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Notes from the Artistic Director

It was in 1962 that I was first bitten by the jazz bug. I didn't know at the time why I was attracted to the form, but from my very first jazz class (as foreign as it felt to my ballet-trained body), I felt an overwhelming excitement and a sense of having found a wonderful new friend. The seed was planted for a growing passion that would buoy me through over thirty years of soul-stirring exploration and discovery.

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

Jazz of course was born in North America of African and European parents. Its purest form is "black vernacular dance" (Afro-American social dance), and in that pure form, its roots can be very clearly and vividly traced to its African beginnings. In other words, take any social dance craze of the twentieth century, and there is a good chance that you will find a recognizable, centuries-old version of it existing in Africa.

There is a tradition of great generosity and sharing at the core of all music and dance in West Africa, and it is this phenomenon that not only spirited the birth of jazz in North America, but also caused it to take on many and various

guises. Centuries of adopting, adapting, fusing, merging, uniting and combining have resulted in the emergence of countless jazz styles and techniques; everything from afro-jazz to latin-jazz, modern-jazz, ballet-jazz and vernacular-jazz - the list is endless.

The exploration of these various jazz forms has over the years lead me down a wonderfully rich and fascinating path of discovery; and here at **Decidedly Jazz**, our inherent attraction to the history and roots of whatever we happen to be exploring has in turn lead us to the inevitable, - the creation of **RHYTHM ADDICTION**, - a celebration of but a few of the ethnic and popular music and dance forms that have historically left their mark on jazz. In **RHYTHM ADDICTION** we extract those influences, experience them in a relatively pure form, and then propel them back into a jazz context.

The West Indies were an important stopping off point in the transportation of African slaves to America. It was in the Caribbean that slaves were "seasoned" for several years in preparation for their sale on the mainland, and it was in the Caribbean that various African dance and music forms began to meld with French and Spanish influences. As a result, the predecessors to today's reggae and latin dance and music forms were born. In **DUB SESSION** and **SUN IN OUR SOULS** we celebrate those forms.

In **DOS ASTROS QUE CAEN EN UN CIELO VACÍO** our journey takes us to Spain where we explore a true soulmate of jazz, - Flamenco. The similarities between these two art forms are uncanny.



M O N I T O R I N G T H E S C E N E



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Their shared origins as an expression of an oppressed people (Gypsy and Afro-American) their passion, groundedness, rhythmic focus, revelation of the soul and significant use of improvisation are the compelling elements that bind these two intense expressions. Collaborating on this segment with Flamenco choreographer Claudia Carolina was indeed a thrilling experience.

In the 1940's, Jack Cole, a modern dancer with a great love and understanding of jazz music, began experimenting with setting eastern dance forms such as East Indian Classical and Balinese to swing music. The result was the birth of what was called modern jazz dance, at times a rather bizarre but captivating dance form which focussed on the rhythmic convergence of the eastern and jazz elements. In *ELEMENTAL ZAP*, Hannah Stilwell takes a short East Indian Classical dance phrase choreographed by Sudha Thakkar and fuses it not only with swing, but also with a variety of jazz, popular and modern forms to create an enchanting eastern journey.

Traditionally, dance and music have been integral elements of sacred ceremonies in Africa. In these rituals the ultimate experience is to be possessed by a god, goddess or spirit. In *THE HEART BEATS ECSTATIC*, Michèle Moss takes inspiration from the percussion-driven possession rituals of West Africa, Haiti, Brazil and

Cuba in a celebration of the rhythm within.

Michèle, has also created a brief funk interlude called *STEPPIN' ON d'BEAT*, a propulsive contemporary manifestation of our human need to express ourselves through rhythm.

New Orleans was of course the birthplace of jazz, and in *SECOND LINE SHUFFLE*, tap choreographer Heather Cornell explores the fusion of the European marching band and African traditions that heralded the birth of early jazz forms. Heather's passion and area of expertise is 'rhythm tap', a musically and rhythmically sophisticated tap style in which the emphasis is on the 'music' created by the dancer. Her mentors include rhythm tap greats Charles "Cookie" Cook, Buster Brown and Honi Coles, and it has been wonderful to have had this opportunity to once again experience this incredible tap legacy through Heather's work.

The evening ends with *SOLE ADDICTION: THE FINAL FIX*, a fabulous gospel-flavoured celebration creation by New York tap choreographer, Jeannie Hill. This is our first of what we hope will be a long line of collaborations with Jeannie.

