



## PORTRAIT

Choreography by Hannah Stilwell

Music: Abdullah Ibrahim

Danced by The Company, featuring Joanne,  
Kimberley, Sarisa, Jamie and Natalie

## FOUR PLAY

Choreography by Katherine Kramer

Music: Laurindo Almeida & Bud Shank

"Atabaque" danced by Kimberley and Joanne

"Tocata" danced by Christian, Kimberley and  
Joanne

"Blue Baiao" danced by Kimberley, Isaiah,  
Joanne and Christian

## RELEASED IN HER OWN CUSTODY

Choreography By Billy Siegenfeld

Music: Christian McBride

"Too Close For Comfort" danced by Sarisa,  
Natalie, Jamie and Kimberley

"Stars Fell Over Alabama" danced by  
Kimberley with Jason and Christian

"Gettin' To It" danced by Jamie, Christian,  
Natalie, Sarisa, Kathryn, Kimberley,  
Joanne, and Jason

## INTERMISSION

Decidedly Jazz  
acknowledges the  
support of



The Alberta  
Foundation  
for the Arts



Calgary  
Herald

# ABODE

Modern Lifestyle Furnishings



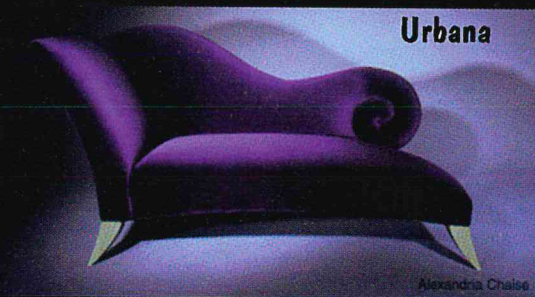
EVOLUTION

OR

CREATION?

Now Featuring:

Urbana  
Americana  
Design Emphasis  
Masterwork  
Elite



Custom Work,

Faux Finishing  
& Classes

Complete Residential & Commercial Interior Design Services

E-Mail at [abodemlf@cadvision.com](mailto:abodemlf@cadvision.com)  
Visit our showroom at 1324 11 Ave SW

Financing Available O.A.C.  
Ph: 209 2925 Fax 209 2920



# NOTES ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

from  
the

Welcome to DJD's 1997/98 season opener, "Optic Verve" - an evening that offers our audience perhaps the most diverse look at jazz dance we've produced in some time, with six premieres by seven choreographers bringing seven different backgrounds to their work. Of these, only three choreographers are Calgarians, DJD's Associate Artistic Director Michèle Moss and her collaborator Tara Wilson, and me. The other four are special guests, commissioned by DJD to create works especially for "Optic Verve".

This evening's eclectic collection of dances is a result of our Artistic Team's ongoing, active search for guest choreographers to contribute to our vast body of jazz works. Jazz dance is rare, and jazz artists who truly mesh themselves with jazz music are even more rare. Vicki, Michèle and I spend most of our summers seeking artists with philosophies or sensibilities similar to our collective vision of jazz dance, a vision we've nurtured, explored and expanded over the past fourteen years. These fine artists whose work you are viewing tonight are some of the gems we have discovered along our way. Together with the company's dancers, we are truly grateful to our management and Board of Directors for their creative efforts to support our dreams for Decidedly Jazz Danceworks. Together, we are doing something remarkable.

We're thrilled that two special guests, Billy Siegenfeld and Jeannie Hill, who have created wonderful dances for us in the

recent past, have returned this season to contribute new works for our company. Billy Siegenfeld delights in making "music for the eyes" - his style is percussive, often hard hitting, and if you look and listen well, you will not be surprised to know that Billy has led an interesting life, including a period as a jazz drummer. Jeannie Hill is a percussionist of a different type, having been a member of Manhattan Tap for the past seven years. Those of you who saw "Rhythm Addiction" last spring will remember Jeannie's rockin' tap dance finale. This time around, Jeannie has combined jazz and tap dance, and the inspiration of an old social dance, "The Big Apple". Throw in a little of Jeannie's own comedic side, and you get the loonie, cartoon-like "Crayola Romp".

A familiar name at the Decidedly Jazz Dance School, guest artist Katherine Kramer returned to Calgary this fall to work for the first time as a choreographer for our company (as well as teach a few inspiring workshops at our school). Also an accomplished tap dancer, Katherine chose to create her sweet, playful dance without tap shoes, using design in space, improvisation, and of course the Brazilian rhythms in the music to challenge the dancers in "Four Play".

**T**he founding members of  
Decidedly Jazz Danceworks,  
Michèle Moss, Hannah Stilwell  
and Vicki Adams Willis.



"I'm honoured to be taking the reigns from Vicki as the Artistic Director of "Optic Verve", a job that has been absolutely challenging and satisfying. I thank my friends, both those you see on stage and those in the wings, for their tremendous support this fall. They have all lived up to our moniker as "the DJD family" in the best senses of the word."

Also for the first time, Michael Montanaro, a well known artist in the Canadian contemporary dance scene, has graced us with one of his mesmerizing creations. Not specifically a "jazz" choreographer, Michael uses his understanding of jazz music to create a tapestry of rich movement, to show our versatile company of dancers in a whole new light.

This is a show of many firsts for DJD. You will of course notice that this is the first Artistic Director's message you have received from me. Currently nursing a back injury, (temporary, I hope!) I'm not appearing to dance on stage with the company for the first time in our history. I'm honoured to be taking the reigns from Vicki as the Artistic Director of "Optic Verve", a job that has been absolutely challenging and satisfying. I thank my friends, both those you see on stage and those in the wings, for their tremendous support this fall. They have all lived up to our moniker as "the DJD family" in the best senses of the word.

As for Vicki, she is taking an extremely well deserved break from the studio for the first time in fourteen years. I know that all of

you will feel the absence (temporary, for sure!) of her work on the stage this evening, but I hope you will join us in encouraging her to "sit back and relax". We, too, have missed her in all ways. In your words, Vicki... ENJOY!

Audiences who have been missing the presence of Michèle Moss on stage will be happy to see her back during our Calgary run. She has been doing a different dance with two year old Odessa.

So, be prepared for anything as you settle into your seats. For your pleasure, DJD continues to pursue its mandate of preserving and promoting jazz dance in all its glory. Certainly, you will learn something this evening about the vast, deep pool of jazz.

We sincerely thank you for coming. Sit back, relax and enjoy!

