. During this time she immersed herself in the Calgary community performing in *Footprints*, the DJD school tour *Live & in Sync*, Alberta Dance Explosions, *Shift*, The Fluid Festival and eko dance projects. Catherine's love of jazz dance has most recently taken her to Sweden to study Lindy Hop. Catherine is excited to be in her second season dancing with DJD.

Dinou Marlett-Stuart, Dancer

After dancing for 12 years in Calgary, Dinou traveled to England to attend Performers Dance College where she completed a three-year degree programme and continued to dance professionally throughout England for two years in many lead roles in original productions. Since returning to Calgary in 1994, Dinou has been teaching, as well as producing, choreographing and performing in various projects such as Calgary Cares and Alberta Dance Explosions. She was a guest artist in the DJD school show *Live & in Sync* (2001) and Kimberley Cooper's *Popular* (2001) for OYR's High Performance Rodeo. She understudied roles in *Perched on the Edge of a Quarter Note* (2002) and was a full-time company member from 2002-04. Dinou was blessed with a daughter in October 2004 and since then has had a chance to work with Kimberley Cooper as a dancer and Rehearsal Mistress for the BRAVO! production of *Distemper* and *in Charcoal and Crimson*. She came back in 2007 because her need to dance was so strong. She would like to thank her family for all their support in helping her follow her path.

Nicole Minogue, Costume Designer

Nicole Minogue is overjoyed to be back at DJD for her fourth season. Being a BC girl originally, Nicole came to Alberta to complete her schooling, and then worked at The Banff Centre and Citadel Theatre before finding her niche with DJD. Other shows Nicole has been involved in are *iBULLA!*, *Pulse*, *in Charcoal & Crimson*, *root 7*, *Magnetic Consequences*, *wowandflutter* and *Tinge & Tone*. Thanks to the fantastic dancers who have made this process such a pleasure.

Ivan Nuñez Segui, Dancer

Ivan started dancing at the age of nine. When he was 12 years old he began his formal training at the National School of Art in Havana and after seven years graduated from the school in 1990. Upon graduation, he joined the Folklorico Nacional de Cuba and was principal soloist from 1996 until he left the company in 2001. Since then, he has been a freelance dancer and teacher working in Cuba, Japan, England and Canada. He was a guest dancer for DJD's *iBULLA!* project in 2004, and returned to Calgary in the fall of 2005 to continue dancing with the company. This is his fifth season with DJD.

Amy Paterson, Lighting Designer

This is Amy's first lighting design with DJD and she is very excited about working with such a talented group of choreographers, dancers, and technicians. Amy has designed lighting for Corps Bara, Lunchbox Theatre, the Calgary Adult Recreation Choral Society and others. She was the Alternate Lighting Technician at the Jack Singer Concert Hall for the past two years where she got to "play" with lighting for a variety of concerts including dance. Currently exploring the world of Technical Coordinator at Calgary's Jubilee Auditorium, Amy is delighted to get the creative juices flowing again this season.

Malika Srivastava, Dancer

Malika is honoured to be joining Decidedly Jazz for a fourth season. The past three years at DJD have deepened her knowledge of, interest in and respect for jazz music and dance. Malika also relies on her travels during the summer months to increase her exposure to jazz; she has spent time in Cuba, Brazil, New Orleans, New York and most recently Montreal in search of jazz education and inspiration. Apart from dancing with DJD, Malika has performed in U of C's Mainstage, Dance Montage, eko Dance Projects, Alberta Dance Explosions and the Fluid Festival. Malika is truly grateful to be dancing and choreographing with such a talented group of people and she thanks them for constantly inspiring her.

Kaleb Tekeste, Dancer

Kaleb is a local dancer, choreographer and teacher. He began dancing when he was 10 years old and at the age of 16 was introduced to street styles of dance that inspired him to take dancing more seriously. He joined the dance program at his high school, Crescent Heights, and upon graduation continued dancing and teaching Hip Hop at various studios in and around Calgary, including at The School of Decidedly Jazz. He has choreographed for shows such as Calgary Cares, Dance Montage, and Alberta Dance Explosions. In 2004 Kaleb joined the Pre-Professional Program at DJD and was brought on as understudy for 2006's *in Charcoal & Crimson*. As destiny would have it, he found himself jumping into a role a few days before opening thus marking his debut with DJD. Back from a six month hiatus from the company, during which he studied dancing in Montreal, Kaleb is enjoying his second full season with DJD.



