



DECIDEDLY JAZZ DANCEWORKS



THE GRAVITY PLAYERS

NOVEMBER 13 - 21, 2015
THEATRE JUNCTION GRAND

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Photo by Michael Slobodian





**MESSAGE
FROM THE
ARTISTIC
DIRECTOR,
KIMBERLEY COOPER**

Welcome to our new season! It is a monumental time in our history. We are 32 years old and finally, after incredible amounts of hard work, we are opening our new facility in the spring of 2016. We are hoping our new dance centre will be a real hub for Calgary, not just for dance and music but also for possibilities we can't even imagine yet. In fact, our spring show, *New Universe* will be our first production in our new theatre. Please come and help us warm up our new home.

In the meantime...

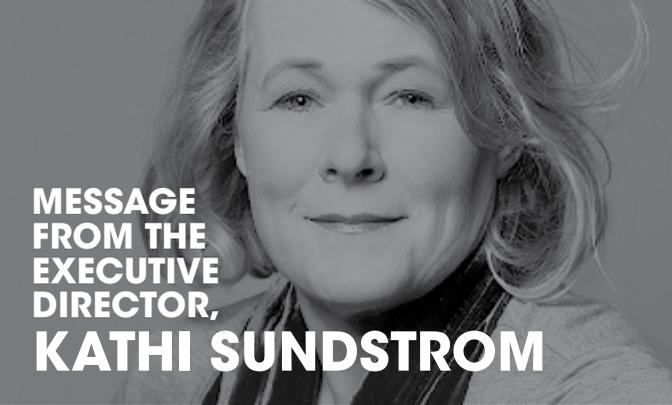
Tennis players play tennis, basketball players play basketball, dancers "play" gravity. The title came from there, and this group of choreographers came from me looking around to see who was making dance that had interesting gravitational pull, and here we are.

Welcome to *The Gravity Players*, a performance featuring the work of artists from the DJD orbit, Sarisa F. De Toledo, Deanne Walsh and myself, as well as some decidedly NOT jazz artists who live on the other side of the planet – Toronto. Hanna Kiel, who calls herself a storyteller and creates contemporary dance, and Gadfly, or Apolonia Velasquez and Ofilio Sinbadinho, who make their own version of contemporary urban performance. I like how these artists relate to gravity, I like where they put weight in their movement, I like their musicality, and I like them. I hope you will too.

The dancers are pushed very hard in this collection of dances. As choreographers, we are all very physical and embrace and fight gravity in our own ways. This performance has a weight and a density to it. I wonder if, when you leave the theatre, you will feel heavier, or lighter...

Shoot for the moon,

Kim



**MESSAGE
FROM THE
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR,
KATHI SUNDSTROM**

Welcome to a milestone season for our company as we prepare to move to our new home next spring. Every time I drive past the new DJD Dance Centre on 12th Avenue, I marvel at how stunning the building is. Those beautiful angular glass walls that frame our new studios will provide natural light and city views for the dancers and students inside while bringing the building to life for those on the outside. We commend Dialog for their exquisite design.

It's almost bittersweet knowing the dancers and choreographers are creating a mainstage production for the last time in our current facility. But the aspirations we have for our new dance centre are beyond exciting and we can't wait to share it with you.

Tonight's new creation will give you a glimpse into the versatility and high level of talent and skill of our dancers, choreographers, designers, crew, and staff. We couldn't present such an ambitious program without a tremendous amount of support from all of our supporters including our ongoing long-time funders: the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, the Canada Council for the Arts, and Calgary Arts Development, as well as our season sponsor Suncor Energy, and our Board of Directors, Volunteers, and Individual donors for their generous support.

Enjoy tonight's production and if you appreciate the experience, please help us grow the circle by encouraging your friends to attend.

We hope you'll party with us in the spring at the Black & White Ball on March 5th at the elegant Palliser Hotel. Last year's party was such a blast we know the tickets will go fast for this year's edition. We invite you to partake in a night of dressing up and non-stop dancing to the sounds of two live bands and a DJ.

We especially look forward to welcoming you to our new home next spring. Our doors will be open on April 29 & 30 to celebrate International Dance Day and International Jazz Day. Get your tickets now to be one of the first to see a production in the DJD Dance Centre – *New Universe* – which runs from May 27 to June 12. Perhaps you'd like to be one of the first *and* help us cross the finish line on our fundraising by purchasing tickets to a Gala Performance on May 27, 28 or 29!

Or maybe this is the year you'll want to sign up for a dance class – there's something for every age and every level. In any case, the countdown is on and we want you to be part of it!

Kathi

BIOGRAPHIES

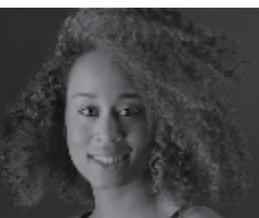
KIMBERLEY COOPER ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Kimberley Cooper has been dancing and creating dance for most of her life. She joined Decidedly Jazz Danceworks (DJD) as an apprentice in 1989 and was Artistic Associate/Resident Choreographer from 2001 until June 2013 when she was appointed Artistic Director. In 2002, she was named Emerging Artist of the year by Alberta Dance Alliance. Since 2002 Cooper has created thirteen full-length works on DJD, two of them enjoyed major Canadian tours (*jBULLA! 2005*, in collaboration with DJD co-founder Hannah Stilwell, and *wowandflutter*, 2009). Cooper also dances and choreographs independently and has performed, studied and or taught in Canada, the USA,

Spain, Japan, the Turks and Caicos Islands, Cuba and Brazil. Her independent choreography has been presented by One Yellow Rabbit, The University of Calgary, Dancers' Studio West, Theatre Calgary, Springboard Dance, Ghost River Theatre, Alberta Dance Alliance (Edmonton AB), Dances for Small Stages (Vancouver BC) and SUNY Potsdam (NY, USA). Cooper has created two short films for BravoFACT! and appeared in several others. She was Artist In Residence at the Calgary Tower as part of Calgary 2012. In 2014 she was awarded Dance Victoria's Chrystal Dance Prize for research and development in Brazil. Cooper is endlessly inspired by the spirit of jazz, an art form born out of a culture where dance and music are madly in love, hungry to evolve and greatly influenced by what's happening in the moment.