*Hannah*

Hannah Stilwell



## Smith Bros, Floors Ltd.

### The Hardwood Floor Experts

**Bus: (403) 255-7791**

*Proud to supply quality flooring for*  
**Decidedly Jazz Danceworks**

7128 Fairmount Drive S.E., Calgary, Alberta T2H 0X4

# GENERAL MANAGER

**W**elcome to tonight's performance of "Optic Verve".

We are very pleased not only to be performing in Calgary

October 21 - 26 but for the first time in ten years, we are back

touring Alberta: Fort McMurray

November 8, Holden November

17, Jasper November 19,

Bonnyville November 21, Spruce

Grove November 22, Red Deer

November 26, Airdrie November

28, and Yellowknife November

30. Be sure to tell your friends in

our tour locations not to miss

"Optic Verve".

Heartfelt thanks go to our production sponsors without whom none of this would be possible:

Petro-Canada, QR77, The Calgary Herald and The Alberta Foundation for the Arts.

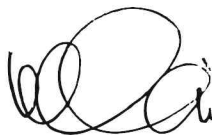
Petro-Canada showed a pioneering spirit when they took the initiative to donate to a young and promising dance company in 1989. In our second year as a full-time company, Petro-Canada was our first major corporate sponsor. Petro-Canada has supported DJD ever since. Their commitment to DJD and the Arts in Canada is commendable and contributes to a strong and vibrant cultural community.

The Alberta Foundation for the Arts was established in 1991 with a mandate to support and contribute to the development of the arts in Alberta. Financial support for the Foundation comes from lottery revenues. The Foundation funds the operating budget of DJD but also is supporting our tour throughout Alberta.

The staff, board and founders of DJD are justly proud of the company's accomplishments over its fourteen year history. There are very few dance companies in the world initiating a return to the traditional values of jazz dance, and even fewer operating on a full

time basis. We do so with a very strong commitment to a balanced budget and fiscal responsibility.

We would also like to express our sincerest thanks to all who have supported us over the years, from the corporations sponsoring our many programs, to the people buying tickets to our performances, to our Black & White Big Band Benefit Ball, and to all those who have chosen DJD for their charitable donations. We also would like to invite and encourage you to become a DJD supporter. We trust that after seeing our work this evening you will feel moved to join our honourable list of donors.



Kathi Sundstrom





# DJD ORGANIZATION

*20th Anniversary*

## Board of Directors

### EXECUTIVE

#### President -

Judith Dwarkin

#### Treasurer/Secretary -

Tim Mah

#### Chair Corporate Fundraising -

Dawn Mitchell

#### Chair, Individual Fundraising -

Sheri Meyerhoffer

#### Chair, Black & White

#### Ball/Volunteers -

Jan Damery Smith

#### Chair, Special Events -

Gaye Heller

#### Member -

Greg Horton

#### Artistic Director -

Vicki Adams Willis

#### General Manager -

Kathi Sundstrom

### DIRECTORS

Lynn Arbour-Heim

Mary Barroll

Jason Cormack

Mairi Dudgeon

Brian Frank

Scott Garnett

Scott Inglis

Ed Johnston

Kyle Kitagawa

Kim McLean

Darcy Moch

Lorraine Newbigging

Tracie Noble

Gail O'Reilly

Bernice Roessel

Becky Shaw

Don Stewart

Barbara Warburton

Julie Watkins

Kris Yadav

Don Young

### ADMINISTRATION

#### Artistic Director -

Vicki Adams Willis

#### General Manager -

Kathi Sundstrom

#### Associate Artistic

#### Director / Director

#### Dancer Development -

Hannah Stilwell

#### Associate Artistic

#### Director / Dance School

#### Principal -

Michèle Moss

#### Tour & Production

#### Manager -

Damon Johnston

#### Dance School Manager -

Lori Maxwell

#### Reception / Administrative

#### Assistant -

Glynn Grant

#### Office Volunteer -

Kay McDowell

### DANCERS

Kimberley Cooper

Isaiah DiLorenzo

(Apprentice)

Sarisa Figueroa

Jamie Freeman

Joanne Irving

Kathryn McKinnon

(Apprentice)

Michèle Moss

Natalie Poissant

Hannah Stilwell

Jason Stroh (Apprentice)

Christian Vézina

### SCHOLARSHIP

#### STUDENTS

Laura Laycock

Clint Morris

Shannon Pennington

Steeve Paquet

### CONSULTING

#### PROFESSIONALS

Anne - Myxdmedia

Dr. M. Bowman & Dr. M.