Countless thanks to Dewi Wood, Ravi Poliah and the Band for a truly addictive smorgasbord of fabulous movement-inspiring music, as well as to the 1994 cast members of *RHYTHM ADDICTION* for their invaluable contributions to the

original choreographic vision, and of course to my beloved 'jazz ducks' who have approached the daunting challenges of this work with tremendous dedication, skill and enthusiasm.

It has truly been a pleasure to have had this opportunity to explore the dance and music of so many rich and fascinating cultures. Dance and music are profound expressions of the history and soul of a people, and in experiencing a society's art, one is occasionally deeply honoured with a fleeting sensation of that soul.

I have been moved tremendously by the vast differences and remarkable similarities discovered in my explorations of these various cultures over the years. The tip of the iceberg that I have thus far experienced has simply served to inspire me to continue on this fascinating journey of exploration and discovery that delightfully will never be complete. It has also served to instill within me a great respect for the people out of whose souls have arisen such glorious manifestations of the human spirit!


Vicki Adams Willis



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To date we have managed to realize many of our initial goals, such as working with live music, appearing in international jazz festivals and offering dancers extraordinary career opportunities. Our vision has not diminished in any way since 1984, and we still have several lifetimes of exploration to enjoy. We are delighted with the prospect.

Heartfelt thanks go to our production sponsors, without whom none of this would be possible: du Maurier Arts Ltd.,



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Sarisa Figueroa

Jamie Freeman

Joanne Irving

Natalie Poissant

Hannah Stilwell

Jamie Thompson (Apprentice)

Christian Vezina (Apprentice)

Michelle MacDougall

(Understudy)

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Rhythm Addiction

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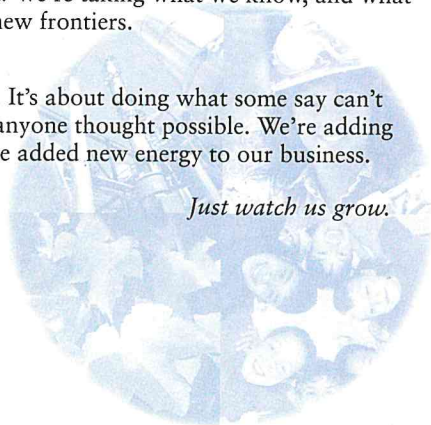
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Biographies



Vicki Adams Willis

Artistic Director/Choreographer

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



Kristian Alexandrov

Keyboards and Percussion

was born in Sofia, Bulgaria where he began to play the piano at age 4 and percussion at age 10. He moved to Canada in 1994 and is currently continuing his piano studies at U of C. He plays Classical, Jazz, R & B, Latin and Blues, and has performed in Greece, Poland, Luxembourg, Belgium, Romania and Hungary.



Inga Borg

Costume Designer

graduated from the Institute for Ballet in Belgium in 1983 and has since performed throughout Europe with the Nederlands Dance Theatre and the Ballet of Flanders, in New York with the Peridance Company, the Wendy Osseman

Company, the Rick Merrill Company, Ohad Noharin, Eliot Feld and the Dance Theatre of Long Island, and in Canada with the Alberta Ballet Company (from 1990-92). Since then she has spread her wings as a solo artist, choreographer, teacher and costume designer.

Claudia Carolina

Choreographer

has devoted her life to dance. She is currently the Artistic Director of Theatre Flamenco, Toronto, and travels extensively giving workshops on Spanish dance.

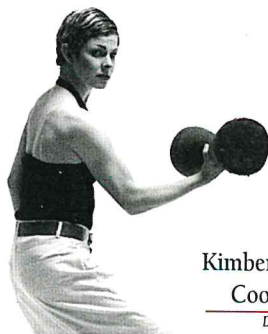
After receiving her early dance training with the National Ballet School, she travelled to Spain to study. Her experience and understanding of Spanish dance and culture is unique in Canada. She spent many years studying and working in Spain, Europe and New York with such greats as Maria Albaicin and Sabicas. Her fascination and love of the rhythm (so prevalent in Flamenco) led to this collaboration with DJD.



Jeremy Coates

Bass and Guitar

holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Jazz studies from the University of Calgary. He plays electric guitar and acoustic bass, as well as guitar and percussion. Besides being an active clinician, teacher, and songwriter, he has appeared on several compact discs, including two with the Earthtones. Jeremy plays a wide variety of music in orchestras, Big Bands, and combos and has performed across Canada, in the United States, England, and Australia. This summer he will play at the Montreaux Jazz Festival with 'Saxophonee', a University of Calgary based combo.



