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#### Artistic W Director

Descring Vicki Adams Willis in 1973 was one of those catalytic moments in my life whose effects were so far reaching, I couldn't even begin to imagine what that moment would mean to me all these years later. In truth, I never dreamed of becoming a dancer, but Vicki helped me (and countless others) to dream in other ways that have led me down an exquisite path into my life as a performer. She taught us all to dream wide awake, alive and attentive to every cell in our bodies. With all of our beings, we dreamed of becoming other people, other creatures, of living other lives just for a moment or two in an effort to move our bodies in that very particular way that can tell the story of a lifetime in a gesture.

Vicki is very obviously more than an awardwinning teacher. she also is an amazing choreographer. Her work, so diverse and fulfilling, so captivating to embody, kept me so engrossed for so many years that I forgot to pursue my other dream, of becoming a doctor. Instead, here I am, still a dancer. And now an Accidental Artistic Director, There ARE happy accidents.

This evening's performance of

CLASSIC JAM consists primarily of Vicki's work - a small selection of the enormous repertoire she has built over the past decade with Decidedly Jazz Danceworks. My task as Artistic Director was simply to thread these dances together to create an evening of wonderment for you, our audience. In the DJD tradition, the show needed to be seamless; an evening at

the theatre as opposed to a concert of dances with pauses between them. (Do read your program now, you won't have a chance between dances!) For some unknown but serendipitous reason, jazz poet Sheri-D Wilson popped into my head as that piece of thread that could

somehow tie it all up for us. The spirit of "jazz" reaches far beyond the music, and it seemed exciting to integrate yet another element of "jazz" into our world of jazz dance. And exciting it has been! Working with Sheri-D is a blast, and she contributed a great deal more to CLASSIC IAM than you see on the

stage. Thank you, Sheri-D.

My task of Artistic Director became such a gigantic treat in part because of Sheri-D, but also

because of others who sparked me along the way. I would like to acknowledge them gratefully. Margot McDermott I also met in 1973 as my teacher, a mentor, and a woman to admire. She also happens to be Vicki's mentor and teacher, and having her work with me on





in remounting Vicki's work - her student, my teacher - was such a thrill, our cheeks were sore at the end of many rehearsals from smiling so hard. We took liberties here and there with the choreography, but found it difficult to improve upon what was already done. Thank you, Margot. You have been my backbone.

The Decidedly Jazz Dancers are, in my mind, the absolute best. I wouldn't trade any one of them for a dozen others! They are sincerely open - well, dreamers. But while their imaginations and willingness soar, their feet remain firmly on the ground - steadfast, hard working, and more fun than you can imagine. I'll bet nobody laughs more in a day at work than I do! Thank you, gang.

As you can see in reading this program, the staff at DJD are few, and each of them does the work of many. They are in turn assisted by a Board of Directors not afraid to dream, and to the staff and Board I say my sincere thank you.

I hope that you will enjoy the opportunity this evening to sit back and possibly reflect on some of the dreams that have shaped your lives, and maybe conjure up a few more for future consideration. I hope you will accept and enjoy the quirky nature of CLASSIC JAM, the way we accept our night-time dreams as we dream them.

And finally, I would like to thank my ballet teacher, Florence Skinner, who kindly, thoughtfully, encouraged me to dream of something other than "tutus".

Here's to catalytic moments!

Hannah Stilwell
Artistic Director Director-Classic Jam

annah





# Welcome to tonight's performance of Classic Jam: DJD's Box Set.

This is the tenth anniversary of performing with live music. Ten years ago was our first full-time season based on a total budget of \$425,000. Since then we have grown to a \$1.6 million budget and are very proud to offer dancers one of the longest contracts in Canada. We receive no federal government funding. Instead we rely on our audiences, volunteers, supporters, sponsors and on the generous support of the Calgary Region Arts Foundation and the Alberta Foundation for the Arts.

Enthusiastic thanks go to our "Seven Stars" production sponsors whose commitment to the arts and to our art make possible that fantastic synergistic moment when you, the audience, and DID jam together at the performance. Applause please for: the Calgary Herald, an innovative sponsor of the arts in Calgary; Canadian Pacific Limited for their first time as a DJD production sponsor after being a past supporter; Carma, a longtime member of the DJD family; du Maurier Arts Ltd., a supporter since 1991, and Canada's largest private-sector source of arts funding; FirstEnergy Capital Corp., now in its third year with DJD and responsible for introducing countless new audience members to DID; OR77, an unstintable supporter in past years including aid for developing our Western Canada

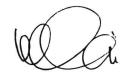
touring market; and Suncor Inc., a third time sponsor whose continuing belief in DJD's work helps us set goals for the future.