McEwen - Associate

Chiropractic Clinic

Kevin Brooker

Heaven's Fitness

Terry Kane -

Physiotherapy

Trudie Lee Photography

Tracey Mann - Personal

Fitness Trainer

### COMPANY INSTRUCTORS

Vicki Adams Willis

Shirley Agate Proust

Barbara Boettcher

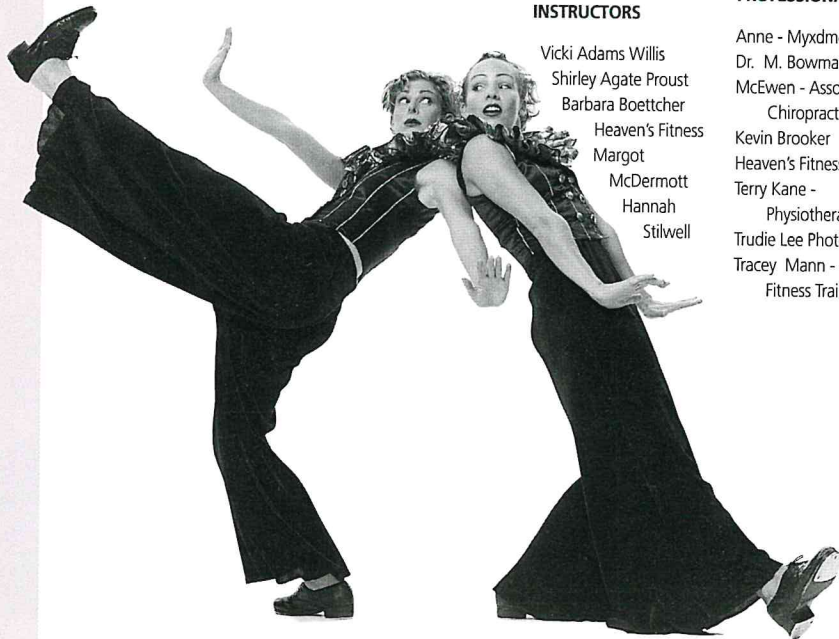
Heaven's Fitness

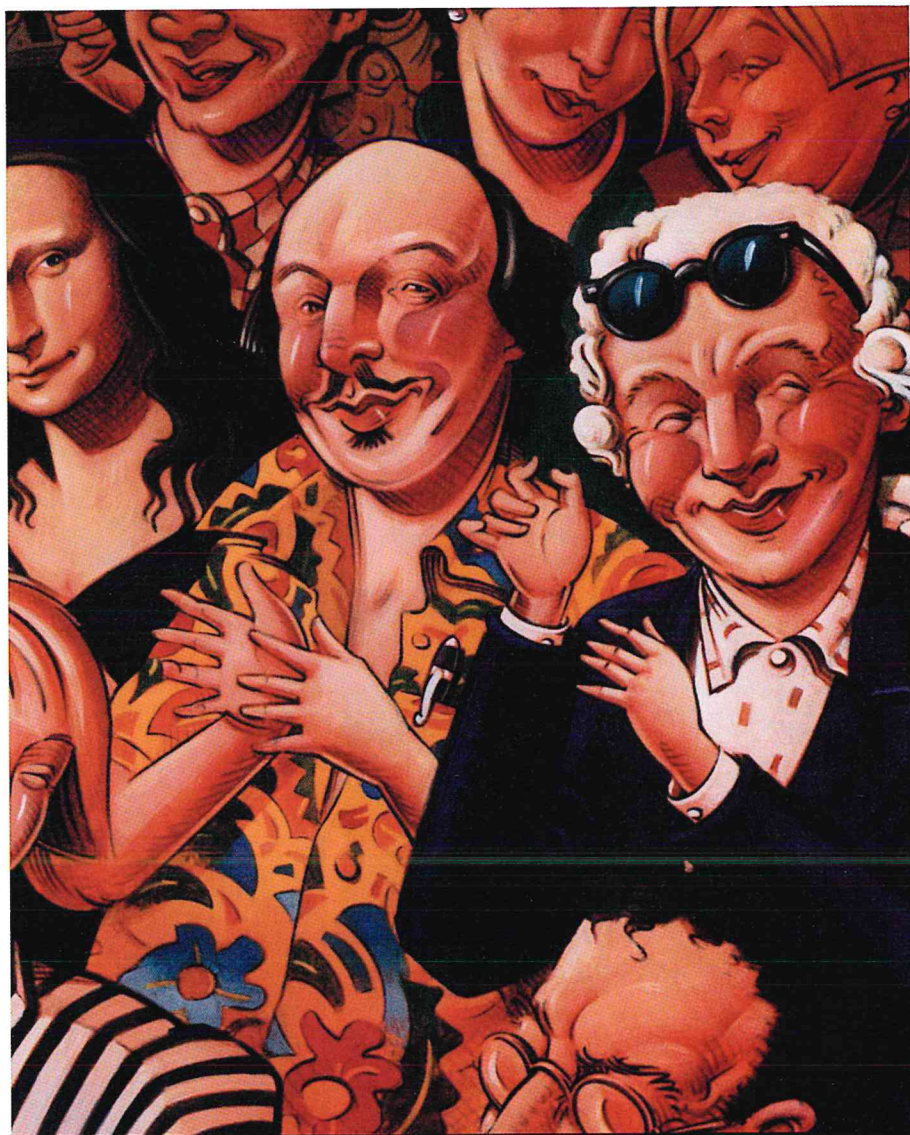
Margot

McDermott

Hannah

Stilwell





*Giving a hand to some of our finest artists*



Canada's Gas Station



# BIOGRAPHIES



**VICKI ADAMS WILLIS**

*Founding Artistic Director /  
Choreographer*

Calgary born Vicki Adams Willis carries on a family dance tradition which began when her mother, Alice (Murdoch) Adams opened one of the first dance schools in the city in the 1920's. Vicki began her studies with her aunt, Jean (Murdoch) Simpson. Those initial studies focused primarily on ballet, but as a teenager she became interested in jazz. Soon that interest grew into a passion.

Vicki's primary influence in jazz has been the study of jazz history, the study of historical jazz dance forms and African - American vernacular dance styles. Some of the teachers who have furthered her understanding of jazz have been Margot McDermott, Luigi, Matt Mattox and Betsy Haug. Vicki's research into the enormous yet elusive study of jazz has taken her literally all over the globe with frequent forays to New York, Los Angeles, New Orleans, England and France.

Upon graduating from the University of Calgary with a B.F.A. in 1972, Vicki was offered a teaching post at the U. of C. within the Drama Department. When the Programme of Dance became a reality, Vicki founded the first and only Division of Jazz Dance in Canadian Universities and Colleges and headed the Division until her resignation. After sixteen years, Vicki gave up her tenured position to devote herself full time to the Decidedly Jazz Danceworks' Professional Company and dance school, both of which she co-founded in 1984.

Teaching since 1966, and choreographing professionally since 1971, Vicki's experience is vast and unique. Her gift for passing on the very

essence of jazz to dancers is unparalleled. Winner of the University of Calgary's "Superior Teacher Award" in 1980, Vicki's dance classes are full to capacity whenever and wherever she teaches. Vicki was honoured to have taught last summer at the prestigious Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival in Massachusetts.

Jazz choreographers are rare, and Ms. Willis is the rarest of them all! Her deep understanding and utter respect for the form of jazz dance combine with her outstanding sense of theatre, her inherent tender nature and her perfect sense of humour to create dances that delight audiences and impress critics, and the priority that the company has made of collaborating with jazz musicians gives Willis the perfect outlet for her sensational musicality.



**LINDA BABINS**

*Lighting Designer*

This is Linda's first time working For Decidedly Jazz Danceworks. Linda is based in Calgary, and has worked for Alberta Ballet Company and School, Calgary Opera, Alberta Theatre Projects, The Banff Centre, Pleiades Theatre and Lunchbox Theatre. Farther afield, Linda has designed for Western Canada Theatre Company, The Globe Theatre, Citadel Theatre and Stephenville Festival. Memorable works include: Chinook Winds '97, and Oh My Baby, 1995 for the Banff Centre; Travesties, The Globe Theatre; Waiting for the Parade, Citadel Theatre, and Outrageous Alberta Theatre Projects. Linda was trained at Concordia University, The Banff Centre and Stratford Festival.



**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 DJD school. Kim spent last summer in Spain, travelling and studying flamenco.



**ISAIAH DILORENZO**

*Apprentice*

is overwhelmed by the talent that surrounds him, and is just getting his feet wet - or frostbitten - in Calgary after 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. He and his sweet Angie are anxiously awaiting the birth of their first child.