Kimberley Cooper

Dancer

is enjoying her 8th 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

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Mainstage, guesting with Springboard Dance and teaching in the DJD School. Kim spent last summer at the Banff Centre dancing in the world premier of "Kafka's Chimp" (playing a monkey named Petronella) and later returning with the entire DJD company for AfroCubanismo '96.

Heather Cornell

(Choreographer)



is presently Artistic Director, choreographer and performer with Manhattan Tap, an international touring company of tap dancers and musicians based in NYC. She has been recognized by Dance Magazine for "pioneering a new style of choreography, intimately connected to the music, with the dancers as visual and aural musicians." Heather first worked with DJD in 1993 when she choreographed "Second Line Shuffle" for the premiere of "Rhythm Addiction". Since then she has created several pieces for the company, and last year she and 83 year old tap legend, Buster Brown were featured in DJDs "Feet First".

She performs as a soloist and conducts master classes worldwide, including annual European tours, the Portland International Tap Festival and the B.C. Arts Festival. Her work has been commissioned by Lincoln Center (NY), Meer the Composers (NY), KQED-TV (San Francisco), The Tap Company (Zurich), PBS (NY), and The Jefferson Dancers (Portland). TV credits include a national special with Honi Coles and The Jazz Tap Ensemble, 'Gregory Hines Tap Dance in America' and a featured segment on the Canadian jazz series, 'Sounds Impressive', as well as annual appearances on radio WNYC's 'Around New York'. Unique to Cornell's work are collaborations with renowned musicians on original compositions for tap including a collaboration and performance with legendary bassist Ray Brown being presented at Lincoln Center this month.

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, Montreal, Los Angeles and New York. Sarisa is now enjoying her third season with DJD and also teaches at the DJD School.



Harry Frehner

Lighting Designer

over the past twenty years, Harry Frehner's work has been seen from coast to coast in Canada with such companies as Pacific Opera Victoria, Vancouver Opera, Lola MacLaughlin Dance, Calgary Opera, Edmonton Opera, Citadel Theatre, The Banff Centre (Ballet, Opera, Theatre), Alberta Theatre Projects, Theatre Calgary, Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Manitoba Opera, Canadian Opera Company, Stratford Festival, Young Peoples' Theatre, Novel Ensemble Moderne, Theatre New Brunswick and the Neptune Theatre. His last project with DJD was "Stolen Moments".

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 DJDs "No Small Feet". 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. Jamie spent the last summer in London dancing at the London Contemporary School and traveling through Britain and to Paris. Outside dance projects for Jamie include guest dancing and choreography for Calgary groups such as Youth Dance Unlimited, Encore, the University of Calgary's Dance Montage and Springboard Dance. Jamie also enjoys teaching funk and jazz at the Decidedly Jazz School.

Jeannie Hill

(Choreographer)

is the principle member of the Jump Rhythm Jazz Project (Billy Siegenfeld, Artistic Director) with whom she has been touring since 1989. She also tours internationally with Manhattan Tap. As a soloist, Hill recently danced a tribute to Ann Miller at the Tap Extravaganza. She teaches tap and jazz dance in N.Y. C. and while on the



road. She has choreographed for Manhattan Tap, Northwestern University, Illinois State University, The University of Alaska and The Triangle Tap Company as well as for the musical theatre stage. In 1995, Hill made a debut of her own show, 'Girl Talk' an evening comedy which she co-wrote. She also performs in a comic country trio called 'The Chalks' which 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 last summer to the Bates Dance Festival in Lewiston, Maine. Joanne joined DJD as an apprentice in '93 and was promoted to full time dancer in '94. Teaching Modern, Ballet 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.



Paul LaVigne
Costume Designer

has spent the past 17 years designing and

creating costumes for countless dance and theatre companies, outdoor spectacles and television shows. He has been busy for the past 10 months working on the T.V. series "Viper" and is happy to be back with DJD. Working with friends is always a pleasure.



Jean-Christophe Leroy
Percussion

has studied drums and percussion with musicians from Cuba, Africa and North America including Anga, Changuito, David Thiaw and Bobby Sanabria.

His current freelancing life includes performing, accompanying and teaching in Canada and the United States.



