

DECIDEDLY JAZZ
DANCEWORKS

PRESENTS

root 7

CREATED AND CHOREOGRAPHED
BY THE DJD DANCERS

NOVEMBER 28 - DECEMBER 3, 2006 AT THE GRAND

generously supported by:



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At DJD we are committed to identifying and nurturing choreographic talent from within the company. Why? Well, quite frankly, there just aren't enough jazz choreographers out there in the world who truly understand the roots and essence of the form, and very few jazz choreographers who actually use jazz music as their primary source of inspiration. It's a peculiar situation, we realize, but sadly, jazz dance has been generally disconnected from jazz music for decades.

Our yearning for a long overdue reconnection was one of the principal reasons for the creation of DJD in 1984, and throughout the years we have developed an aesthetic that has evolved out of our ongoing mission to reclaim the historical spirit and integrity of jazz. One of our biggest challenges has always been finding choreographers whose work aligns with that aesthetic.

Because these individuals are difficult to find, we make every effort to program a dancer-choreographed show biannually as an investment in the choreographic future of the company.

Act I of *root 7* is a series of short movement studies and dances (some as short as 1.5 minutes!) that have been created by the company dancers. This choreographic venture for our dancers, some of whom have never choreographed before, not only harvests new skills for them but also offers a precious glimpse into their creative psyches and yields an eclectic mélange of ideas and experiences for our audience. Act II is completely in the hands of long time DJD dancer, Sarisa Figueroa who has created a longer work inspired by her sweet encounter with a captivating old gentleman in Havana. In addition, she has bravely taken on the position of Artistic Director of the project as well as embracing her new post as Artistic Assistant of the company.

We would like to thank our volunteers, board members, donors and staff, as well as Calgary Arts Development, the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, and the Canada Council for the Arts whose support is vital to DJD's well being and continued growth. In addition, much gratitude to our 06/07 season sponsor and long time supporter Suncor Energy.

And finally, thanks to you, the audience, for being integral to the choreographic process by giving the dancers an opportunity to test-drive their work in a theatre environment. Your support and feedback are invaluable.

Here's to the future!

Vicki Adams Willis
Artistic Director

Kathi Sundstrom
General Manager



MESSAGE FROM ROOT 7'S ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Sarisa Figueroa

I find this world of jazz music and dance to be like a road of information and discovery that endlessly and simultaneously winds back to its past and ahead to its future with many forks and u-turns along the way.

Despite a desire to gather as much information as possible, it is inconceivable to venture down all these side roads. I hope that many new discoveries will find a place in my brain alongside old ones rather than seeping out the perpetual brain-leak (that's why I like being a dancer, the body seems to remember better than the brain does). I have also noticed during my time on this "jazz road" that the study of jazz is very much about the study of human nature and that often what you end up learning the most about is... yourself. It is fascinating, sometimes unnerving, but always rewarding to travel this road and I thank my lucky stars for getting to take a few steps on it everyday.

When asked to be the Artistic Director of *root 7*, all I knew for sure was that I wanted the show to be a chance for each of us to embrace the opportunity to move further along the jazz road. I wanted each of us to really listen to jazz, to find a piece of jazz music that moved us and blast off from there. We are lucky to be given this opportunity and I wanted to make sure we honoured the reason that the dancer-choreographed shows exist in the first place: to tackle the problem of trying to find jazz choreographers in the world by fostering the choreographic skills of our own dancers. Act I will give you a chance to see what our dancers have discovered about jazz during the rehearsal period. It is a showcase of six different dancers' "blast-offs" to music that moved and inspired them.

Act II emerged from a magical night in Havana when I saw a well-dressed elderly man waiting beneath a streetlight (for what seemed like hours) for a band to start playing. When the band did start playing this gentleman came to life. Youth entered his bones and he slowly stood up and started dancing the tenderest *Son* dance in the most bittersweet state of nostalgia. This moment completely captured me and I found myself paralyzed mid-step watching this very beautiful and poignant moment in time. It got me wondering what he was reminiscing about while waiting for the band, with whom he imagined himself dancing, what were the life stories he could tell, what did he think of the other people that passed him by on the street and thus, my piece in Act II.

So the "jazz road," the man in Havana, route being another word for road, music rooted in jazz, seven of us being involved... well out of that all *root 7* was born. This has been an experience for which I am forever grateful. I would like to thank DJD for producing *root 7*, for having confidence in my abilities as an Artistic Director, Vicki for her expertise and guidance, the dancers for giving it their all, the choreographers for bravely taking a chance, Kim, Mami and Papi for all their support, Catherine Hayward for being a fantastic volunteer stand-in and especially to Rubim for his constant support in this project. My hat goes off to all of you.