For the third year in a row we are performing our June show in Vancouver (June 17-18) and Edmonton (June 25-27). We're very happy to be adding Victoria (June 21) to this year's roster before we close in Banff on June 30. This is a happily realized part of our dream to become as much a June tradition in these centres as we are in Calgary.

An integral part of continuing to achieve artistic and financial success is the unwavering support of our Board of Directors who organize a multitude of fundraisers and (just as important) cheer enthusiastically as audience members. Behind them are the staff and volunteers and in front of all of us, is you – the audience member – our foremost reason for doing this!

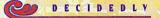
To all who support us, a very heartfelt thanks, and here's hoping that tonight's performance will encourage newcomers to join the DJD family!





Kathi Sundstrom

General Manager





# 🕡 Organization



#### **Administration:**

Vicki Adams Willis Artistic Director
Kathi Sundstrom General Manager
Hannah Stilwell Associate Artistic D

Iannah Stilwell Associate Artistic Director/
Director Dancer Development

Michèle Moss Associate Artistic Director/

Dance School Principal

Damon Johnston

Tour & Production Manager

Lori Maxwell

Dance School Manager

Glynn Grant

Reception/Administrative Assistant

Kay McDowell Office Volunteer

#### Dancers.

Kimberley Cooper Sara Isabel Figueroa

Isaiah DiLorenzo Apprentice

Jamie Freeman

Joanne Irving

Laura Laycock Guest Apprentice
Kathryn McKinnon Apprentice

Natalie Poissant

Hannah Stilwell Iason Stroh

Apprentice

Christian Vezina Walter Wittich

Understudy

Missing from photo: Vicki Adams Willis, Kay McDowell and Christian Vézina.

#### Board of Directors.

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Sheri Meyerhoffer Chair Individual Fundraising

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Classic Jam

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# V Biographies



#### Vicki Adams Willis Founding Artistic Director/ Choreographer

Vicki carries on a family tradition which began with her mother's Calgary dance school in the 1920's. Her fascination with jazz took Vicki to New York, Los Angeles, London and France before she began spreading the word herself. Besides teaching and choreographing for countless organizations in Alberta, she was the founder of the Jazz Division in the Program of Dance at the University of Calgary, founder of the Decidedly Jazz Danceworks School, and is founding Artistic Director of the DJD company.



Kristian Alexandrov Keyboards and Piano

Kristian came to Canada in 1995 from Bulgaria. He plays the piano, drums, all percussion, and he is a composer, songwriter and arranger in all musical styles. He has toured all over Europe including: Greece, Italy, Luxumburg, Belgium and Hungary. Kristian has recorded and played with Al Sando, Akaga, J.A.K, Naima, Shannon Gaye, Robert Burton, The University of Calgary Red Band, Swinging Bovines and many more.



# Dave Camwell Saxophones

Dave was the principal alto sax player in the National Youth Band of Canada (1995-1997) and has just completed his third year at The University of Calgary where he is studying Jazz and Education. He is currently the lead tenor of the Prime-Time Big Band, the lead alto of the University Red Band and a member of Domba, an african drumming/jazz group led by David Thiaw in Calgary. Last summer Dave toured several major European jazz festivals with the Calgary based group, Saxoffonee. He also directs two jazz bands and is a well known private teacher, clinician and jazz saxophonist.

# Jeremy Coates Bass

holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Jazz studies from the University of Calgary. He plays electric guitar and acoustic bass, as well as guitar and percussion. Besides being an active clinician, teacher, and songwriter, he



has appeared on several compact discs, including two with the Earthtones. Jeremy plays a wide variety of music in orchestras, Big Bands, and combos and has performed across Canada, in the United States, England, and Australia.



#### Kimberley Cooper Dancer

is enjoying her 9th season with DJD. Born in Calgary, she began dance studies at age 4 and several years later was bitten by the jazz bug. Kimberley has either seen or been part of every DJD production since the company's inception. Her studies have taken her to New York, and her passion for dance has kept her busy dancing with DJD and with Intravenous Improv Group, choreographing for Alberta Dance Explosions and University of Calgary 's Mainstage, guesting with Springboard Dance and teaching in the DID school. Kim spent last summer in Spain, travelling and studying flamenco.