Michelle MacDougall
(Understudy)

Dancing has blessed the greater part of Michelle's life since she was 7 years old. After graduating from the Alberta Ballet School in Edmonton she enjoyed 3 seasons with Edmonton's Ballet North. Since then she's been seen performing in The Banff Festival Ballet, Banff's Song and Opera Program, Calgary's Stage West's "Oklahoma" and Alberta Theatre Projects "Brief Musical Works". After training almost 3 years on scholarship, Michelle is positively ecstatic to be performing her first soul-feeding show with Decidedly Jazz.



Michele Moss
Associate Artistic Director / Choreographer

has lived, worked and studied around the globe, from Liverpool to Berlin, Paris to Africa, India to Montreal. Along with Vicki Willis and Hannah

Stilwell, she founded DJD where she choreographs, dances, (currently on maternity leave) 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 Odessa Jean Johnston, who has brought her incredible joy.

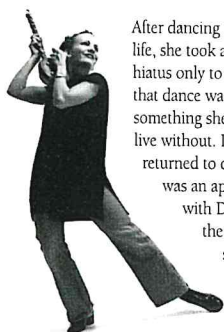


John Pain
Drums

attended the MRC music scholarship program and has studied with Ali Bargoura, Tim McIntyre, Ian Froman, Garry De Boeck, Dale James, Wayne Feschuk, Jimmy Carver and George Phillips. As a freelance drummer, John has played in studio and live performances including Latin, Funk, Blues, Rock, Caribbean, African and Reggae. This is John's second performance with DJD.

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 second year as a full company member, Natalie is also an emerging choreographer and teacher.

Ravi Poliah

Composer, Arranger, Horn, Keyboards, Percussion, Vocals

was first seen performing and making music for DJD in the original production of 'Rhythm Addiction' in 1994. Since then he has been an integral part of many of DJD's performances including "Random Leaps of Faith", "Live and in Sync", "Stolen Moments" and "Feet First". Ravi's main musical influences stem from Nu Jack Swing to Trip Hop, Acid Jazz to Be Bop and Classical to Hard Core Thrash.



Hannah Stilwell

Associate Artistic Director/Choreographer/Dancer

has been happily dancing for over three decades, starting as a pre-schooler, continuing through her teaching career in the Program of Dance at the University of Calgary and into her life as co-founder of DJD. It was meeting Vicki Willis that served as the catalyst for her passion for jazz dance. In between her journeys to Africa, Jamaica, the U.S. and India to learn more about the roots of jazz and its connections with other dance forms, she dances, choreographs, teaches and is DJD's Director of Dancer Development.

Sudha Thakkar

(Choreographer)

The founding director of Manu Kala Mandir Dance Academy, Sudha Thakkar is a



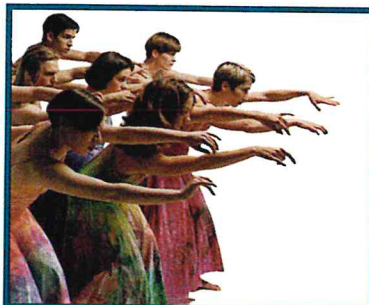
well-known exponent of the ancient Indian classical dance style, Bharatha Natyam, as well as folk dances of various regions of India. Her performances are marked by authenticity, complex rhythmic footwork, melodious and lilting music, and colourful costumes. Sudha has received high acclaim for her performances in India and in Canada. Besides teaching and choreographing dance compositions and dance dramas for over thirty years, Sudha is the recipient of several travel, arts study, and educational grants from Alberta Community Development, The Alberta Foundation for the Arts and Multiculturalism and Citizenship Canada.



Jamie Thompson

Apprentice

hails from Wetaskiwin, Alberta. After several years of dancing there he began training in Edmonton. Jamie started with DJD in '95 as a scholarship student and performed as an apprentice in "Feet First" ('96). He would like to thank Mom, Dad, Sister and Friends for all their love and support.



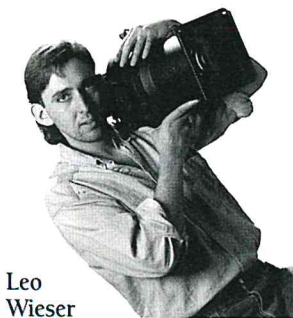
Join Us

DJD's Board raises funds to support the company. **We are looking for Board Members.** If you have the expertise, ingenuity and imagination to attract the resources needed to continue to propel DJD along its trailblazing path call, Kathi Sundstrom 245-3533.