Dance



# BIOGRAPHIES



**SARISA FIGUEROA**

*Dancer*

Sarisa'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. Sarisa is now enjoying her fourth season with DJD and also teaches at the DJD school.



**JAMIE FREEMAN**

*Dancer*

began her association with DJD 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 DJD as an apprentice in '94 and was promoted to full time dancer the following year. Outside dance projects for Jamie include guest dancing and choreography for Calgary groups such as Youth Dance Unlimited, the University of Calgary's Dance Montage, DSW's Dance Explosions and Springboard Dance. Jamie also enjoys

teaching at the Decidedly Jazz school. In recent years, Jamie has studied dance in London, England and New York City.



**JEANNIE HILL**

*Guest Choreographer*

is a principal member of the Jump Rhythm Jazz Project (Billy Siegenfeld, Artistic Director) with whom she has been touring since 1989. She also, for the past 7 years, toured internationally with Manhattan Tap. Hill teaches tap and jazz dance in N.Y. C. and while touring. She has choreographed for Manhattan Tap, DJD, Alaska Dance Theatre and several University groups as well as for the musical theatre stage. In 1995, Hill made a debut of her own show, "Girl Talk", an evening of comedy which she co-wrote. Her comic country trio, "The Chalks" continues to gig in New York City.



**JOANNE IRVING**

*Dancer*

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 this summer she returned to the Bates Dance Festival in Lewiston,

Maine as well as attending Lisangua Bato African dance camp. 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.



**KATHERINE KRAMER**

*Choreographer*

began her professional work in the early 1970's as a modern dancer, working with a number of choreographers, including Bill T. Jones, Arnie Zane and Laura Dean. She choreographed for theatre and dance during that period, directing two of her own companies along the way. For over 20 years Katherine has been a vital presence in the resurgence and development of classic jazz and tap, performing with some of the finest tap dancers including Gregory Hines, Savion Glover, Brenda Bufalino and the late Honi Coles. She tours two one-woman shows, "Tap Roots" and "Rhythms of the Heart", and has appeared at Children's Festivals in Seattle, Calgary and Saskatoon, and in concert venues ranging from a coliseum in Ambato, Ecuador, to Jacob's Pillow in Massachusetts, the Discover Jazz Festival in Vermont and the New York Tap Extravaganza. She received an Al Smith Fellowship for Choreography from the Kentucky Arts Council and over the past four years has choreographed for the University of Calgary, Youth Dance Unlimited, Stephens College, Manhattanville College, University of Alaska, Skidmore College and the New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts. Katherine recently

# BIOGRAPHIES

completed work as choreographer and movement coach for the soon to be released film *The Horse Whisperer* starring & directed by Robert Redford. She teaches residencies and master classes throughout the country for Universities, Dance Educators of America and arts organizations. In July she will host a 10 day workshop in jazz and tap in Bozeman, Montana. She holds a BFA in Dance from Marymount Manhattan College and a Masters Degree in Movement and Dance from Wesleyan University. Her articles have appeared in the *International Tap Associations Journal* and *Attitude Magazine*.



## 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'Ecole Supérieure 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.

## MICHAEL MONTANARO

### *Guest Choreographer*

Michael has a background that has crossed the boundaries of many artistic forms. Accomplished as a composer, a musician, an actor and multimedia artist, he is best known for his work in the field of dance. A graduate of the Hartford Conservatory, Michael has performed with the Boston Ballet, Berkshire Ballet, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens and Le Group de la Place Royale. In 1980 he was named Assistant Artistic Director of "Le Groupe", a position he held for five years, during which time he became well known for his



endeavours as a choreographer, creating over 15 original works. In 1985, he returned to Montréal to form his own company, Montanaro Dance. Since that time he has created *A Matter of Seconds* for Québec-Été Danse; *The Beginning of the End* for Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers; *When you least expect it, Here I am...* for Le Groupe de la Place Royale; and *Two Stepping in Brazil* for the company Danse Partout. In 1989 Michael choreographed *The Audition*, a film produced by The National Film Board to celebrate their Fiftieth Anniversary. With Montanaro Dance, he has created *Parallel Lines*; *East of Egypt: The Theory of Everything*; *Un Temps Perdu de Zman Doe* which was specifically created for the Vieux-Port of Montréal, and later revised for traditional theatres; and *Non Angli Sed Angeli*, which was recently praised as the "Best Dance Performance" by the Singapore Straits Times in their wrap-up coverage of the prestigious Singapore Festival of Arts. 1994 was a year of experimentation beginning a nine week residency at the University of Arizona's "Institute for Studies in the Arts" where he collaborated with a team of multimedia artists on a work using video sensing technology. *Time In The Eye Of The Needle*, a 50 minute interactive work was presented both in Arizona and as part of this years ISEA conference in Montréal. This past year has been a busy one with Michael creating works for Montréal's Centaur Theatre's production of Shakespeare's *A Winters Tale* and the Opéra de Montréal multimedia version of Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*. After completing a three week residency at the University of Calgary, where he both choreographed and performed, Michael began work on the feasibility study and concept for a high tech theme park to be located in Portugal. He also continues teaching creative process, choreography and contemporary dance technique at Concordia University in Montréal.



## MICHÈLE MOSS

### *Founding Associate Artistic Director / Choreographer/Dancer*

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 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.



## NATALIE POISSANT

### *Dancer*

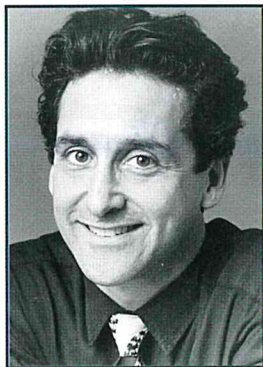
After dancing all her life, she took a brief hiatus only to discover that dance was something she couldn't live without. In '94 she returned to dance and was an apprentice with DJD for the '94-'95 season. Enjoying her third year as a full company member, Natalie is also an emerging choreographer and teacher.