# 😗 Biographies

#### Heather Cornell Choreographer

is presently Artistic Director, choreographer and performer with Manhattan Tap, an international touring company of tap dancers and musiciands based in NYC. Heather first worked with DJD in 1993 when she choreographed "Second Line Shuffle" for the premiere of "Rhythm Addiction". Since then she has created several pieces for the company, and was featured with tap legend Buster Brown in DJD's "Feet First".



#### Isaiah DiLorenzo Apprentice

is overwhelmed by the talent that surrounds him, and after one season, is quickly establishing himself in the fine city of Calgary since arriving from Kansas City. A recent graduate of Stephen's College with a BFA in dance, "Big Choy" also holds a BFA in acting and a BA in English Literature from St. Louis University. This performance is dedicated to his two beautiful Angels.

#### Andy Ericson Drums

This is not Andy's first connection with Decidedly Jazz. He has performed with DJD in the past as well as with other talents such as



Brian Buchanan, Tommy Banks, and the Unversity of Calgary's Red Band. Andy has had experience in television commercials writing and producing, performing in live performances, recording for studio drumming and engineering for other studio work. As well as performing with his own jazz quartet, Hot Sauce, Andy is a skilled private instructor, clinician, and teacher in Calgary.



Sara Isabel Figueroa Dancer

Sara Isabel's love of dance started at home when encouraged to dance with her parents to their native Cuban and Jamaican music. She later graduated from the Edmonton School of Ballet's Professional Program and pursued more training in Toronto, Montréal, Los Angeles and New York. She also danced with Edmonton Festival Ballet and Springboard Dance. Sara Isabel is now enjoying her fourth season with DJD and also teaches at the DJD school.



Jamie Freeman Dancer

began her association with DID at age 18 as a scholarship student. The following year she moved to New York to study dance, returning in January '91 to understudy DJD's "No Small Feets". After 2 years at the University of Calgary pursuing her degree in Education and dancing on the side, she rejoined DID as an apprentice in '94 and was promoted to full time dancer the following year. Outside dance projects for Jamie include guest dancing and choreographing for Calgary groups such as Youth Dance Unlimited, the University of Calgary's Dance Montage, DSW's Dance Explosions and Springboard Dance. lamie also enjoys teaching at the Decidedly Jazz school. In recent years, Jamie has studied dance in London, England and New York City.



Havry Frehner Lighting Designer

Over the past twenty years, Harry's work has been seen from coast to coast

Classic Jam

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# 🍞 Biographies

in Canada with such companies as Pacific Opera Victoria, Vancouver Opera, Lola Maclaughlin Dance, Calgary Opera, Edmonton Opera, Citadel Theatre, The Banff Centre (Ballet, Opera, Theatre), Alberta Theatre Projects, Theatre Calgary, Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Manitoba Opera, Canadian Opera Company, Stratford Festival, Young Peoples' Theatre, Novel Ensemble Moderne, Theatre New Brunswick and the Neptune Theatre. He has collaborated with DID on "Stolen Moments" and last year's "Rhythm Addiction".



## Joanne Irving

graduated from the Honours Program in Dance at the University of Waterloo in '92. Since then her dancing legs have taken her to Toronto, Vancouver, Los Angeles, and last summer she returned to the Bates Dance Festival in Lewiston, Maine, and attended Lisangua Bato African dance camp in New York state. Joanne joined DJD as an apprentice in '93 and was promoted to full time dancer in '94. Teaching Modern and Jazz at the DJD school as well as at other schools in Calgary keeps her busy, but she has also managed to find time to guest with local modern company Springboard Dance,

participate in the Alberta Dance Explosions, and choreograph for Youth Dance Unlimited.

#### **Don Johnson** Recording Ortist

Born in Texas, Don has performed with several well-known blues artists such as Percy Mayfield, Smokey Wilson, Big Mama Thorton and has played with the Phillip Walker Band on various European Tours. He has won the Yamaha World Popular Song Festival in Tokyo in 1981 and numerous awards from the United States Department of Defence for entertaining America's fighting forces. As well as earning gold and platinum albums with the group "A Taste of Honey", Don was named Best New Artist at the 1979 Grammy Awards. His rich baritone voice has proven to be very captivating to audiences world-wide.