NO 11 31 00 B H I L A N H S H B O M 3 J K H O Z Z U C A 7 0 3 0 1 3 3 0



Christian Vezina
Apprentice



Leo Wieser

Scenic and Properties Designer

Dewi Wood

Musical Director, Composer, Arranger, Guitar, Vocals, Percussion

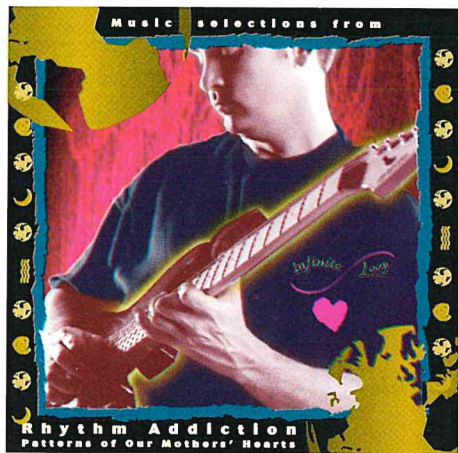


is a Quebec native who began dancing at age 18 while he was studying fine arts in college. After graduating from L'Ecole Supérieure de Danse du Québec in '94 he danced with Ballet Eddy Toussaint (Florida), the Banff Festival Ballet, Ontario Ballet Theatre and Ballet B.C. Christian's background also includes gymnastics, competitive figure skating, and choreography for skaters and fashion shows.

is most active as a special effects, set, lighting and costume designer who has designed for Theatre Calgary (Stephen & Mr. Wilde), Alberta Theatre Projects (Odd Jobs), and Quest Theatre (Dawn Coyote). Through his work with the company UnReel Effects, Leo has acted as special effects supervisor for film and commercial productions including movie of the week Rose Hill. Leo has designed the high level fireworks.

A former music student at the University of Calgary, Dewi sports an entire line of musical hats: His titles over the years have included audio director, producer, editor, composer, performer, lecturer and broadcaster. Some of Dewi's more notable projects include production of audio recordings for two internationally-acclaimed CD-Roms and production of musical CDs. He has lectured at the University of Calgary on electronic music production; has branched out to perform in "Touch," a play by Calgary's One Yellow Rabbit theatre company; has sung with the Calgary Philharmonic Chorus and continues to play guitar with Penguins on Broadway. Dewi now operates his own recording and production company, Infinite Loop, and has supplied music and audio to associations such as MuchMusic, Canadian Airlines and Telus.

For DJD, he has performed in "No Small Feats" and "The Fifth Anniversary", composed music and/or sound engineered for "Random Leaps of Faith", "Jazzmanian Crossroads" and "Life Inside the Music" – and was 'jack of every possible musical trade' for the original production of "Rhythm Addiction".



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soundtrack of Rhythm Addiction for
you to enjoy at home.**

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Rhythm Addiction
PATTERNS OF OUR MOTHERS' HEARTS

Rhythm Addiction

patterns of our Mothers' Hearts

All music composed and arranged by Dewi Wood and Ravi Poliah unless otherwise indicated



Murmuring Hearts

Choreographed by: Vicki Adams Willis

Steppin' on d'Beat

Choreographed by: Michèle Moss

Stomp rhythmic inspiration provided by African masters such as DuDuDiaye Rose, Fraternity Steppers of the USA and our own rhythm kings Jean and Ravi.

Dub Session

Choreographed by: Ravi Poliah and Vicki Adams Willis

Patois:

Mi yong, mi strang, mi av ambechan
T'Rockup de place wit a seet version
Original dubcas, Rude Buay pon de Bassa
jus t'flahle glimpse pass l chuff face.
Mi apy t'ge yuh a likli lik a bus'atortee
Jus t'catch a stoneh, Ire.
Yuf comeh scence dancehall an witness
upa cool
cool scene
Jump up chacout ana wyne pon we.

English:

We are young, strong and
together we may seek peace.
Disregard negative forces,
riding this wave makes life well.
Come witness the scene,
together we dance.
Free up yourself,
And Jam.