20 Dec Dance





# BIOGRAPHIES



**BILLY SIEGENFELD**

## *Guest Choreographer*

is the Artistic Director of the Chicago-based Jump Rhythm Jazz Project, a national and international touring group of dancer-singer-actors and musicians whose performances, workshops and classes celebrate the arts of jazz music, musical theatre and above all the dancing that is created and performed to the exuberant syncopated rhythms of swinging jazz music, the blues and latin jazz. His choreography has also been seen on the companies of Decidedly Jazz Danceworks (Canada), Gus Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago, Joffrey II Dancers, JazzCool (Netherlands), Ballet Pacifica, Tennessee Dance Theatre, and those of the University of Alaska, the University of Minnesota, Randolph-Macon Women's College and Northwestern University. He is the recipient of the Ruth Page Dance Achievement Award for Outstanding Choreography (1997) and the Jazz Dance World Congress Gold Leo Award for Outstanding Choreography (1994) as well as three NEA grants, and has served as choreography adjudicator for the American College Dance Festival Association. He is currently a professor of dance and music theatre at Northwestern University and continues to serve as a guest faculty member at Broadway Dance Center in New York City. At both of these venues as well as on tour and in downtown Chicago, Siegenfeld teaches among other subjects, his original Jump Rhythm Jazz Techniques, whose rhythm-first movement approach helps transform performers' bodies into musically articulate, energy-driven percussion

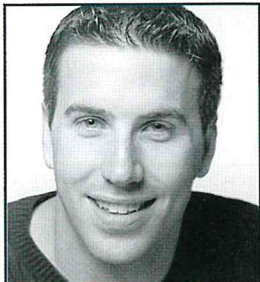
instruments. He has also taught this technique at Jacob's Pillow, the American Dance Festival, Jazzart, Harvard Summer Dance, Le Festival International de Danse (France), Internationale Tanzwerkstatt (Germany), International Summer School of Dance (Tokyo), the Chicago Human Rhythm Project Festival, the Southern California Tap Festival, and the American Tap Dance Orchestra's Winter Intensive.



**HANNAH STILWELL**

## *Artistic Director, Optic Verve/Choreographer*

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 on stage 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 Calgary in the future. Whenever possible, Hannah seeks professional development opportunities and has studied in New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Africa and Jamaica. In Calgary she dances, teaches, choreographs and is DJD's Director of Dancer Development.



**JASON STROH**

## *Apprentice*

Jason's introduction to movement was via the world competitive gymnastics. His formal dance training began five 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, Alberta Dance Explosions and New Dance. He is thrilled at becoming a member of the Decidedly Jazz Danceworks' family.



**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'École Supérieure 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 aspires to a future as a choreographer.



# DECIDEDLY JAZZ DANCEWORKS

PRESENTS

*Optic  
Verve*

Decidedly Jazz  
acknowledges the  
support of



ALBERTA  
Galleries



The Alberta  
Foundation  
for the Arts

Alberta  
COUNCIL OF THE ARTS

COMMITTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURE AND THE ARTS



Calgary  
Herald



## THE SILENCE OF THE SIRENS

Choreography by Michael Montanaro

Music: Ketil Bjornstad

Danced by Jason, Katherine, Natalie,  
Jamie, Sarisa, Kimberley,  
Joanne, Christian and Isaiah

*"Now the sirens have a still more fatal  
weapon than their song, namely their  
silence. And though admittedly it is  
conceivable that someone might possibly  
have escaped from their singing, but from  
their silence certainly never"*

Franz Kafka,  
"The Silence of the Sirens"

## STREAM

Choreography by Michèle Moss in  
collaboration with Tara Wilson

Music: Big Sugar, Dizzy Gillespie,  
Exodus Quartet, Cassandra  
Wilson with Chris Whitley,  
Lonnie Plaxico, Graham Haynes.  
Additional music by Koko Taylor,  
Big Mama Thorton, Nina Simone

Danced by Jamie, Sarisa, Michèle (in  
Calgary) and Natalie

## CRAYOLA ROMP

Choreography by Jeannie Hill

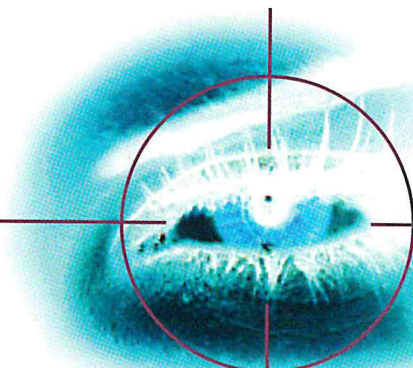
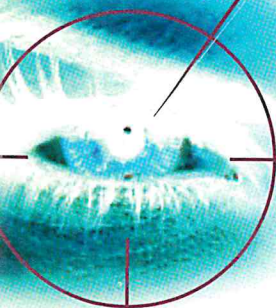
Music: Oscar Peterson Trio plus Clark  
Terry, Lincoln Center Jazz  
Orchestra

"One" danced by Michèle (Jamie or  
Jason on tour)

"Two" danced by Joanne and Natalie

"Nine" danced by Kimberley, Sarisa,  
Jamie, Joanne, Kathryn, Michèle  
(in Calgary), Natalie, Jason and  
Christian

*Optic  
Nerve*



# CREDITS

## SPECIAL THANK YOU'S

Myxdmedia

Theatre Calgary staff and volunteers

Luma & Emil Bellisan

Ron Desnoyers

DSE Production Equipment and Services

ProLite Productions

Don Scott - Scott Moving Pictures

Tracy Hooper

City of Calgary Arts and Culture -

Teresa Cook

Kim Crossley

The University of Calgary -

Program of Dance

Erin O'Connor

Katherine Kramer

Pat Irving

### OPTIC VERVE

*Artistic Director, DJD -*  
Vicki Adams Willis

*Artistic Director*  
*Optic Verve -*  
Hannah Stilwell

*Choreographers -*  
Jeannie Hill,  
Katherine Kramer,  
Michael Montanaro,  
Michèle Moss,  
Billy Siegenfeld,  
Hannah Stilwell