#### Michelle Latta Costume Designer

has been working as a wardrobe designer, buyer, cutter and assistant for many years in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Alberta. Here in Calgary, Michelle has worked extensively with ATP over the last couple of years. Besides keeping busy

at ATP, she's worked on various TV/film and dance projects with a costume shop here in town called "Twisted Knickers". Michelle enjoys new challenges and is happy to be working with DJD for "Classic Jam".

#### Faul Lavigne Costume Designer

Paul has created countless designs for dance and theatre in Calgary, and has a long history with Decidedly Jazz Danceworks. For the past 18 months, Paul has been commuting between Calgary and Vancouver working in film and television. He is delighted to see his concepts and designs "resurfacing" on the DJD stage.



Laura Laycock Guest Apprentice

Originally from Red Deer, Laura started dancing when she was four years old, taking classes in ballet, jazz, highland, and tap. In 1995 she moved to Calgary to attend the management program at the University of Calgary. Her management studies were put on hold when she became a scholarship student in 1996. Laura recently has been busy teaching jazz in Calgary and Red Deer. She is thrilled to be dancing with such a wonderful company.



# 😗 Biographies



#### Jean-Christophe Leroy Musical Director/Percussion

is a professional drummer, percussionist and educator. He has studied African, Cuban, American and European styles of music with teachers from around the world such as David Thiaw, N'Goma N'Dao, Changuito, Anga, Bobby Sanabria and Dr. Glen Price. His current freelancing life includes recording and accompanying for the aboriginal dance project at the Banff Centre for the arts along with teaching and accompanying wokshops in Calgary and Montana. Jean-Christophe also regularly works with musicians performing Latin, African, fusion and other styles of music, and enjoys teaching private lessons, classes, and workshops for musicians and dancers at all levels.



Margot McDermott Rehearsal Director, Classic Jam

A native Calgarian, Margot has been an active member of Calgary's dance

community for many years teaching for the University of Calgary, The Alberta Ballet School, and DID. She was also the co-founder and Artistic Director for the Young Canadians from 1964 until 1992. Her dance studies have carried her everywhere from Winnipeg with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet to Toronto, Banff, London and New York. In 1991, Margot received the Women of Distinction Award for Arts and Culture. She has choreographed for ATP productions including "My Fair Lady", and most recently "Assassins". Presently, Margot is the Artistic Director of Calgary's Triangle Theatre School and she is absolutely delighted to be working with DID - "a company that dances from the soul!"



#### Kathryn McKinnon Apprentice

began dancing in her home town of Regina. Her studies took her to Toronto and then to Montréal. Upon graduating from L'École Superieure de Danse du Québec, she danced with Le Jeune Ballet du Québec. Returning to Toronto, she danced with Ontario Ballet Theatre for three seasons. Kathryn also had the opportunity to dance with Banff Festival Ballet during '96 & '97. Kathryn is very happy to have made Calgary her new home.



Diane Miller Vocals

is a Toronto native who has been delighting Calgary audiences for the last 24 years. You'll recognize Diane as the throaty soloist in DJD's Dancers and Other Musical Instruments, Summer Songs, and the voice of love in No Small Feets. Although TV, radio, live theatre and Saturday afternoon jazz gigs keep Di busy, her most favourite thing is singing with DJD. "It's magic - words, music, movement, pure exhilaration - TOTAL JAZZ!"



Michèle Moss Founding Associate Artistic Director

has lived, worked and studied around the globe, from Liverpool to Berlin, Paris to Africa, India to Montréal. Along with Vicki Adams Willis and Hannah Stilwell, she founded DJD where she choreographs, dances, teaches, and is the DJD Dance School Principal. She has guested with One Yellow Rabbit, choreographed for a

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variety of groups and teaches at the U of C. Michèle is the proud mother of 2 year old Odessa Jean Johnston, who has brought her incredible joy.



Al Muirhead Trumpet

is a former board member of the Calgary Musician's Association and is musical director for the Calgary Stampede's Youth Talent Show. He was a member of the 1988 Olympic orchestra and he has toured Japan with the Frank Mill's Orchestra and Europe with the New Orleans Connection. Al has also been a member of various orchestras backing touring celebrities such as: Rosemary Clooney, Debbie Reynolds, Joan Rivers, Gladys Knight, Wayne Newton, Manhatten Transfer and many others. He has recently concluded a long engagement at the Banff Springs Hotel's Rob Roy Room.