Elemental Zap

Choreographed by: Hannah Stilwell,

Additional choreography by: Sudha Thakkar

Sun In Our Souls

Choreographed by: Vicki Adams Willis and the Dancers

Additional music by: D.R. and Bruno Martino

Italian:

(Bruno Brighetti)

Estate

Sei calda come il bacio che ho perduto
Sei piena di un amore che è passato
Che il cuore mio vorrebbe cancellare

Estate

Il sole che ogni giorno ci scaldava
Che splendidi tramonti dipingeva
Adesso brucia solo con furore

Tornerà un altro inverno
Cadranno mille petali di rose
La neve coprirà tutte le cose
E forse un po' di pace tornerà

Estate

Che ha dato il suo profumo ad ogni fiore
L'estate che ha creato il nostro amore
Per farmi poi morire di dolore

English:

Summer

You are as hot as the kiss that I lost
You are full of a love that is past
Which my heart would like to cancel

Summer

The sun that warmed us every day
That painted splendid sunsets
Now burns only with fury

Another winter will return
A thousand rose petals will fall
The snow will cover all
And perhaps a bit of peace will return

Summer

That gave its perfume to every flower
The summer that created our love
To make me then die of pain

Intermission

Dos Astros que Caen en un Cielo Vacío

(Two Stars Falling in an Empty Sky)

Choreographed by: Claudia Carolina and Vicki Adams Willis

Poem written by: Octavio Paz Read by: Claudia Carolina

Spanish:

Dos Cuerpos

Dos cuerpos frente a frente
son a veces dos piedras
y la noche desierto.

Dos cuerpos frente a frente
son a veces dos olas
y la noche es océano.

Dos cuerpos frente a frente
son a veces raíces
en la noche enlazadas

Dos cuerpos frente a frente
son a veces navajas
y la noche relámpago.

Dos cuerpos frente a frente
son dos astros que caen
en un cielo vacío

English:

Two bodies

Two bodies face to face
are at times two stones
and night a desert.

Two bodies face to face
are at times two waves
and night is an ocean.

Two bodies face to face
are at times two roots
laced into night

Two bodies face to face
are at times two knives
and night strikes sparks.

Two bodies face to face
are two stars falling
in an empty sky.

And Night Strikes Sparks

Choreographed by: Vicki Adams Willis

Après les Confidences

Choreographed by: Vicki Adams Willis

Music by: Uzeb

The Heart Beats Ecstatic

*In honouring and celebrating the rhythm within,
the inner dancer, we offer this dance prayer to
the divine in all of us and offer our devotion to
human potential and the human spirit.*

Choreographed by: Michèle Moss

Quote from Mboi, an elderly Maasai

Yoruba:

Egbin ni'le aiye

•

Awo bo ewa mole

• • •

Au dudu ati funfun eje ko yato fun gbogbo wa

• • •

English:

The world is a foolish place.

The colour of skin does not reveal the taste of the
fruit it covers.

Your shell is white, mine is black.

But our blood, which is of like colour,
is moved by hearts which beat to the same rhythm.


*Special thanks to all my dance masters far and near. From my first African dance teacher in the Gambia,
Ali Bangoura, to my more recent treasure sources, both colleagues and masters: Marie Basse Wiles,
Assane Konte, Mona Estimé-Amira, Lasensua, Ava Lavonne Vinesett and Elizabeth Ngo.
Music inspiration from Khalid Saleem and Michael Pluznick as well as the incredible effort and
considerable talents of Ravi, Dewi and Jean*

Second Line Shuffle

Choreographed by: Heather Cornell

Sole Addiction: The Final Fix

Choreographed by: Jeannie Hill

 du Maurier
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Vicki Adams Willis

Choreographers

Vicki Adams Willis,
Hannah Stilwell, Michèle Moss,
Claudia Carolina, Heather Cornell,
Jeannie Hill and Sudha Thakkar

Musical Directors

Dewi Wood and Ravi Poliah

Compositions and Arrangements

Dewi Wood and Ravi Poliah
(unless otherwise indicated)

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Additional Costume Designs

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Lighting Design

Harry Frehner

Scenic and Properties Design

Leo Wieser

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Infinite Loop Audio Solutions

Additional Sound Recordings

Engineered by Andy Ericson at
The Zone

Additional Percussion Arrangements

Jean-Christophe Leroy

Additional Musical Score Transcriptions

Jeremy Coates

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Horn, Percussion, Vocals, Keyboards

Ravi Poliah

Bass, Percussion

Jeremy Coates

Drums, Percussion

John Pain

Percussion

Jean-Christophe Leroy

Keyboards, Percussion

Kristian Alexandrov

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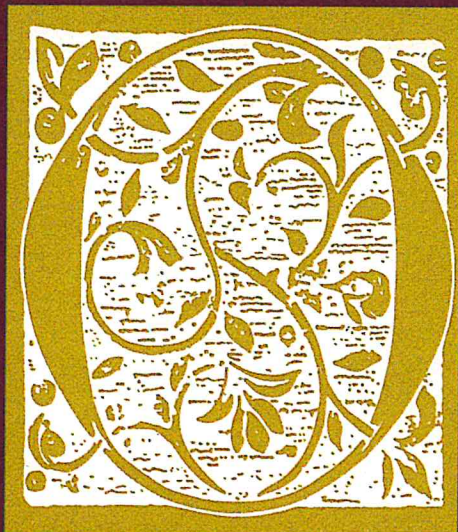
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History