### DESIGNERS

*Lighting Designer -*  
Linda Babins

### PRODUCTION

*Production Manager -*  
Damon Johnston

*Stage Manager -*  
Karen Thirlwall\*\*\*

*Stage Carpenter -*  
Damon Johnston

*Head Electrician -*  
Al McCullagh

*Audio Enhancement*  
*Compilation & Mastering -*  
Peter D'Amico; Boxer Studios

*Head Wardrobe -*  
Rhonda Paquette

*Costume Coordinator -*  
Pat Irving, Nancy Roberts

*Wardrobe Construction -*  
Pat Irving, Kim Crossley

*Properties Construction & Design -*  
Nancy Roberts

*Production Assistant -*  
Iain Dunbar

### MARKETING

*Photography -*  
Trudie Lee Photography

*Poster and Program Design -*  
Ron Desnoyers

*Publicity -*  
Jane Chamberlin

\*\*\*appears with the permission of the  
Canadian Actors Equity Association

### FOR THEATRE CALGARY

*Production and Facility Manager -*  
Monty Schnieder

*Technical Director -*  
Tracy Nunnally

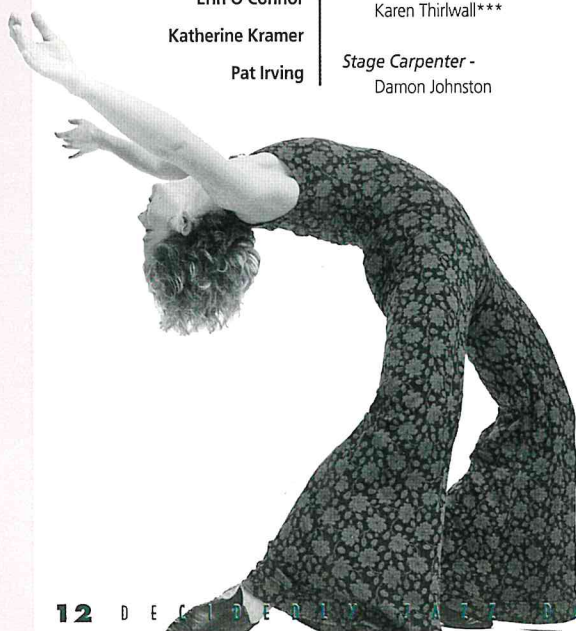
*Stage Carpenter -*  
Colin Cooper

*Head Electrician -*  
Les Sanderson

*Sound Technician -*  
Sui-Fan Wong

*Front of House Manager -*  
Charles Cheltenham

*Optic Verve*





# SCHOOL FOR YOUR BODY AND SOUL

At the Decidedly Jazz Dance School, we

offer high-spirited, serious fun for

EVERYONE big and small... beginner

through advanced... **Ages 2 - 72**

Step right up now and take

a class in Jazz, Ballet,

Funk, African, Tap,

Modern, Yoga Pilates or Drumming.

*...It's food for the Soul!*

## Winter Session

Teen & Adult Classes \_\_\_\_\_ Jan 31 - May 15

Children & Youth Classes \_\_\_\_ Jan 31 - June 22

Registration begins Dec. 1st!

\* no experience necessary to join our school!

*Information / Registration 245-3533*

**4th Annual Workshop Weekend Jan 23 - 25, 1998**

DECIDEDLY  JAZZ DANCEWORKS

Sponsored in part by:



**Chevron**

# HISTORY

**T**he beginning was a dream shared by Vicki Adams Willis (then founding head of the Jazz Division of 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 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 African -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,

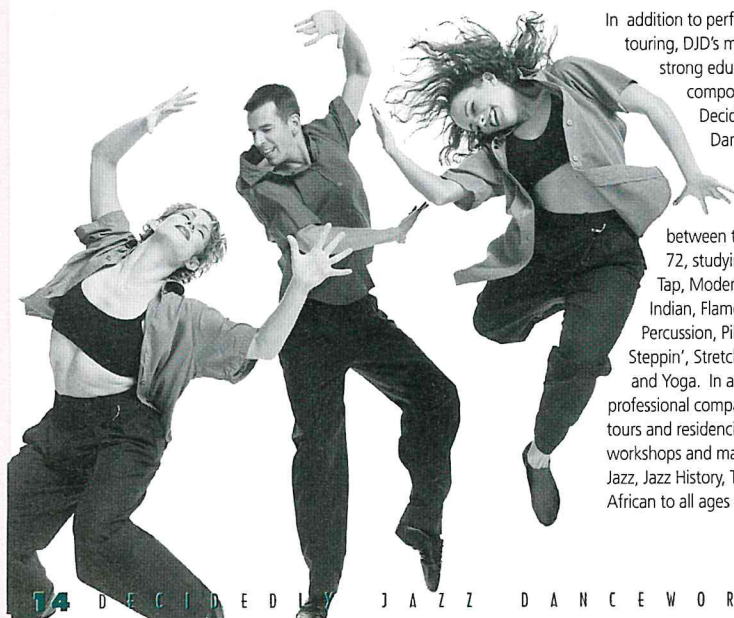
competitive, soulful and a direct reflection of jazz music.

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 led 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 educational 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, East Indian, Flamenco, Funk, Percussion, Pilates, Swing, Steppin', Stretch and Strength, and Yoga. In addition, the professional 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.



*Decidedly Jazz*



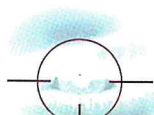


OUR CUSTOMERS  
HAVE GIVEN US GOOD  
REASON TO SPREAD  
OUR WINGS



**TRIAD**  
PRESS LTD.

3415 - 29 STREET N.E.  
CALGARY ALBERTA  
PHONE: 250-9947 FAX: 250-9983



# TAKE A BOW!

*Donna Verne*

**D**ecidedly Jazz Danceworks would like you to join us in giving a standing ovation to the many companies and individuals whose generous contributions help us maintain our vital and exciting company.

**Jan. 1, 97 - Sept. 23, 97**

**Decidedly Jazz Danceworks** would also like to thank all those who supported DJD by attending the 14th Annual **Black & White Big Band Benefit Ball** October 4, 1997.

## NUMBER 1 RHYTHM CLUB (\$5,000+)

*The first Jazz appreciation society was formed under this same name in 1933.*

Alberta Foundation for the Arts - AFA  
Amoco Canada Petroleum Co. Ltd.  
Calgary Region Arts Foundation - CRAF  
Calgary Herald  
Canadian Pacific Charitable Foundation  
Carma  
Chevron  
Community Facility Enhancement II du Maurier Arts Ltd.  
Figbelly's  
FirstEnergy Capital Corp.  
Heaven's Fitness  
Husky Oil  
Kraemer Taipale Partnership  
Allan Markin  
Metro Vino  
NOVA Corporation  
PanCanadian  
Petro-Canada  
Q R 77  
Royal Bank  
Suncor Inc.