#### Erin O'Connor Choreographer

is a professional choreographer, teacher and performer based in Calgary. She danced professionally with DJD for many years and continues to train extensively in the form of jazz and rhythm tap. Erin is currently the Artistic Director and General Manager of Youth Dance Unlimited.



Natalie Poissant Дапсеч

Dance has been a part of Natalie's life since the age of five. A competitive gymnast for nine years, dance eventually took over as her primary focus. Her initial training was in ballet, jazz, modern, and traditional European dance forms. In the fall of '94, Natalie became an apprentice with DJD, the following year becoming a full company member. Last summer she had the opportunity to train with Matt Mattox, Billy Siegenfeld, Jeannie Hill and Bob Fossy's muse Gail Benedict. This summer, she's off to the St. Louis Tap Festival and the Boston Dance Festival to work with the likes of Savion Glover, Van "The Man" Porter and Betsy Hoag.



Scatt Reid Set Designer

Scott is happy to be back at DJD where he designed the sets for Feet

First and Stolen Moments. This past season Scott has been the Resident Set Designer for ATP where he designed such shows as Assassins, playRites '98, and Billy the Kid. Other favourite set designs include Memoir (Theatre Calgary); Angels in America, parts I & II (ATP); and Nicholas Nickleby (Mount Royal College). Scott has also designed sets at The Citadel Theatre in Edmonton, 25th Street Theatre in Saskatoon. and at Pleiades here in Calgary.



Doug Stephenson Guitar

is a well known performer on the jazz scene. During the 1996 and 1997 Calgary International Jazz Festivals, Doug led the Host Band for the Late Night Jam Sessions. He has performed with DID in No Small Feets, at Stage West Productions, at the Calgary Stampede Grandstand Show, and gigged the cruise ship circuit. He has played and toured with local and international jazz artists across Western Canada including Charles Rouse, Hugh Fraiser, P.J. Perry, Tommy Banks and Big Miller. Doug is a member of the faculty of the Jazz/Contemporary Music Program at Mount Royal College and is a sessional instructor at the University of Calgary.

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# **V** Biographies



Hannah Stilwell Artistic Director, Classic Jam/Choreographer/Dancer

Hannah has been happily dancing for over three decades. She holds a BA from The University of Calgary, where she often teaches jazz, West African dance and Rhythm for dancers. Since co-founding Decidedly Jazz in 1984, Hannah has primarily been appearing with the company but has enjoyed opportunities to perform for choreographers such as Nicole Mion, Randy Glynn and Denise Clarke. In 1996 she travelled to Connecticut to perform with Katherine Kramer and Jeannie Hill. Recently, Hannah was awarded support from The Canada Council and The Alberta Foundation for the Arts to commission a collection of solo dances from a variety of choreographers including Katherine Kramer, Jeannie Hill and Billy Siegenfeld, which she looks forward to performing in the future. Whenever possible, Hannah seeks professional development opportunities and has studied in New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Africa and Jamaica. This summer Hannah is on the faculty of "Rhythm Explosion", an international dance workshop in Bozeman, Montana.



Jason Stroh Apprentice

Jason's introduction to movement was via the world of competitive gymnastics. His formal dance training began six years ago at the University of Calgary, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Zoology. Jason has since trained in Victoria and Toronto. He has performed for the University of Calgary, One Yellow Rabbit's High Performance Rodeo, Springboard Dance and New Dance/Theatre. He has also choreographed for and danced in several Alberta Dance Explosions.



Christian Vézina Dancer

is a Québec native who began dancing at age 18 while he was studying fine arts in college. After graduating from L'Ecole Superieure de Danse du Québec in '94 he danced with Ballet Eddy Toussaint (Florida), the Banff Festival Ballet, Ontario Ballet Theatre and Ballet B.C. Christian's background also includes gymnastics, competitive figure skating, and choreography for skaters and fashion shows. Christian debuted as a choreographer in February 1998 in DSW's Alberta Dance Explosions, the beginning of what he hopes to be a long future in choreography.