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 had four dancers and an Artistic Director intent on sharing their vision of jazz with others. Now in its thirteenth year, DJD has carved a niche for itself in the heart of Canada's dance audience. DJD is

Canada's only professional dance company with jazz music and dance as its raison d'être.



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



rhythmically, as well as playful, competitive, soulful and a direct reflection of jazz music.

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

Whenever possible DJD incorporates live music into its performances and

classes, and has featured and performed with jazz music notables such as Mark Murphy, Big Miller, Tommy Banks, P.J. Perry and Diane Miller as well as with tap notables Buster Brown and Heather Cornell. The company's trademark respect for and connection to the music has lead many to describe DJD performances as "music for the eyes".

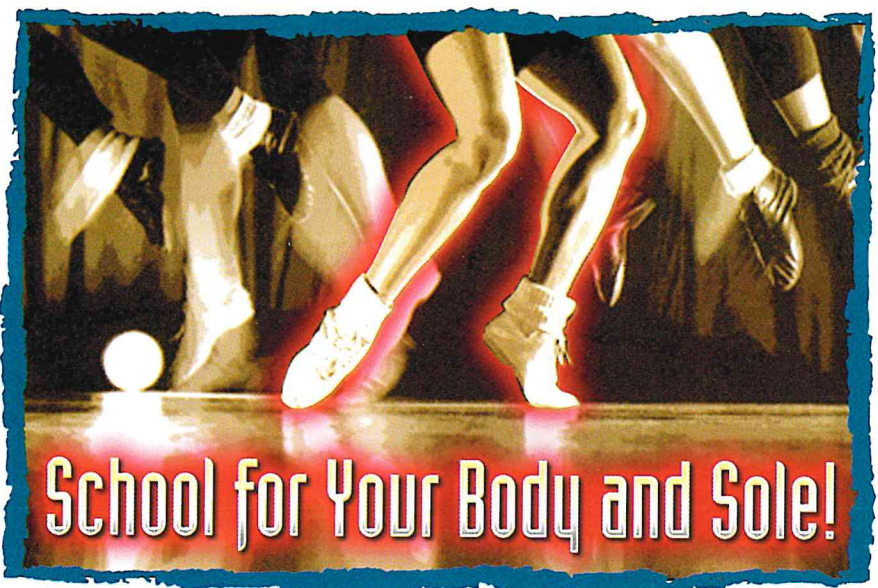


The
Calgary-based
company has toured

throughout Alberta, Saskatchewan, British Columbia and the Maritimes, as well as to Ottawa, Yellowknife, the Montreal Jazz Festival, Chicago and Japan.

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





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For further information contact