Kimberley Cooper



Sarisa Figueroa de Toledo



Heather Crossan



Rubim de Toledo



Edgar Gilbert-Reyes



Catherine Hayward



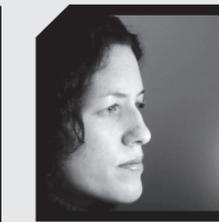
Dinou Marlett-Stuart



Nicole Minogue



Ivan Nuñez Segui



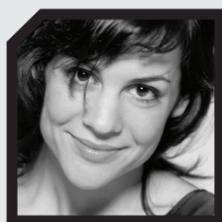
Amy Paterson

Deanne Walsh, Dancer

Deanne is thrilled to be dancing with DJD, a company she has long admired. Growing up in Calgary, as a teen she danced with eko dance projects (formerly Youth Dance Unlimited) and later returned as a dance captain. In 2003, Deanne completed her B.A. Dance degree with distinction from the University of Calgary. As a choreographer she has created dances for U of C's Dance Montage, Alberta Dance Explosions, The F.E.A.T.S. Festival, eko dance projects and Alberta Dance Theatre for Young People. The pursuit of the roots of jazz has taken her to The U.S.A. Cuba and frequently to West Africa. Her travels to Guinea have been a great source of inspiration and personal growth. Deanne teaches at the School of Decidedly Jazz and throughout Alberta. She is very much enjoying her sixth year with the DJD Company.

Danielle Wensley, Apprentice Dancer

Danielle was introduced to DJD's unique style at 14, when she attended one of the school's summer dance camps. She has been addicted to jazz music and dance ever since. She started dancing at three in Calgary and has trained in many styles with The Young Canadians and eko dance projects (formerly Youth Dance Unlimited). While dancing with eko dance projects, she worked with many local and national choreographers including Ruth Cansfield and Allen Kaeja. She received a scholarship at The School of Decidedly Jazz where she continued her intensive training. In the last few years she has been involving herself in Calgary's dance community teaching and performing in shows such as DSW's Dance Explosions, U of C's Dance Montage and DJD's *Footprints*, as well as *Live & In Sync*, DJD's touring school show. Danielle is very excited to be performing her second show as an apprentice with DJD.



Malika Srivastava



Kaleb Tekeste



Deanne Walsh



Danielle Wensley

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Act One

1. experiment
choreography by: Sarisa and the dancers
danced by: the Company
music: Alchemist Manifesto

2. exothermic
choreography by: Edgar
danced by: Edgar, Catherine, Dinou and Kaleb
music: Gilles Peterson

3. something about they and neigh
choreography by: Danielle
danced by: Ivan, Malika and Deanne
music: Cinematic Orchestra

4. let's grrrr...
choreography, vocals and performance by: Kaleb and Edgar

5. cmd's
choreography by: Catherine
danced by: Catherine, Dinou, Malika, Deanne and Danielle
music: Leon Parker

6. same dance different music #1
choreography by: Kim
danced by: Edgar, Ivan and Kaleb
music: Cinematic Orchestra

7. fuguelike
choreography by: Deanne
danced by: Edgar, Catherine, Dinou, Ivan, Malika, Kaleb, Danielle
music: François Bourassa Quartet

intermission

Act Two

8. sometimes
choreography: Kim
danced by: Edgar, Catherine, Ivan, Malika,
Kaleb, Deanne and Danielle
music: composed by Radiohead,
performed by Robert Glasper

9. it is what it is...
choreographed and danced by: Dinou
music: Oscar Peterson Trio
Thank you to Manuel for... thank you.

10. same dance different music #2
choreography: Kim
danced by: Edgar, Ivan, Kaleb
music: composed by Charles Mingus,
performed by Miguel "Anga" Diaz

11. ancestor
choreography: Ivan
danced by: Edgar, Catherine, Dinou,
Malika, Kaleb and Danielle
music: Grupo Sinesis

12. rewind
choreography: Kaleb
danced by: Edgar and Danielle
music: T-Bone

**13. shiny and black:
a conversation on disguise**
choreography: Malika
danced by: Catherine, Dinou and Deanne
music: Lionel Loueke

14. same dance different music #3
choreography: Kim
danced by: Edgar, Ivan and Kaleb
music: Louis Jordan

15. hot fog
choreography: Dinou
danced by: Ivan, Malika, Kaleb, Deanne and
Danielle
music: Medeski, Martin and Wood
Thank you to my dancers for "imagining"
the light and a big thank to Tianna for
my title and inspiring movement.