Sheri-D Wilson Guest Artist/Jazz Poet

Sheri-D is an international artist known for her innovative and dramatic performance style in the oral tradition of poetry. She has written three collections of published poetry -Bulls Whip & Lambs Wool, Swerve and Girl's Guide to Giving Head (Arsenal Pulp Press) - and has performed at numerous prestigious poetry and writing festivals throughout North America. She has held workshops and lectures at the University of Waterloo, Kootenay School of Writing, Langara College, Alberta College of Art & Design, Emily Carr Institute of Art & Design, York University, and Vancouver Women in View. Sheri-D participated in the Word Up project, which included a spoken word CD, a





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video and an anthology. Her play Confessions: A Jazz Play, was performed at Tamahnous Theatre (Vancouver) and was published in Theatrum (Toronto), and last year she co-created/performed BoyWonder with Ballet B.C. Sheri-D's new project, The Sweet Taste of Lightning, has three components: a play, developed at the Banff Centre/ATP's PlayRites colony is scheduled to open the Spring 1998 season for Vancouver's Theatre Sports: a book of poetry to be published by Arsenal Pulp Press in September, 1998; and a recorded performance for CBC Radio 2. Early in 1988 she attended The Jack Kerouac School of Desembodied Poetics at the Naropa Institute in Boulder, Colorado. Sheri-D says

"working with Hannah Stilwell and DJD has been a classic-al gas!"



Walter Wittich Understudy

A native of Germany, Walter came to Canada seven years ago. He has danced for a variety of companies including Toronto Dance Theatre, Judith Marcuse Dance Company, The Banff Festival Ballet and Alberta Ballet. Walter has choreographed extensively all over Canada and Europe and will work on the 20th century opera, "Paris 1916" in Banff this summer.



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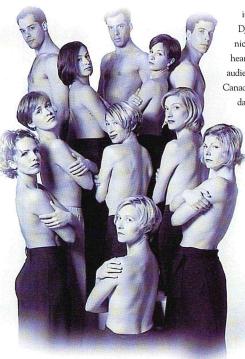
Hugh McGillivray is a Director and Vice President and has been a Financial Consultant for 15 years. Prior to 1983 was Economist and Investment Manager for the Mannix Group. He bought his first stock in 1964.



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its fourteenth year,
DJD has carved a
niche for itself in the
heart of Canada's dance
audience. DJD is
Canada's only professional
dance company 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 influences of virtually all dance genres. In its purest 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.

Whenever possible DJD incorporates live music into its performances and classes, and has featured and performed with jazz music notables such as Mark Murphy, Big Miller, Tommy Banks, P.J. Perry and Diane Miller as well as with tap notables Buster Brown 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 throughout Alberta,
Saskatchewan, British Columbia and the Maritimes, as well as to Ottawa,
Yellowknife, the Montreal Jazz
Festival, Chicago and Japan.

In addition to performing and touring, DJD's mandate includes a strong education component. The Decidedly Jazz Danceworks School has an enrollment of over 700 students between the ages of 2 and 72, studying Jazz, African, Tap, Modern, Ballet, Funk, Drumming, Pilates, Yoga, and more... In addition, the company does school tours and residencies, and teaches workshops and master classes in Jazz, Jazz History, Tap, Funk and African to all ages and levels.

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 had four dancers and an Artistic Director intent on sharing their vision of jazz with others. Now in





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Decidedly Jazz Danceworks gratefully acknowledges the contribution made by all the company dancers, past and present, to the choreographic process.

#### Act 1



#### Decidedly Undecided

Choreographed by: Hannah Stilwell

Danced by: The Company

Music by: Charles Shavers and Sid Robin

Arranged by: Al Muirhead

Costumes by: Michelle Latta

#### Jelly Jam

Written by: Sheri-D Wilson

Performed by: Sheri-D and Hannah

Costumes by: Michelle Latta

#### Big and the Blues

(premiere 1992)

Choreographed by: Vicki Adams Willis

Music by: Traditional and contemporary blues grooves

Arranged by: Sean McAnally

Costumes by: Original designs by Paul Lavigne, additional designs by Michelle Latta

Note: In 1992, DJD created "No Small Feets" to showcase the talents of the late, great singer Clarence "Big" Miller. Using recordings of "Big's" voice as inspiration, singer Don Johnson recorded the vocals for these tunes in May 1998. Thank you, Don, for allowing us the possibility to hear these songs "live" again. "Big", these dancers are always and forever dedicated to you.

Low Down Blues danced by The Company

In the Blues Pit danced by The Company

If You written by Sheri-D, performed by Sheri-D,
Diane and The Women

90's Blues Groves danced by The Women, sung by Diane Miller

Cool and Blue danced by Sara Isabel and Jason

Six Bar Blues danced by The Women



Sarisa's Sang written by Sheri-D
performed by Sara Isabel

Baagie Blues danced by The Company, inspired by
Frank Manning, Norma Miller and countless Lindy
Hoppers form the Annals of Black Vernacular Dance.