SABRINA COMANESCU UNDERSTUDY



Sabrina Comanescu is a dynamic member of the Calgary Dance Community especially in the urban and Caribbean dance scenes through her work as an instructor, performer, and choreographer. Sabrina has performed with House of Dangerkat, The Bad Girls Club YYC, ILLFX Entertainment, Nordic Moves, Hedley, Diplo, Kingdom, Cherie Lily, Umi Marcano and Da'ville. She has also had the opportunity to train and perform in Trinidad and Tobago, Finland, New York City and Romania on several occasions. Sabrina is a graduate of DJD's Professional Training Program and her choreography has been presented by MPACT: Something to Say, Tania & Vish

Entertainment: ONE Colors of World Dance, Diversity Performing Arts Club of Calgary, Pulse Studios, Carifest Calgary, Cariwest Edmonton, Global Fest, North Vancouver's Caribbean Days Festival and the University of Calgary's 45th Dance Montage. Sabrina is thrilled to be understudying this season and will be performing in the upcoming company tour of *The Great Jazz History Mystery* in January 2016.

JULIA COSENTINO APPRENTICE



Originally from Toronto, Julia received her BFA Honors Degree in Dance from York University in 2012. Since graduating, Julia has had the pleasure of training, collaborating, and performing with companies such as Jasmyn Fyffe Dance, Rock Bottom Movement, Frog In Hand, Newton Moraes Dance Theatre, ProArteDanza, Hit and Run Dance Productions, Lady Luck Productions, and emiMOTION. Julia is a founding member of The Garage, a Toronto dance collective established in 2013 to provide emerging artists with the opportunity to share, learn, research and develop different skills and ideas. She has appeared on three seasons of the TV series *Reign*, and is a

certified instructor of the Extension Method. Most recently, she performed in The Alberta Dance Festival in a work created by Rodney Diverlus, and in the Fluid Festival with DJD. This is Julia's inaugural season with DJD, and she is grateful to be a part of such a talented, intelligent and eclectic group of artists.

RODNEY DIVERLUS DANCER



Born in Haiti, trained in Florida and Toronto, Rodney is a multidisciplinary performer, choreographer, writer, and curator. A recent graduate of Ryerson University's Performance Dance program, Rodney has worked with KasheDance, IFT/Obsidian Theatre, ReActive Dance Theatre, Wind in Leaves Collective, and with choreographers: Marie-Josée Chartier, Arsenio Andrade, Kenny Pearl, Vicki St. Denys, David Earle, Mindy Cooper, Patti Wilcox, amongst others. Selected performance credits include Chad in the Canadian premiere of *High School Musical Two*, the Des MacNuff Tribute Concert, Dance Ontario's Lifetime Achievement Awards, and for

the 2015 Pan American Games Closing Ceremonies. As a choreographer, Rodney has created three independently-produced shows, and has choreographed for Toronto's 60x60 Festival, New Voices Festival, Cadence Ballet Company, Fashion Arts Toronto, Fresh Blood Festival, Toronto Pride Week, the Annual Alberta Dance Festival, and various residences. Upcoming projects include a presented work commissioned by the 2016 Toronto Dance Immersion Weekend.

SARISA F. DE TOLEDO CHOREOGRAPHER, ARTISTIC ASSOCIATE



Sarisa began her formal dance training in classical ballet at the age of seven and graduated from the Edmonton School of Ballet's Professional Program in 1993. Hired into the DJD company in the fall of 1994, she performed in over 30 of their productions between 1994 and 2012. Her passion for jazz dance and music has taken her around the world, studying jazz and many of its root forms. Apart from dancing with DJD, she performed with various choreographers, companies and directors including Theatre of the Living Statue, Sage Theatre and One Yellow Rabbit as well as in two independent Bravo!FACT films. She has taught and choreographed extensively for schools and companies including Western Canada High School, Victoria School of the Arts (Edmonton), Theatre Calgary, the University of Calgary, Orchesis (Edmonton) and La Bella Vita Arts (Vada, Italy). Sarisa was Artistic Assistant for DJD from 2007-2013, Artistic Director for several of DJD's dancer-choreographed evenings and its main stage production, *Tinge and Tone*, and is currently Artistic Associate.

APOLONIA VELASQUEZ AND OFILIO SINBADINHO (GADFLY) CHOREOGRAPHERS



Recipients of the Dance Ontario Innovation Award and the Manifesto Innovation & Originality Award, Apolonia Velasquez and Ofilio Sinbadinho are founders/directors of the Urban Contemporary dance theatre company Gadfly. Their work includes Dora Mavor Moore Award winning *Klorofyl*. The technique they have created is known as Aybrid Movement. Apolonia and Ofilio have been commissioned to create work for Coleman Lemieux & Compagnie, Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre, Alias Dance Project, Claudia Moore, Ryerson Theatre School, and The School of Toronto Dance Theatre, to name a few. Gadfly has been presented in Festivals such as Luminato, Nuit Blanche, Festival DansEncore, and Ontario Dance Weekend. Apolonia and Ofilio are the founders of yearly events such as TUDS Festival of Urban Dance Culture, the Gadfly Anniversary, the Skills and Soul Series, and the Gadfly Street Dance Awards. Notorious for their versatility, they have acquired a considerable amount of experience in the television, entertainment, and theatre dance industries. They have worked for artists such as: Katy Perry, Ariana Grande, Kiesza, Nelly Furtado, Feist, Cascada, Anjulie, Massari, Eva Avila, and Shawn Desman. Movie credits include *Turn The Beat Around*, *Camp Rock II* (featuring The Jonas Brothers), *You Got Served II/Beat The World*, and *Resident Evil Retribution*. They can be seen in commercials for So You Think You Can Dance Canada, Dove, Nike, Bell, Staples, Virgin Mobile and have performed or choreographed for Ted Talks, Nike, Bench Clothing, Canada Goose, and GM Canada. Their mission is to influence common beliefs towards an ideal of Freedom, Diversity, and Innovation. www.gadfly.ca