## BLUE NOTES (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

*The Blue Notes Club is one of today's most famous New York jazz clubs, and a record label of excellent repute.*

Alice Adams  
Luma Bellisan  
Big Rock Brewery  
CIBC  
David Di Paolo  
Calgary Downtown Association  
Richard Grafton  
Tracey Mann  
Pacific Heritage Foundation  
Renaissance Energy Ltd.  
Scott Inglis  
Mobil Oil Canada  
Trans Canada Pipelines

## CAKEWALKERS (\$500 - \$999)

*The Cake Walk was a popular competitive dance for decades which originated on American slave plantations (the best dancers won a cake)*

Enron Capital & Trade Resources Canada  
Gimbel Eye Centre  
Harvey Clendenning  
Kyle & Denise Kitagawa  
Peter Mielzynski  
Agencies Ltd.  
Sunridge Horizon Liquor Stores

## LINDY HOPPERS (\$250 - \$499)

*The heart-stopping dance that marked the height of the Swing Era.*

Harvey Clendenning  
Cottonwood Golf & Country Club  
Deloitte & Touche  
Fraser Dods  
Eagle Copters  
Gulf Canada Resources  
Joins Custom Framing & Urban Gift Source  
Ann Mallory  
Jim Mitchelson  
Mick Mulloy  
The Real Canadian Superstore  
Dr & Mrs Yadav  
Kris Yadav

## FEETWARMERS (\$100 - \$249)

*The gang on the dance floor that can't stand still when the band is hot!*

Wendy Arnett  
Art Smart Marketing & Dist.  
Jane Bailey  
Diane Baptist  
Dave Bell  
Sandy Boot  
P. Brewer  
Annette Budd  
Canadian Association Of Petroleum Producers  
Canadian Fracmaster Ltd.  
Charrette Designs Ltd.  
Gary G. Cloni  
Harvey Clendenning  
Susan Cochlan  
Coopers & Lybrand  
Creative Travel  
Patricia Culver  
D R Anderson Professional Corp.  
Jan Damery Smith  
David Walker & Associates  
Cheryl De Wolfe  
Mairi Dudgeon  
Joan Dunkley  
Judith Dworkin  
Jane Ebberrn  
Martha Ellis  
Engage Energy  
Canada L. P.  
Helen Ewing- Reesal  
Farnham & Ogilvie Advertising  
Gary Fayerman  
Brian & Stephanie Felesky  
Cheryl Foggo  
Catherine Ford  
Free Range Clothing  
Sandi Gilbert  
Neal Gledhill  
Arlene Gray  
Linda Green  
Belinda Grootveld  
Sally Healy  
Gaye Heller  
W. L. Hess  
Greg Horton  
James B. Howe  
Il Regalo D' Arte  
Pat & Gail Irving  
Ed Johnston  
Sherry Kachur  
Patti- Anne Kay  
Bill Kearns  
Kinross Properties Ltd.  
Eric & Debbie Leslie

Ed Loven  
Tim Mah  
Anitra Mamen  
Ann McCaig  
James McIntyre  
Karen Middleton  
Dawn Mitchell  
Geri Moon  
Neil Murphy  
Tracie Noble  
Northrock  
Gail O' Reilly  
Katie Pearlman  
Pursuit Resources  
Jim Pesieka  
Christine Pitkanen  
David Poulton  
Provenance II  
Phyllis Robb  
Catherine Robertson  
Gord Robinson  
Ross Hayes Design Services Limited  
Glen Sanders  
Becky Shaw  
James Skinner  
Katherine Smith  
Michael Smith  
Steve Snyder  
Kurt Stilwell  
Anne Stone Johnson  
Glenn & Margaret Sundstrom  
Trans Alta Utilities Ltd.  
Richard Walls  
Lindsay Walsh  
Walsh Wilkins  
T. Gai Ward  
Julie Watkins  
Trevor Wignall  
Gary Williams  
Linda Williams  
Zoe Williams  
Kenna Windle  
Don Young  
Kim Cooper  
Manuel Correia  
Gloria Dalton  
Nicole Delecia  
Direct Works  
Jim Donald  
Ron & Lynn Du Fort  
Siobhan Duggan  
Famcare Healthcare Service  
Sarisa Figueroa  
Fritz Lang  
G W Cycle World  
Cheryl Gosson  
Anu Gupta  
Hunterhorn Liquor Store  
Joanne Irving  
Pat Irving  
Eera Jadav  
Heather Johnson  
Kensington Wine Market  
Ariane Kilpatrick  
La Luna Rossa  
Merrena Lea  
Dave Macaulay  
Lori Maxwell  
Margot McDermott  
Kelly Moi  
Laurie Montemurro  
Michele Moss  
Julie Moylan  
Lara Pella  
Laurel Petriuk  
Ravi Poliah  
Rail Town Development Foundation  
Rebuilding  
Donna Ritter  
Catherine Robertson  
Sarah Galvin Realty Inc.  
Savoir Fare  
Meaghan Schulz  
Constance Spicer  
Hannah Stilwell  
Reva Stilwell  
Eric Sundstrom  
Gordon Tait  
Dagmar Viberg  
Heidi Walsh  
Barbara Warburton

## RHYTHM SECTION (UP TO \$99)

*The Rhythm Section is the foundation of any jazz ensemble; providing the beat for the group.*

Carol Abrams  
Vicki Adams Willis  
Angela Avery  
Leigh-Anne Bryant  
Barbara Boettcher  
Cynthia Clark  
Communications Inc.

*PLEASE contact us if we have inadvertently missed your name, and accept our sincere apologies.*







Dolce & Gabbana

Paul Smith

John Rocha

etc.

722 11th Ave S.W. Calgary, Alberta



fritz lang

intellectual apparel

**DJ D**

FUNK  
TAP  
AFRICAN  
MODERN  
JAZZ  
BALLET  
ROCK  
HIP-HOP

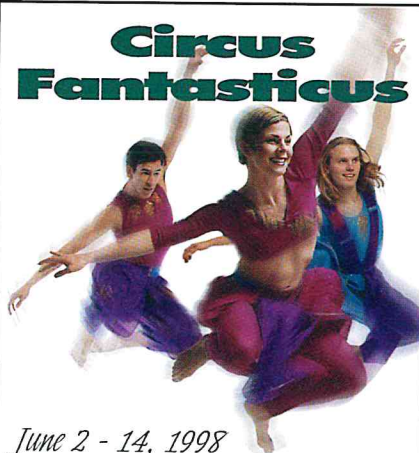
**LIVE AND IN SYNC**

**Grades K - 6**  
Jan. 19 - 30, 1998 at elementary schools throughout Calgary.

Have DJ D perform a 1 hour fun filled romp live at your school. The audience will experience a journey through the history of jazz music & dance and participate in a question and answer session.

**Call Damon for details and bookings 228-8181**

## Circus Fantasticus



June 2 - 14, 1998

Decidedly Jazz Danceworks June 98

performance will transport you to a magical world that blends the excitement of the circus with centuries-old island mysticism.