#### Wishbone Winds

Written by: Sheri-D Wilson

Performed by: Sheri-D and Hannah

Costumes by: Michelle Latta

#### Corcovado (premiere 1996)

Choreographed by: Heather Cornell

Danced by: Kimberley, Sara Isabel, Jamie, Joanne, Laura, Kathryn, Jason, Natalie, Christian

Costumes by: Paul Lavigne

Music by: Antonio Caros Jobim

Arranged by: Ravi Poliah







#### J. Wanna Be...

Written by: Sheri-D Wilson
Performed by: Kimberley

# DECIDEDLY

#### Save Me (premiere 1996)

Choreographed by: Hannah Stilwell

Danced by: Kimberley, Sara Isabel, Jamie, Joanne, Laura

Costumes by: Paul Lavigne

Music by: C. Franklin, A. Franklin,

C. Ousley

Arranged by: Jeremy Coates

#### I Wanna Be... Too

Written by: Sheri-D Wilson

Performed by: Sheri-D and Hannah

Costumes by: Michelle Latta

#### Every Tap Show Needs a Soft Shoe

(premiere 1996)

Choreographed by: Heather Cornell and Vicki Adams Willis

Danced by (in order of appearance): Kimberley, Jamie, Christian, Laura, Kathryn, Joanne, Jason, Natalie, Sara Isabel

Arranged by: Ravi Poliah

Costumes: Original designs by Paul Lavigne, additional designs by Michelle Latta

#### Intermission

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CALGARY HERALD

# Act 2

From Bunhead to Bard

Written by: Sheri-D Wilson

Performed by: Sheri-D & Hannah

#### Heat

Choreographed by: Hannah Stilwell

Poetry written and performed by: Sheri-D Wilson

Danced by: The Company

Music by: F Santiago, Flora Purim, Airto Moreira, Jose Neto

Arranged by: Jean-Christophe Leroy

Costumes by: Michelle Latta

#### You and I (promiere 1988)

Choreographed by: Vicki Adams Willis

Danced by: Isaiah and Hannah

Music by: Steve Wonder

Arranged by: Jimmy Chew

Costumes by: Michelle Latta

#### Qui et Non

Written by: Sheri-D Wilson
Performed by: Sheri-D and Christian

Costumes by: Michelle Latta









# DANCEWO

#### Hail Thee Mighty Cabbie

Written by: Sheri-D Wilson Performed by: Isaiah and Sheri-D

#### Summer Soulstice

(premiere 1990)

#### On Revival Day

Choreographed by: Vicki Adams Willis with Erin O'Connor

Danced by: The Company

Music by: Andy Razaf

#### Yes We Can

Choreographed by: Vicki Adams Willis Danced by: Natalie and The Company Music by: A. Toussaint

#### Swing Low Sweet Chariot

Choreographed by: Vicki Adams Willis

Danced by: Joanne

Music: Traditional

#### Crossroads

Choreographed by: Vicki Adams Willis with Erin O'Connor

Danced by: The Company

Costumes: Original design by Paul Lavigne, additional designs by Michelle Latta

All Summer Soulstice music arranged by Doug Stephenson.

Classic Jam

Railway Blues (premiere 1992

> Choreographed by: Vicki Adams Willis Danced by: The Company

Shoo Fly

Music: Traditional. Sung by Big" Miller, recorded in 1992

Arranged by: Sean McAnally

#### 4:20 Special

Music by: Clarence "Big" Miller, recorded in '89, from "Live at Athabasca University" 

Stony Plain Recording Company Ltd.