TULED GIOVANAZZI STAGE MANAGER



Tuled is honoured to be working with DJD again. Select stage management credits include *Year of the Horse*, *Turn Up The Get Down* (DJD), *Year End Performance 2015* (School of Alberta Ballet), *My Family and Other Endangered Species*, *Goodness* (Downstage), *When That I Was* (Uncle Will Productions/Shadow Theatre), *Lover, Oh! Christmas Tree* (Lunchbox Theatre), and *Year of Wonder* (The Young Canadians). As an assistant stage manager Tuled has worked on *The Grandstand Show*, *Tails* (Calgary Stampede) *Last Dog of War* (Alberta Theatre Projects), *The Highest Step in the World* (ATP & Ghost River Theatre) and *Speed-the-Plow* (Ground Zero Theatre). Tuled is currently the Production Manager for Downstage. She would like to thank her husband and daughter for all their love and support through her adventures.

CATHERINE HAYWARD DANCER



Hailing from Winnipeg, Catherine began dancing at the age of five. Her studies led her to Toronto's Ryerson University where she graduated from the dance program, earning her B.F.A. with Honours. Since then Catherine has immersed herself in the Calgary community as a teacher, performer and choreographer. Catherine is a member of Dancers' Studio West's (DSW) Dance Action Group (DAG), a small ensemble who co-operate to fulfill opportunities for community development and offer organizational support for DSW. Catherine will be presenting a new work in DSW's Dance Action Lab in July 2016. Catherine and fellow company member Shayne Johnson have been working in collaboration on developing new work. Their most recent choreographic endeavour *Polyhedron* premiered at the Fluid Festival in October. They look forward to future projects together. Catherine returned for her fifth season with Alberta Dance Theatre this fall, working with the young dancers for their production, *Tales of the Brothers Grimm*. She enjoys her role teaching students in Calgary and continues to mentor teen dancers training in Jazz as part of DJD's school programming. Catherine has been a dancer with the DJD company since the fall of 2007 and was Artistic Director for last season's DJD dancer-choreographed show *Borderland*.

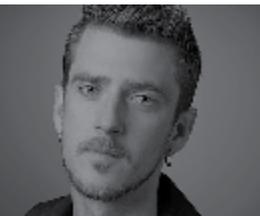
BIOGRAPHIES



KAJA IRWIN APPRENTICE

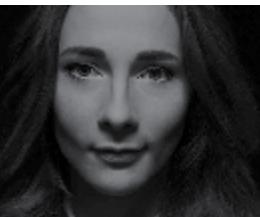
Originally from Winnipeg, Kaja started her dance training at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School (RWB). She continued her studies in DJD's Professional Training Program and since then has been performing, choreographing and teaching in Calgary, Winnipeg and Toronto. In Calgary, Kaja worked with respected choreographers Michèle Moss, Deanne Walsh, Alison (Bryan) Stone and Jennifer Mahood. In Winnipeg, Kaja danced and choreographed with several collectives, Evolve Dance Company, Canvas Pulse Collective, Define Movement and Prairie Dancers while also training with NAfro Dance. While in Toronto, Kaja had the exciting opportunity to work with choreographers Sharon Harvey and Jenn Goodwin as well as choreographing her own pieces for 60x60 and Flesh Garden, a solo work originally performed in Ottawa and then remounted by invitation for a performance in Amsterdam. Kaja is very excited to be back in Calgary, this time as a member of the DJD Company.

SHAYNE JOHNSON DANCER



Shayne began his dance training at age five and at the age of 12, launched his professional career as a guest tap dancer on the *Super Dave Osborne* TV show. Shayne went on to join the Canadian National Tap Team, became a member of the Grizzlies Extreme Dance Team for the NBA and was hired as a dancer and choreographer for Norwegian Cruise Lines. Since moving to Calgary in 2008, Shayne has been an active member of the Arts community. Shayne is a member of Dancers' Studio West's (DSW) Dance Action Group (DAG), a small ensemble who co-operate to fulfill opportunities for community development and offer organizational support for DSW. Shayne will be presenting a new work in DSW's Dance Action Lab in July 2016. Shayne recently premiered a new work *Polyhedron* at this year's Fluid Festival with collaborator Catherine Hayward. In addition to focusing on choreography Shayne is an established tap teacher in the community and is currently on the faculty at the DJD Dance School. Shayne has been with the DJD Company since the spring of 2009.

DEITRA KAYLN COSTUME DESIGNER



This is Deitra's first time working with DJD. Elsewhere she has a long list of credits including: Costume Design for *The Crucible*, *Dear Johnny Deere*, *King Lear*, *One Man, Two Guv'nors*, *Mom's The Word*, and *Doubt* for Theatre Calgary; *The Tempest*, *The Comedy of Errors* (Shakespeare by the Bow), *Romeo and Juliet*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Shakespeare in the Park); *playRites '14*, *Intimate Apparel*, and *The Penelopias* for ATP; *Jake and the Kid* for Globe Theatre; *Shear Madness*, *The Game's Afoot*, *Farewell My Lovely*, *The Huron Bride*, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, *The 39 Steps*, and *Sweeney Todd* for Vertigo Theatre; *Gruesome Playground Injuries*, *Reasons to be Pretty* (set and costumes), *My First Time*, *Evil Dead the Musical '09 and '10*, and *Lieutenant of Inishmore* for GZT/H&M; *Unnecessary Farce*, *Love Train* and *Game Show* for Stage West; *Little Brother*, *Little Sister* for Caravan Farm Theatre; and *Big Sister Little Brother* for Quest Theatre. Awards include: Betty Mitchell Awards – Costume Design – *Intimate Apparel*, Set Design – *Reasons to Be Pretty*. When Deitra isn't designing for dance and theatre, she can be found working as a costumer in film and television.