*Get your seats early - this is sure to be a one of a kind performance! 245-3533*

# VOLUNTEER CORPS

**T**here are not words to convey our gratitude and appreciation for this group of generous souls. DJD would not be here if not for the countless hours donated by THESE people. There are always opportunities to volunteer at DJD, stop by the table in the lobby or call the office at 245-3533. Bingos for DJD will make your life complete!!!

Alice Adams- Wood	Karen Garrick	Michelle Marcicki	Reva Stilwell
Karen Aiken	Mary Girous	Karen Mark	Gerald Stuart
Angela Barclay	Sharon Gledhil	Jill Marshall	Glenn Sundstrom
Tracy Batiuk	Jeff Godin	Sabrina Matthews	Phil Taylor
Celine Belanger	Sharon Hamilton	Shannon McCambley	Randolph Trafford
Dave & Kathleen Bell	Brian Hansen	Kay McDowell	Susan Trafford
Linda Brown	Sally Healy	Julie McCall	Elizabeth Van Der Wee
Wendy Buist	Adam Heckbert	Jerry McNamara	Ellisa Vogel
Michelle Chanin	Marianne Heine	Beryl McNeil	Susan Waldie
Jeff Charlton	Wayne Heller	Kim McLean	Michael Wallis
Annelise Chew	Lisa Holden	Gayle McPhee	Kathy Walsh
Loree Clark	Harry Hooi	David Metcalfe	Roger Warburton
Roseanne Coma	Donna Horton	Diane Miller	Steve Warburton
Elsie Couchman	Tina Howarth	Peter Moffat	Greg Wasilciw
Lauchlan Currie	Pat & Gail Irving	Nicole Nielson	Joan Wasilciw
Liz Derrick	Heather Johnston	Todd Noble	Tonnae Watts
Mike Dezoete	Goran Karabegovic	Cathy Patrick	Naomi West
Jennifer Dimitroff	Stacey Kardash	Mark Pedersen	Tim White
Dawn Doane	Joanne Kat	Lynne Pennington	Linda Williams
Dawn Dort	Mary Kelly	Carrie Petrie	Frances Willis
Iain Dunbar	Jane La Riviere	David Poulton	Dianne Willott
Denise Dunn	Wade Laing	Tim & Joanne Reimer	Karen Wiwchar
McMullen	Linda Lee	David & Nancy Roberts	
Jonas Emilsson	Trish Lewchuk	Marilyn Robinson	
Heather Erhardt	Carole Lewis	Marge Roper	
Aviva Fleising	Jon Lord	Monica Rovers	
Andy Fosmark	Deborah Lowe	Meaghan Schulz	
Mona Frederiksen	Rob Mabree	Susan Scott	
Andrea Freeman	Dave Macaulay	Terri Lee Sherman	
Girgulis	Brenda MacPherson	Jode Spinney	
Sarah Galvin	Octavia Malinowski	David Stewart	
Barbara Garrick	Ann & Dave Mallory		

*We have attempted to have a complete listing, PLEASE contact us if we have inadvertently missed your name, and accept our sincere apologies.*

## 10 reasons why you should call Decidedly Jazz Danceworks to volunteer for bingo.

- Scientists have discovered that eating fries and gravy—of which you can have all you want when you work at bingo—will actually make you smarter and more beautiful.
- You can conduct an anthropological study involving good luck charms.
- Bingo barns are an excellent source of haiku material.
- Time spent working bingos is not deducted from your life.
- And even if it is, when the end comes you will go straight to the heaven of your choice. Promise.
- Bingo daubers, like pastels, are art implements. Bingo players, therefore, are artists.
- They really are doing something about the air quality.
- Who knows, you might meet the DJD volunteer of your dreams.
- Who knows, you might meet the bingo caller of your dreams.
- In any event, beer and pizza afterwards makes everything worth it.

**Call today and become a volunteer!**  
**245-3533**





## SUNFLOWER GALLERY

LOCAL, NATIONAL &  
INTERNATIONAL ART

101, 850 - 16th Avenue S.W.  
Calgary, Alberta T2R 0S9  
Tel: (403) 571-2288 • Fax: 571-2285

## PACEY'S

... casual styles for today's woman ...



Jazzy  
clothes  
for moving

Mount Royal Village  
228-4726

Crowchild Sq.  
286-1692

**News  
Talk  
Sports  
Traffic  
Weather  
Business  
and  
Stampeder  
Football**



**CALGARY NEWS/TALK RADIO**



+

DECIDEDLY



DANCEWORKS

=

Purrfection!

Central Alberta Theatre  
delighted to present DJD  
Red Deer Memorial Centre  
November 27



The Alberta  
Foundation  
for the Arts

COMMITTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Alberta  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



program

**PRODUCED BY  
JK PUBLISHING**

**Publisher**

Kevin Parkinson

**Manager**

Julie Parkinson

**Graphic Design**

Ron Desnoyers

**Advertising and Marketing**

Russell McWilliam

Mark McMaster

**Pre Press & Printing**

Tri•ad Press Ltd.



**PUBLISHER OF  
THE ARTS**

JK Publishing Inc

Suite 464,

300, 8120 Beddington Blvd. N.W.

Calgary Alberta T3K 2A8

Tel. 403 531-7181

Fax. 403 230-2088

Toll free. 1-888-918-5030

Email. [jkpublishing@nucleus.com](mailto:jkpublishing@nucleus.com)

Web. [www.publisherofthearts.com](http://www.publisherofthearts.com)

Advertising rates available by calling any  
of the above numbers.

Copyright© 1997 by JK Publishing Inc.

No part of this publication may be  
reproduced in any way without the express  
written consent of the publisher or designer.



# **RAISE THE CURTAIN**

# **AND WATCH AN EXCITING**

# **PERFORMANCE**

That is the performance of your investment portfolio when it is managed by Wood Gundy Private Client Investments. Wood Gundy offers a wide range of investment services, and employ the most sophisticated tools in the financial services industry. We can help lead the way to your investment goals.

Hugh McGillivray

Director

Retirement Specialist

Tel. 403-260-0527

Toll Free. 1-800-665-6864



*The Leading Indicator.*

Wood Gundy is proud to be associated  
with this production.

Wood Gundy Private Client Investments is a division of CIBC Wood Gundy Securities Inc.  
a Subsidiary of CIBC Member of the Canadian Investor Protection Fund.

KENSINGTON

CHINOOK CENTRE

SOUTH CENTRE MARKET MALL

it's time for  
some fun  
in the sun



# SWIMCO

## Sun & Fun Fashions

whatcha  
gonna  
wear?