Vicki Adams Willis

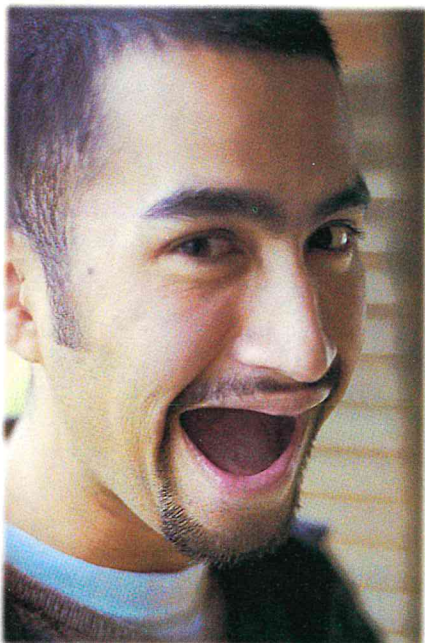
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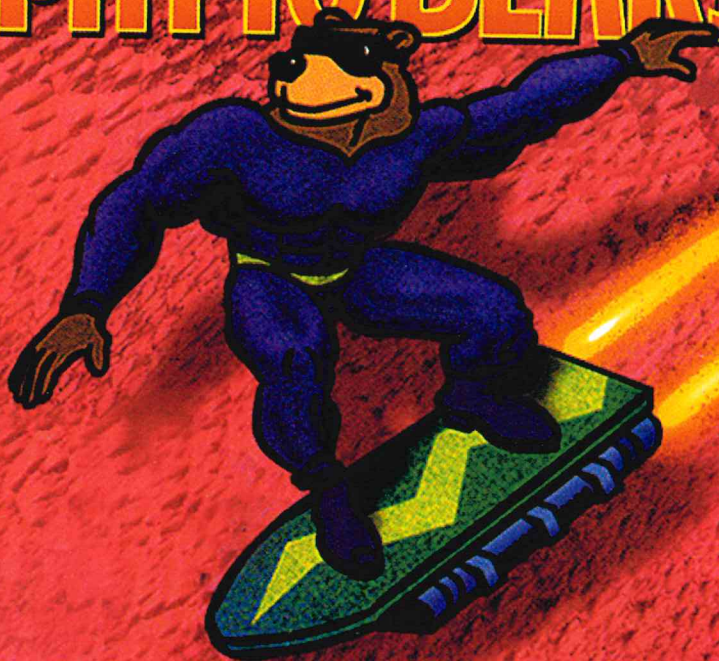
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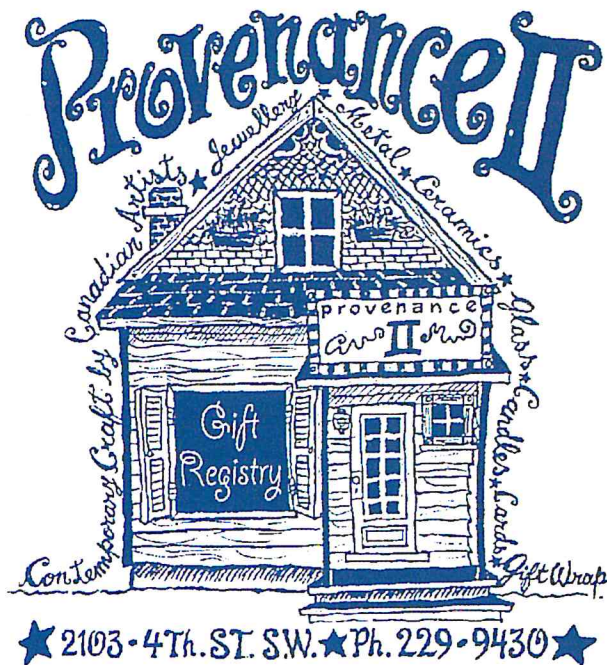
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Decidedly Jazz Danceworks would also like to thank all those who supported DJD by attending the 13th Annual Black & White Big Band Benefit Ball November 9, 1996. The 14th Annual Black & White Big Band Benefit Ball will take place October 4, 1997.

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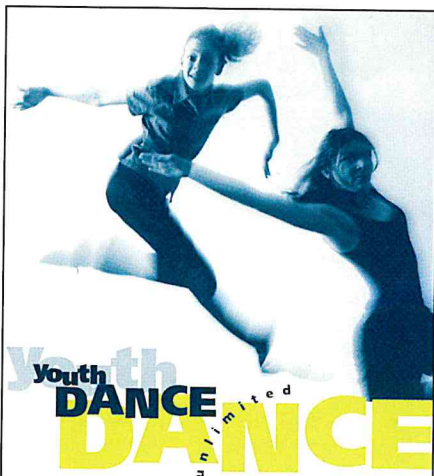
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Elsie Couchman	Jeff Godin	Trish Lewchuk	Peter Moffat	Phil Taylor	<i>to have a complete</i>
Lauchlan Currie	Jocelyn Grant	Carole Lewis	Nicole Nielson	Randolph Trafford	<i>listing, PLEASE</i>
Liz Derrick	Sharon Hamilton	Jon Lord	Mark Pedersen	Susan Trafford	<i>contact us if we</i>
Jennifer Dimitroff	Brian Hansen	Deborah Lowe	Lynne Pennington	Elizabeth Van Der Wee	<i>have inadvertently</i>
Dawn Doane	Sally Healy	Rob Mabey	Carrie Petrie	Elisa Vogel	<i>missed your name,</i>
Dawn Dort	Adam Heckbert	Dave Macaulay	David Poulton	Susan Waldie	<i>and accept our</i>
Iain Dunbar	Marianne Heine	Brenda MacPherson	Joanne Reimer	Michael Wallis	<i>sincere apologies.</i>
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