HANNA KIEL CHOREOGRAPHER



Hanna Kiel is from Seoul, South Korea and moved to Vancouver in 1996. Since then, she has been pursuing her goal as a choreographer. Hanna's work has been presented at 12 Minutes Max, PlanB Singles and solos Festival, Rainbow Festival, Dancing on the Edge Festival, Asian Heritage Month Festival, Pulse at the Scotiabank Dance Centre in Vancouver and New Face Dance Festival in Seoul Korea. In 2007, she choreographed and danced at the Centre A collaborating with Yoko Ono. Hanna moved to Toronto in 2008 where she continues her dance career as an independent dance artist. She choreographed and performed at Series 8:08, Dance Matter, Rivoli Dance and Dance Ontario Nuit Blanche in Toronto. She was commissioned by Mairandance School, Choommy dance group in Vancouver, George Brown Dance, Ryerson Dances, Cadence Contemporary Ballet, ProArteDanza, Canada's Ballet Jorgen and Kenny Pearl's Emerging Artist Intensive, Dance Ontario DanceWeekends, Alias Dance Project in Toronto and Garion Contemporary Dance Company and Soong Hee Woman's College in South Korea. Hanna was the 2012 winner of Northwest Dance Project 'Pretty Creatives' international choreographic competition in Portland, Oregon and E-Choreographers at Montreal Springboard Danse 2015 in Montreal. Hanna Kiel presented her full evening work in December 2013, *Project L - The world that you created* for which she was nominated for a Dora Mavor Moore Award in the Best Choreography category. She is the artistic director of Human Body Expression and one of the founders of The Garage dance development and exchange collective group.

NATASHA KORNEY DANCER



Natasha began pursuing dance at the age of 13, specifically in the styles of Hip-Hop, Jazz, Modern, Contemporary and African Dance. As part of her training she spent two years as a pre-professional student at the School of Decidedly Jazz, performing in their show *Footprints*. In 2010 she commenced a Bachelor of Arts degree in the Dance Program at the University of Calgary performing in *Why Dance 3D*, *Mainstage* and other productions. Natasha also sings and is an emcee for the local Afro-funk group *Metamofo*, and continues to explore her artistry in both dancing and singing. This is her fourth season with DJD.

PIERRE MARLEAU LIGHTING DESIGNER



Pierre Marleau is a Lighting and Production Designer who's work has appeared on stages world-wide. After touring for many years with such productions as Livent's *Phantom of the Opera*, *Sunset Blvd* and *Showboat* as well as Cirque du Soleil's *Alegria* and *Quidam*, Marleau relocated his company, Orange Frog Productions Inc. to Calgary, Alberta in 1999. Over the past 17 years, Marleau has helped redefine the Calgary Stampede experience as the Lighting and Production Designer for the Stampede's Grandstand Show. Marleau spent several months in Las Vegas as the scenic electric lighting designer for *Le Rêve*, an aquatic production which is running in Las Vegas at the Wynn Hotel. In 2013 Marleau won a Gemini Award for his lighting design on the Alberta Ballet *Love Lie Bleeding* CBC television special. Marleau is a Graduate of The National Theatre School of Canada.

KALEB TEKESTE DANCER



Kaleb is a Calgary based dancer, choreographer and teacher. In 2004 he joined DJD's Professional Training Program and in 2006 he understudied Kimberley Cooper's in *Charcoal and Crimson*. As fate would have it, he found himself jumping into a role a few days before opening night thus marking his debut with DJD. Kaleb has choreographed for *Slammenberry Jam*, *Dance Montage*, *Alberta Dance Explosions*, *Calgary Cares* and several of DJD's bi-annual dancer-choreographed evenings. In addition to performing with crews the *Original Rudes* and *ILLFX*, in 2010 he danced in a short film/commercial in conjunction with the Vancouver Winter Olympics and has performed with artists such as the *Black Eyes Peas*, *Snoop Dogg* and *Jully Black*. Kaleb recently took two years away from Calgary to study in Montreal (supported by an Alberta Foundations for the Arts grant) and to travel and study abroad. This is Kaleb's seventh season with the company and he is thrilled to be a part of this incredible show and journey.

DEANNE WALSH CHOREOGRAPHER



Born and raised in Calgary, Deanne completed her B.A. Dance degree with distinction in 2003 from the University of Calgary. She performed as a full-time company dancer with *Decidedly Jazz Danceworks* from 2003 to 2011. Successively invited to instruct at the University of Calgary's Dance program, she is currently an Instructor for both the School of Creative and Performing Arts in Dance and the Faculty of Kinesiology. Deanne is proudly engaged in her third season as the Artistic Director of *Alberta Dance Theatre for Young People*. Her professional performance experience across Canada includes the University of Calgary's Professional Series, *Dancers' Studio West Artist in Residence* productions, the *IABD Conference*, *Dance Immersion* and *BravoFact!* Her choreography has appeared in the *Annual Alberta Dance Festival*, *F.E.A.T.S Festival*, *The Fluid Movement Arts Festival*, *Alberta Dance Theatre for Young People*, *University of Calgary's Mainstage*, *Relocate: The Experiment #1*, *DansEncorps*, *Artist In Residence* and *Dance Action Lab* presented by *Dancers' Studio West*, and *Decidedly Jazz Danceworks*. Having trained around the globe including West Africa, Cuba and throughout the US; Deanne draws upon a broad stylistic voice ranging from Jazz and West African, to Contemporary and Musical Theatre. Deanne is currently Artistic Associate for *Dancers' Studio West* and founding member of the *Dance Action Group*, dedicated to the fulfillment and support of opportunities for dance community development.



THE GRAVITY PLAYERS

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: Kimberley Cooper

CHOREOGRAPHERS: Apolonia Velasquez and Ofilio Sinbadinho, Sarisa F. de Toledo, Hanna Kiel, Deanne Walsh, Kimberley Cooper

LIGHTING DESIGNER: Pierre Marlow

COSTUME DESIGNER: Deitra KayIn

DANCERS: Julia Cosentino (APPRENTICE), Rodney Diverlus, Catherine Hayward, Kaja Irwin (APPRENTICE), Shayne Johnson, Natasha Korney, Kaleb Tekeste, Sabrina Comanescu (UNDERSTUDY)

ACT 1

INVISIBILIA

CHOREOGRAPHERS: Apolonia Velasquez and Ofilio Sinbadinho

DANCED BY: the company

MUSIC: Adinhos

A 1970s lower class Black homosexual, now Harlem Renaissance writer and Civil Rights activist, cuts it dry and clear: "I was not born to be defined by someone else, but by myself, and myself only." Life is a game. Lots of rules, flocks of players, and sloppy referees... estimating your worth by the fraction they see. Here is a deeper look. The Invisibilia, the open book. Of those tired of taking jabs and hooks. They move in staccato and speak with the bravado from urban realness, social activism, and remix culture. Their actions, reactions, and interactions clues us in the caption: Show the world how to treat you... Or they will eat you.