Thanks for coming. Enjoy.

Sarisa Figueroa



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Sarisa Figueroa
Ahmed Fernandez Hodelin
Saxon Fraser
Ivan Nuñez Segui
Malika Srivastava
Kaleb Tekeste
Deanne Walsh

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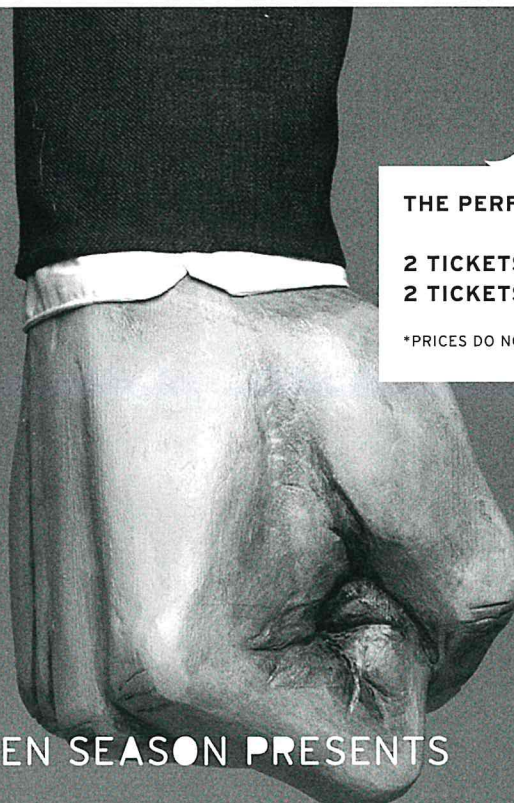


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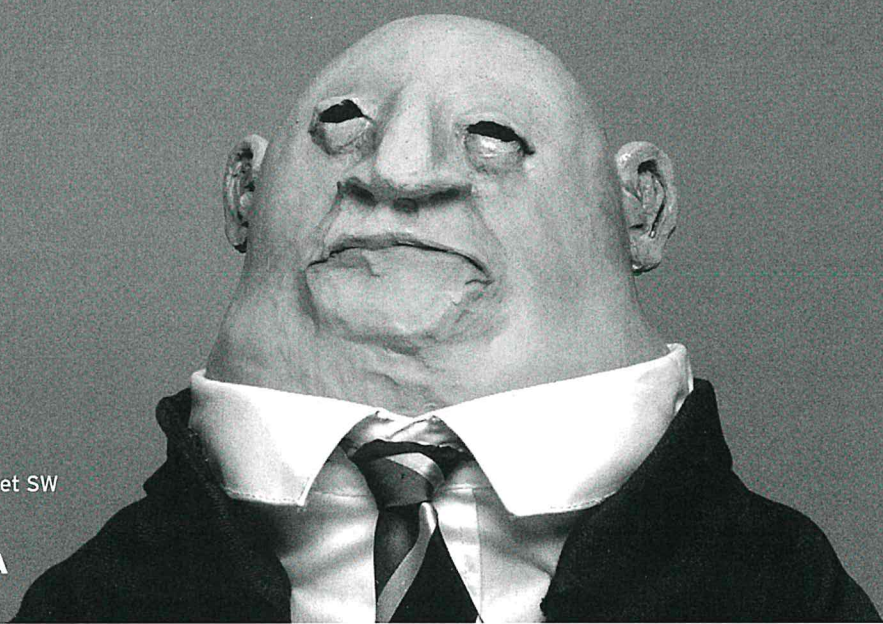
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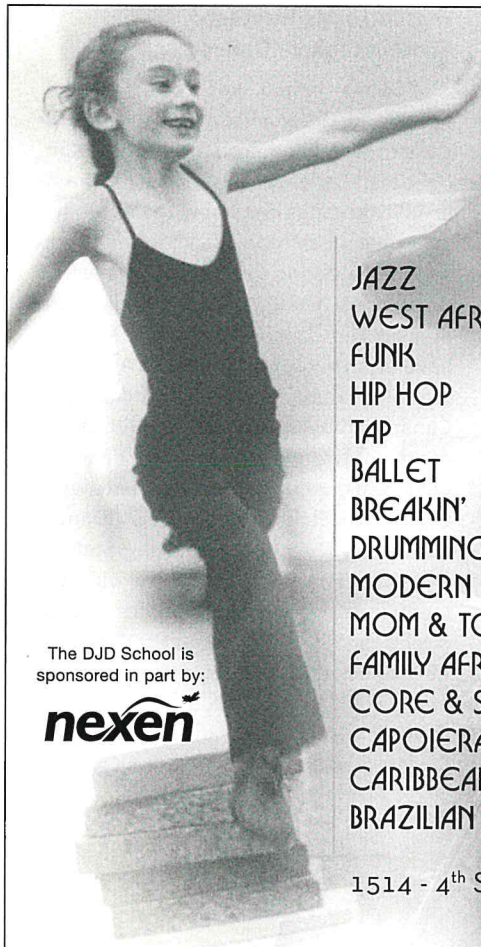
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BIOGRAPHIES