Costumes by: Paul Lavigne

#### Boule and of Broken Dreams

Featuring: Diane Miller

#### In the Alley (premiere 1995)

Choreographed by: Vicki Adams Willis, adapted by Hannah and Margot

Performed by: Kimberley, Isaiah, Sara Isabel, Jamie, Joanne, Jason, Natalie, Christian

Music by: Tommy Banks

Costumes by: Judith Bowden, additional designs by Michelle Latta





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Scenic and Properties Design
Audio Pre-Production
Additional Sound Recordings Jean Christophe Leroy
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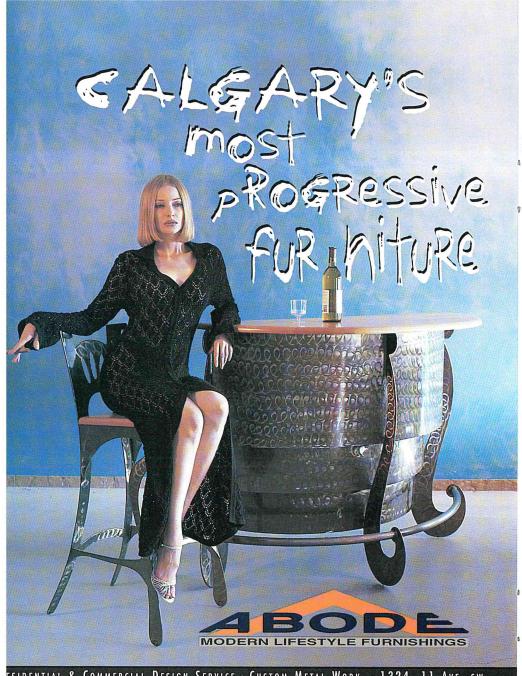
#### Musicians

Musical Director/Percussion
Keyboards and Piano
Bass Jeremy Coates
Drums
Guitar
Vocals
Trumpet
Saxophones



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Assistant Stage Manager	
Technical Director	
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Front of House Sound Technician	
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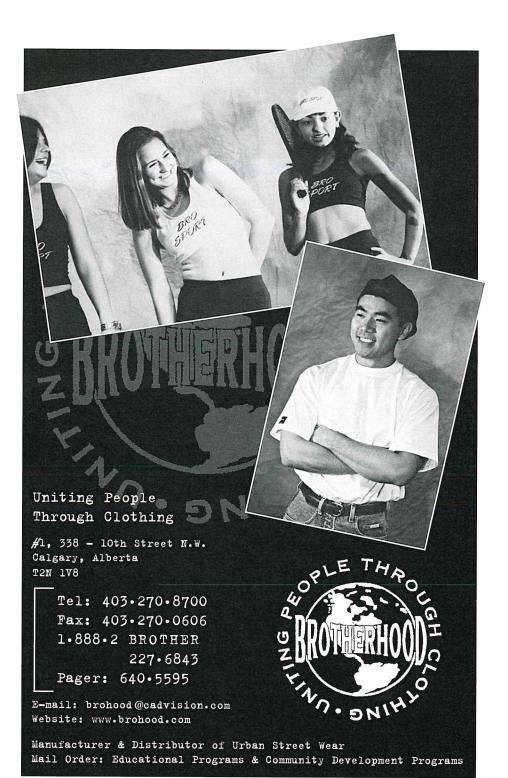
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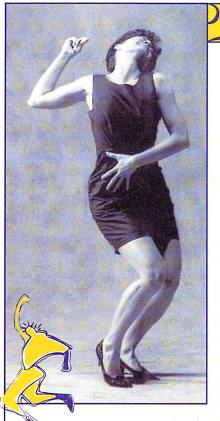




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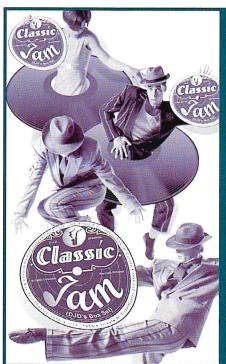
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For further information contact Vicki Adams Willis Tel: (403) 245-3533 or Fax: (403) 245-3584

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## a W Bow

ecidedly Jazz Danceworks would also like to thank all those who supported DJD by attending the Gala Lerformance June 3, 1998 and the 14th Annual Black & White Big Band Benefit Ball October 4, 1997. The 15th Annual Black & White Big Band Benefit Ball is November 7, 1998.

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PUBLISHING INC.

Publisher of the Arts.

JK Publishing Inc

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Tel. 403 215-0030

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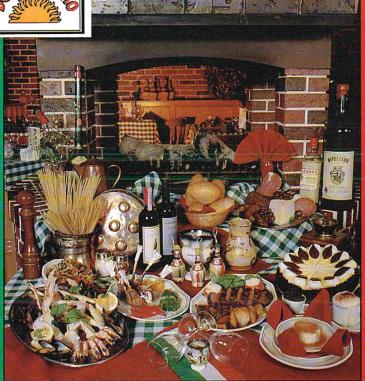
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