THANK YOU: Our deepest gratitude to Kim for the invitation and trust, Sarisa for all your help, and to our ninja dancers for diving into the work. It's been a real pleasure working with all of you. Thank you DJD family!

AUTUMN CELESTE

CHOREOGRAPHER: Sarisa F. de Toledo

DANCED BY: Natasha, Kaleb, Shayne and Catherine

MUSIC: Wayne Shorter, Rubim de Toledo, Avishai Cohen

Atlas and his love Pleione weave their tale of fate and destiny that is the fabric of every immigrant's life.

*Gravity for them
is balance*

between

*forces pushing down
while driving back,
madly
staying afloat*

WHEN WINTER IS OVER

CHOREOGRAPHER: Hanna Kiel

DANCED BY: Julia, Rodney, Catherine, Kaja, Shayne

MUSIC: Henryk Gorecki

Atalanta in Calydon

*For winter's rains and ruins are over,
And all the season of snows and sins;
The days dividing lover and lover,
The light that loses, the night that wins;
And time remembered is grief forgotten,
And frosts are slain and flowers begotten,
And in green underwood and cover
Blossom by blossom the spring begins.*

- ALGERNON CHARLES SWINBURNE

ACT 2

MADCAP JUNCTION

CHOREOGRAPHER: Deanne Walsh

DANCED BY: Julia, Rodney, Kaja, Natasha, Kaleb

MUSIC: Carl Stalling, Mastretta, Magnus Öström

*They flitted from one madcap scheme to another.
Follow the road to a junction and turn left.*

THE BLACK SAINT REVISITED

PREMIERE 2014

CHOREOGRAPHER: Kimberley Cooper

DANCED BY: the company

MUSIC: Charles Mingus,
used by permission from
The Mingus Foundation

SET BY: Scott Reid

"I wrote the music for dancing and listening. It is true music with much and many of my meanings. It is my living epitaph from birth til the day I first heard of Bird and Diz. Now it is me again."

- CHARLES MINGUS, LINER NOTES FROM
THE BLACK SAINT AND THE SINNER LADY

SPECIAL THANKS/ PRODUCTION CREDITS

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TECHNICAL DIRECTOR Travis McKinnon
STAGE MANAGER Tuled Giovanazzi
DRESSER Janice Friesen
**LIGHTING RENTAL
PROVIDED BY** Chirstie Lites Calgary
**SET CONSTRUCTION
PROVIDED BY** Techart Custom Creations

CREATIVE TEAM

LIGHTING DESIGNER Pierre Marleau
COSTUME DESIGNER Deitra Kayln

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MARKETING CONSULTANT Helen Moore-Parkhouse
**POSTER AND
PROGRAM DESIGN** Daniel Blais
PHOTOGRAPHY Trudie Lee Photography
VIDEOGRAPHY Noel Bégin

FOR THEATRE JUNCTION

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR Phil Cimolai
HEAD STAGE CARPENTER Devon Carter-Wells
HEAD ELECTRICIAN Kim Creller
HEAD OF SOUND Tim Uniac

SPECIAL THANKS

Calgary Opera
Alberta Ballet



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Vicki Adams Willis **FOUNDER IN RESIDENCE**
Michèle Moss
Hannah Stilwell

ARTISTIC

Sarisa F. de Toledo **ARTISTIC ASSOCIATE**

DANCERS

Sabrina Comanescu **UNDERSTUDY**
Julia Cosentino **APPRENTICE**
Rodney Diverlus
Catherine Hayward
Kaja Irwin **APPRENTICE**
Shayne Johnson
Natasha Korney
Kaleb Tekeste

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Carly Mulenga **FRONT DESK ADMINISTRATOR/
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR**
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Ashley Menzies **DEVELOPMENT AND
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Nadia Singleton **DEVELOPMENT AND
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(MATERNITY LEAVE)**

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Travis McKinnon **TECHNICAL DIRECTOR**

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YOGA Yoga Passage
FITNESS Heaven's Fitness
Karen Vouri
PERSONAL FITNESS TRAINER
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THE CALGARY FITNESS TABLE
ACCOMPANIST Anna Wojciechowski
Trudy Hipwell & Ensemble

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Karen Vouri, Personal Fitness Trainer
Westside Sports Physiotherapy Hugh Saunders
Yoga Passage Tracy Mann



DECIDEDLY JAZZ DANCEWORKS

NEW UNIVERSE

OUR FIRST PRODUCTION IN OUR NEW HOME

MAY 27 - JUNE 12, 2016

GALA OPENING PERFORMANCES MAY 27, 28 & 29

DJD's Artistic Director, Kimberley Cooper will inaugurate the new dance centre with a new piece she is creating for the occasion. *New Universe* will be a driving, physical and percussive exploration of miniscule and grand — in our new universe — the DJJ Dance Centre. This new work features the DJJ Company and live music.

TICKETS AT DECIDEDLYJAZZ.COM

DJD ACKNOWLEDGES THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF



Alberta Foundation for the Arts



Canada Council for the Arts



PROFESSIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM

DJD Professional Training Program is an eight-month intensive training experience dedicated to the development of skilled and knowledgeable jazz dance artists. The program runs Monday to Fridays, September to May with three hours of training each day. Participants study Jazz, Ballet, Tap, Modern, Jazz Improvisation, West African, Traditional Afro-Cuban Forms, Swing, Latin, Core Strength, Jump Rhythm Jazz Style, DJJ Repertoire, Jazz music and history.