16. leaving
choreography: Sarisa
danced by: the Company
music: composed by Miles Davis with
lyrics by Cassandra Wilson

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Kathi Sundstrom

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Hannah Stilwell
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Kimberley Cooper

Artistic Associate/
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Kimberley Cooper
Sarisa Figueroa de Toledo
Dinou Marlett-Stuart
Malika Srivastava
Deanne Walsh

Edgar Gilbert-Reyes*
Catherine Hayward
Ivan Nuñez Segui
Kaleb Tekeste
Danielle Wensley*

*Apprentice

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Kimberley Cooper

Music

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Gessuri Gaitan
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Rebecca Ha
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Stacey Head
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Lila Herriman
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Corinne Watt
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Heather Weaver
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To the best of our knowledge, this list is accurate from June 2007 - Oct 2008. Please advise us of any errors or omissions so that we may correct our records. Thank you again!

If you would like to help keep the spirit of jazz alive and well in Calgary, we would love to have you join us!

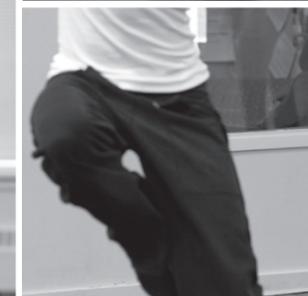
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Heartfelt thanks to our supporters listed below for recognizing the importance of the arts. Your gifts directly enrich DJD's ability to innovate and lead within the jazz art form. Please also join us in a round of applause to everyone who supported DJD by attending our 17th Annual Dance Class Marathon (October 19, 2008), Tinge and Tone Gala (June 5, 2008) and possessed: All Funked Up party (March 1, 2008)

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The first of many jazz appreciation societies founded in 1933

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The flattened notes fundamental to blues-orientated jazz & the name of a famous record label

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The cake walk was a high-strutting competitive dance originated by plantation slaves (the best dancers won a cake)

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Heather Campbell
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The couples who improvise the heart-stopping dance that marked the height of the swing era

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The affectionate name for the band (or dancers) keeping the dance floor hot

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This list reflects donations received January 1, 2007 - October 23, 2008. Please call us at 403-228-8183 to make your gift or to advise us of any changes/omissions so we may correct our records.

Thank you!

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The musicians who provide the rhythmic foundation of a jazz ensemble

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Katrina Bradley

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Jane Gauthier
Jarvis Hall Fine Frames
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Thank you!

IN KIND DONATIONS - A ROUND OF APPLAUSE

Countless thanks to the following supporters who contributed items and services in-kind to DJD and to our recent special events - Tinge & Tone Gala Silent Auction (June 5, 2008) and possessed: All Funked Up party (March 1, 2008). Special thanks also to the consulting professionals listed on Page 10 who generously donate their time and talents to DJD. We encourage you to support those who support us.

#1 Rhythm Club

The first of many jazz appreciation societies founded in 1933

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Big Easies

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Jane Gauthier
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The term describing a very good swing dance, the most popular dance style in the 1920's, 30's and 40's

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The cake walk was a high-strutting competitive dance originated by plantation slaves (the best dancers won a cake)

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Feetwarmers

The affectionate name for the band (or dancers) keeping the dance floor hot

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Thank you again!

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Heather Campbell
Dr. Martha Cohen
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The Jazz Roots Club connects jazz enthusiasts in supporting the vibrant spirit and artistic excellence of Decidedly Jazz Danceworks.

Patrons in the Jazz Roots Club have a direct relationship with DJD's artists and are vital contributors to bring original jazz works to life, and to the lives of others. Enjoy unique behind-the-scenes experiences while directly contributing to DJD's legacy of jazz dance in Calgary and beyond.



From Left: Alan Moon, Sarisa Figueroa de Toledo, Geri Moon.



From left: Denise McMullen, Andrea Brussa, Eric Sundstrom and Pat O'Connor.



Alchemy Co-Artistic Directors Kimberley Cooper and Sarisa Figueroa de Toledo explaining the artistic process at a recent Jazz Roots Club in-studio rehearsal event.



Guests and Jazz Roots donors mingle with DJD artists at Alchemy in-studio rehearsal event.

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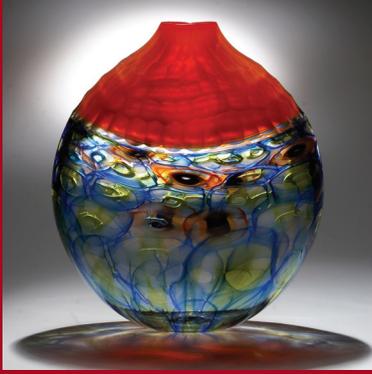
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