Through a national audition process, the program attracts talented dancers from across Canada. With only 10 to 15 students being accepted each year, participants receive continuous individual feedback and guidance that encourages them to strive for excellence and attain their full potential as dance artists.

**Auditions April 23 from 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.
at the DJJ Dance Centre**

For more information,
contact Program Director Jamie Freeman Cormack
at jfreemancormack@decidedlyjazz.com



**FEATURED DANCER:
SABRINA COMANESCU**

Sabrina Comanescu spent two years as a Professional Training Program student with DJJ before advancing to an understudy position in the 2015-16 season. *DJD thanks*



**RBC
Emerging Artists
Project**

*for their ongoing support of
emerging artists in our community
and beyond!*

DECIDEDLY JAZZ DANCEWORKS HISTORY



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 in its 31st year, DJD has carved a niche for itself in the heart of Canada's dance audience as one of Canada's most unique dance companies.

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, offering performances for young audiences 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 over 3500 students between the ages of 2 and 82.

DJD will be moving to a new home next spring - the DJD Dance Centre - a beautiful new dance facility on the corner of 12th Avenue and Centre Street S.E.

For more information visit www.decidedlyjazz.com.



DJD SCHOOL

Join us for our winter 2016 session (January – April) to help us say goodbye and have a last dance in our current space and then join us starting April 25th for spring, summer and camp programming in our new home!

CURRENT AND UPCOMING SESSIONS:

WINTER \$5 CLASS WEEK: January 4 – 7

WINTER SESSION: January 9 – April 23

SPRING SESSION MAY 2016 in the new DJD Dance Centre

SPRING \$5 CLASS WEEK: April 25– 29

SPRING SESSION: May 2 – June 25

SUMMER SESSION AND SUMMER CAMPS: July and August

To register visit **decidedlyjazz.com**
or call **403-245-3533**.



DECIDEDLY JAZZ DANCEWORKS

KEY SEASON SUPPORTERS

SEASON SPONSOR



PRODUCTION PARTNERS



EVENT SPONSORS



ARTS IN EDUCATION PARTNERS



AN ANONYMOUS
FUND AT



JAZZ ROOTS CLUB PARTNER



Canada Council
for the Arts
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du Canada



DECIDEDLY JAZZ DANCEWORKS

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

THE BLACK AND WHITE BALL

MARCH 5, 2016 AT THE FAIRMONT PALLISER HOTEL

Mark your calendar now for DJD's annual fundraising party — *The Black and White Ball* — an evening where you take over the dance floor and party the night away to the sounds of two live bands — Penguins on Broadway and GoodFoot — as well as a DJ.

CALL FOR TICKETS TODAY!

403-245-3533 OR ONLINE AT DECIDEDLYJAZZ.COM

TAKE A BOW

CASH DONORS

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 annual dance class marathon on October 18, 2015!

#1 RHYTHM CLUB

The first of many jazz appreciation societies founded in 1933

- Alberta Foundation for the Arts - AFA
- An Anonymous Fund at The Calgary Foundation
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"The Big Easy" is the nickname for New Orleans, the birthplace of jazz

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The flattened notes fundamental to blues - oriented jazz and the name of a famous record label

- Will Burton
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The term describing a very good swing dancer, the most popular dance style in the 1920's, 30's and 40's

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CAKE WALKERS

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

- 2 Anonymous
Vicki Adams Willis
- Susan Bennett
Felicia Bortolussi
Dr. Ted Busheikin and Catherine Ford
Cheryl Cohen
- In Honour of Florentina Constantinescu
Kimberley Cooper
Pam Corbett
Anne Flynn
Beverley and David Foy
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LINDY HOPPERS

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

- 3 Anonymous
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- The Chris Reimer
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Kevin Johnston
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- John and Meghan
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- Dave Wilder
Felix Wong
Tamar Zenith/
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FEETWARMERS

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

- 2 Anonymous
Sandra Adams
- Vicki Adams Willis
Denise Allan
- Arlene H. Henry
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Susan Armstrong
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Stephen Brink
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- DJD Dance Centre Capital Campaign Supporter
- Supporter of Dance Company in Residence at Connaught School
- Send A Kid to Camp Supporter

To the best of our knowledge, this list reflects donations received from June 1, 2014 through October 30th, 2015. Please call **Ashley Menzies** at **403-228-8183** to make your gift or to advise us of any changes or omissions so we may correct our records. Thank you.

- Gail Niinimaa
- Marla Orenstein
Karen Peris
Doreen Sandercock
 - Christina Siau
Lisa Silver
Wayne and
Martha Stewart
Reva Stilwell
Keltie Stowkowy
Dayna Szyndrowski
Gordon Tait
Pamela and Allan Twa
Shirley Watson
Kelly Whelan

RHYTHM SECTION

The musicians who provide the rhythmic foundation of a jazz ensemble

- 7 Anonymous
Kim Benner
Ardis Chen – See
Gloria Dalton
Lara Day
Joan Dods
Anne-Marie and
Bill Duma
Louise Feroze
Nick Finn
Nicholas Green
Tod Hughes
Andrew King
Tricia Leadbeater
Elaine Lehto
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Lucinda Neufeld
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Marion Tompkins
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- Nexen Inc.
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ARTS IN EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Transforming lives...one student at a time, DJD is deeply committed to sharing our love of jazz music and dance with schools and providing top quality instruction in a fun and energetic atmosphere.

ARTISTS IN SCHOOL RESIDENCY PROGRAM

DJD visits schools to teach an intensive series of workshops that introduce students to the spirit and history of jazz dance.

Shaw)

CHILDREN'S BURSARY FUND

Community support has enabled DJD to offer subsidized dance classes to hundreds of children from low-income families since 1997.



Harry & Martha
Cohen
Foundation



PRIVATE DONORS

DANCE COMPANY IN RESIDENCE AT CONNAUGHT SCHOOL

DJD company members visit this inner-city E.S.L school to teach jazz dance to the student body.

AN ANONYMOUS FUND AT



NANCY DIEP
CRIST FAMILY FOUNDATION
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FOR THE KIDS FALL CLASSIC
PRIVATE DONORS

"THE GREAT JAZZ HISTORY MYSTERY" SCHOOL TOUR

This season thousands of elementary students will enjoy this interactive show about the history of jazz. The tour also helps emerging artists from our Professional Training Program to gain valuable performance experience. Touring from January 8 - February 5, 2016

DECIDEDLY JAZZ ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT FUND

DJD is one of the only dance companies in North America that funds a portion of its dancers' professional development costs.

Bring the spirit and energy of DJD to your school.

Please contact **Joanne Baker** at **403-616-9640** or **jobaker@decidedlyjazz.com**

A ROUND OF APPLAUSE

IN KIND DONATIONS

Countless thanks to the following supporters who contributed items and services in-kind to DJD and to our recent special events including the dance marathon, gala and the Black & White Ball. Special thanks also to the consulting professionals listed on page 9 who generously donate their time and talents to DJD.

We encourage you to support those businesses that support us!

#1 RHYTHM CLUB

The first of many jazz appreciation societies founded in 1933

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Immigration Law
Calgary Herald
Heavens Fitness
Imperial Oil Limited
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"The Big Easy" is the nickname for New Orleans, the birthplace of jazz

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The flattened notes fundamental to blues – oriented jazz and the name of a famous record label

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RUG CUTTERS

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

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CAKE WALKERS

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

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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 Calgary Flames
Capture The Flag
Cibo
Colliers International
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Fairmont Palliser Hotel
The Fitness Table Calgary
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Margaret Healey
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Southern Alberta
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Pacey's...real life clothes
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FEETWARMERS

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

Alberta Ballet
Añejo Restaurant
Anytime Fitness
Arts Commons
Ballet Barre Works
Barcelona Tavern
Bocce
Bondars Fine Furniture
Brava Bistro
Calgary Folk Festival
Calgary International
Film Festival
The Calgary Opera
Calgary Philharmonic
Orchestra
Campari Group
CaVaBien Hair Studio &
Day Spa
Commonwealth
Bar & Stage
Cucina
Lora D'Agnillo
E&J Gallo Wines
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Fleurish Flower Shop
Galla Winehouse and Bistro
Hedkandi Salon
Helly Hansen Leisure
Herschel Supply Co.
Dana Hunter
INLIV – full circle health
Janet Horbacio
Photography
The Keg

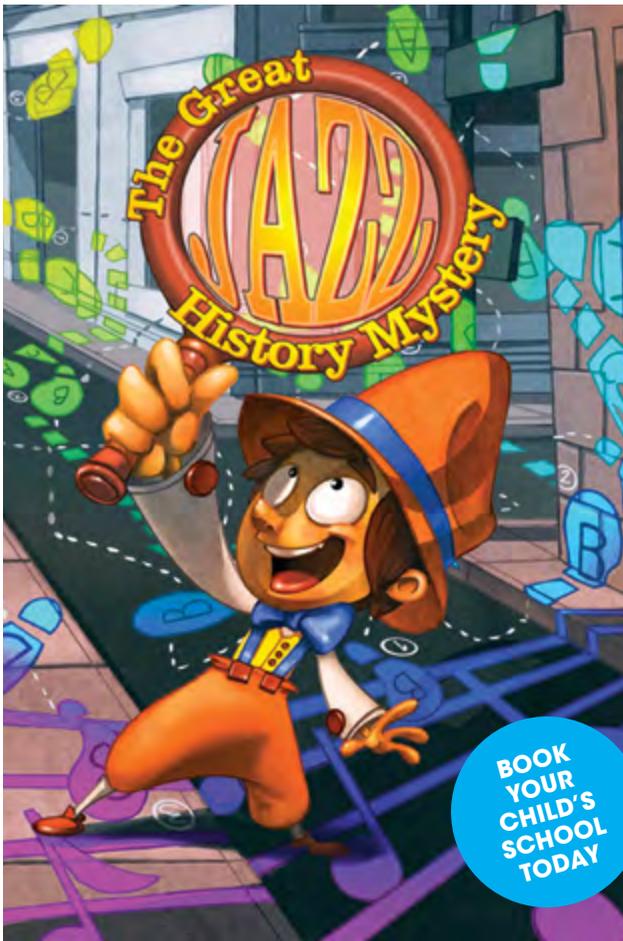
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Candice Laws
Mercato
Omega Spa
PARK
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WURST Restaurant &
Beer Hall
Yoga Mandala
YYC Cycle

RHYTHM SECTION

The musicians who provide the rhythmic foundation of a jazz ensemble

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Betts Drilling
Butter Beauty Parlour
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Sidewalk Citizen Bakery
Steeling Home
Leigha Stankewich
Telus Spark

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**BOOK
YOUR
CHILD'S
SCHOOL
TODAY**

Things are looking pretty flat when the world's dancers lose all their jazz. Now it's up to the coolest Sleuth to search for clues and find the missing jazz. With help from the mysterious and zany guide "the vibe," and a few tricks from the dancers, the sleuth searches high and low, now and then, here and there and everywhere, around the world and back again...and discovers that jazz dance is a lot closer than we think!

SUITABLE FOR GRADES K - 6

DURATION: 45 minutes plus question and answer session with the dancers following the performance

NORTHERN ONTARIO TOUR:
January 8 - 24

CALGARY SCHOOL TOUR:
January 28 - February 5

\$800 PER PERFORMANCE
for Calgary schools

For more information, visit our education website djinschools.com

THEATRE / INSTALLATION / VIDEO

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25 - 28

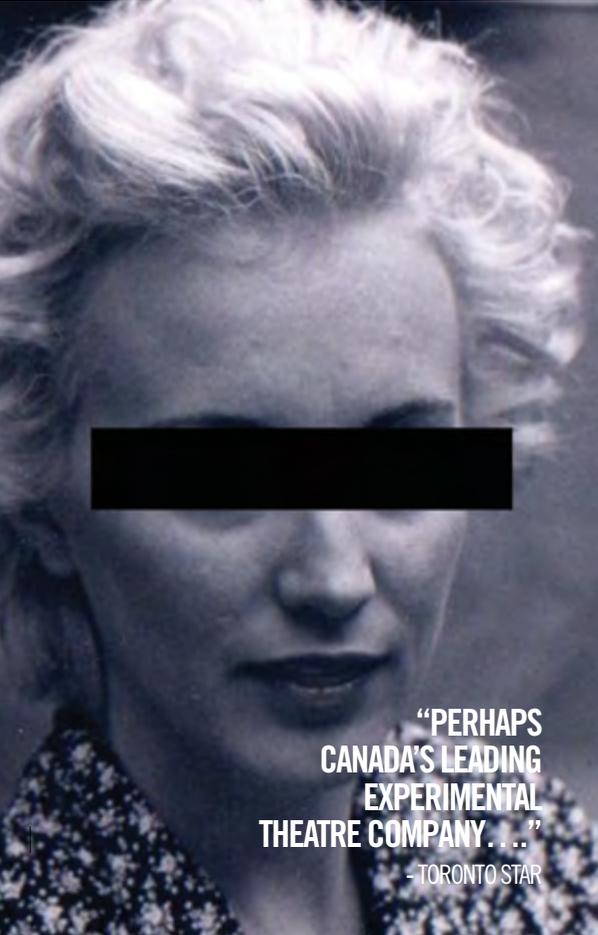
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**"PERHAPS
CANADA'S LEADING
EXPERIMENTAL
THEATRE COMPANY..."**
-TORONTO STAR

כנכ

DECIDEDLY JAZZ DANCEWORKS



THE COUNTDOWN IS ON!

Next spring we will move into our new home – the DJD Dance Centre – on the corner of 12th Ave and Centre Street S.E.

Your first chance to look inside will be on the weekend celebrating International Dance Day and International Jazz Day on April 29 & 30, 2016.

This new facility will feature seven dance studios with high ceilings and natural light, a large studio that transforms into a 230-seat theatre, spacious dressing rooms, a parents' lounge, a community living room, and access to parking.

We thank our funders and donors who have made this possible, the City of Calgary, the Government of Alberta, the Government of Canada, the Suncor Energy Foundation, The Kahanoff Foundation, the Calgary Foundation, and many individual donors.

To date we have raised 90% of our \$26million goal. You can help us cross the finish line! Here are 4 ways you can support this wonderful new facility:

1. NAME A SEAT IN OUR NEW SPACE

Your tax-deductible gift of \$1,000 will be recognized by displaying your name on a theatre seat in our new home. This is a great way to show your support of the DJD Dance Centre or as a gift to recognize someone special in your life. To Name a Seat, visit decidedlyjazz.com.

First-time donor? Your monetary donation of \$1,000 could earn you over \$500 in tax credits. Learn more about the First-Time Donor's Super Credit at actionplan.gc.ca/en/initiative/first-time-donors-super-credit-charitable.

2. MAKE A GENERAL DONATION

A gift of any size will be appreciated and help us reach our goal. To make a tax-deductible donation, visit www.canadahelps.com.

3. OTHER NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

Gifts of \$25,000 and more will be recognized with naming rights for studio spaces or programs within the new dance centre. Pledges can be paid over 3-5 years. Gifts of stock are welcome. For more information, please contact **Kathi Sundstrom**, Executive Director, at **403-228-8178** or ksundstrom@decidedlyjazz.com

4. BUY TICKETS FOR THE OPENING WEEKEND GALA

The spring production *New Universe*, featuring the DJD Company with live music, will be the first production in our new home! Gala performances will take place on Friday, May 27, Saturday, May 28 and Sunday, May 29. Be one of the first to see a production in our new home. Purchase tickets online at decidedlyjazz.com.

JAZZ ROOTS CLUB

The Jazz Roots Club connects jazz enthusiasts in supporting the vibrant spirit and artistic excellence of DJD.

Jazz Roots is an exclusive club for people and companies that want to have a direct impact on the performances, artist development and community outreach that DJD is able to provide in Calgary and beyond. Members get to have direct relationships with our professional dancers, enjoy exclusive behind-the-scenes experiences, and become part of the legacy of DJD.

JAZZ ROOTS CLUB ANNUAL SOIRÉE AT DIVINO



JAZZ ROOTS CLUB SEASON LAUNCH AND BUILDING TOUR



Join the Jazz Roots Club today! Contact **Ashley Menzies** at **403-228-8183** or **decidedlyjazz.com** for more information on how to become a member and share in these exclusive behind-the-scenes experiences.

PHOTOS BY ROCIO GRAHAM PHOTOGRAPHY

CURRENT DONORS

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The first of many jazz appreciation societies founded in 1933

- Nancy Diep
Anne Hawthorne McPherson and Don McPherson

BIG EASIES

"The Big Easy" is the nickname for New Orleans, the birthplace of jazz

- Canadian Rocky Mountain Resorts
Jamie Freeman-Cormack and Jason Cormack
C. A. Siebens
The Van Staalduinen Family

BLUE NOTES

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Angelique Fitzmartyn
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Nancy and Bill Hay Family Fund at the Calgary Foundation
Kelly Hewson
Brenda Mackie
Karen Mark and Geoff Carrington
- Mary A. Tidlund Charitable Foundation
Barry McKinnon
Geri and Alan Moon
Claudia Moore and Mike Jensen
National Captioning – Rena Nathanail
Rowland Nichol
Tracie and Todd Noble
Jock and Diana Osler
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Osten-Victor Fund at The Calgary Foundation
Mary Rozsa de Coquet
Valerie Seaman
Shane McMullen Legacy Foundation
Kathi Sundstrom
Glenn Sundstrom
Darlene Switzer-Foster
Christy Hayne Terriff and Clark Terriff
Susan Tyrrell and Brian Mills
Dawn Tinling and Dave Poulton
Peter and Carol Ann Williams

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Cheryl Cohen
- In Honour of Florentina Constantinescu
Pam Corbett
Kimberley Cooper
Anne Flynn
Beverley and David Foy
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Bird Mack and Allan Zivot
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- Supporter of Dance Company in Residence at Connaught School
- Send A Kid to Camp Supporter

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To join or for more information, please contact **Ashley Menzies**
at **403-228-8183**.

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