Vicki Adams Willis DJD Co-Founder & Artistic Director

Vicki carries on a family tradition that began when her mother, Alice (Murdoch) Adams opened one of the first dance schools in Calgary in the 1920s. Vicki's passion for dance and jazz has taken her literally all over the globe. Besides teaching and choreographing for countless organizations, including the renowned School at Jacob's Pillow, Vicki founded the Jazz Division in the Faculty of Fine Arts' Program of Dance at the University of Calgary in 1978, and co-founded DJD in 1984 where she enthusiastically continues in her role as Artistic Director. She has received U of C's Superior Teacher Award, Global Television's Women of Vision Award, The City of Calgary's Community Achievement Award for the Arts, and an Alberta Centennial Medal. She has also had a U of C Fine Arts Entrance Award named in her honour, and was recently chosen as one of the University of Calgary's Top 40 Alumni.

Brennan 'RAZ' Berry Lighting Designer

After graduating from the Red Deer College Theatre Studies program, Brennan spent a year and a half as a Work-Study at The Banff Centre. Since moving to Calgary eight years ago Brennan has worked as an Alternate Lighting Technician at Alberta Theatre Projects and the Jack Singer Concert Hall. Brennan is currently enjoying his fourth year as House Lighting Technician at the Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium. Although Brennan normally serves DJD as Head Lighting Technician

(*Velvet, iBULLA!*, *Pulse*, in *Charcoal & Crimson*) he is happy to be stretching his legs as Lighting Designer for *root 7*. Brennan would also like to thank DJD for introducing him to Nicole, the current love of his life.

Heather Crossan Stage Manager

Heather began stage managing back home, in Newfoundland, over 10 years ago. She had the pleasure of working on countless productions and tours on the Island as well as across the country. Most notably was the Canadian tour of *Underwraps: A Spoke Opera* that first brought her to Calgary. A few years later, after graduating from the National Theatre School of Canada, she decided to make Calgary her home. In her spare time Heather is Assistant Production Manager for Decidedly Jazz Danceworks and can usually be found with Chris. Heather is thrilled to be stage managing for DJD again after working on last year's *Pulse* and is looking forward to heading out on the road again this spring.

Rubim de Toledo Audio Engineer / Composer

Rubim is proud to be working with Decidedly Jazz Danceworks again. Rubim was the Bassist for DJD's *iBULLA!*, and Musical Director for *in Charcoal & Crimson*. As an Audio Engineer Rubim has recorded and produced work for Bomba, reClaim, Chris Andrew, Jim Brennan, Victoria School for the Arts and CKUA radio. He is best known as bassist with Latin group Bomba and as founder of the Improv collective reClaim.

Ahmed Fernandez Hodelin Dancer

Ahmed spent seven years studying dance and percussion at the Nacional School of Arts (Cubanacan) in Havana. After graduation he joined Conjunta Folklorico Nacional de Cuba where he spent nine years touring to countries such as Spain, France, Mexico, Japan and the USA, dancing, performing and teaching workshops. In 1999 he was invited to Canada by DJD through a cultural exchange contract and was soon offered a position with the company. This is Ahmed's seventh season dancing with DJD. He can also be found teaching Cuban dance in various locations around Calgary.

Sarisa Figueroa *root 7* Artistic Director / Choreographer / Dancer

Sarisa began her formal dance training in classical ballet at the age of seven, graduated from the Edmonton School of Ballet's Professional Program in 1993, and has danced with Decidedly Jazz ever since (apart from a year-long sabbatical during the 2003-2004 season to pursue independent interests in theatre and dance). Her dance studies have taken her to New York, Los Angeles, Montana, Cuba, and Spain and across Canada studying jazz dance and many of its root forms. Apart from dancing with DJD, she has performed with One Yellow Rabbit, Springboard Dance Collective, Theatre of the Living Statue, Sage Theatre as well as for various independent choreographers and directors. She was Artistic Director for DJD's dancer-choreographed evening *Larimer St.* in 2005. She also choreographs, acts and teaches in Calgary and throughout Western Canada.



Saxon Fraser Dancer

Since the age of four, Saxon has been studying everything from Ballet to Tap to Latin Ballroom and Contemporary Dance, eventually earning her B.A. in Dance Kinesiology from the University of Calgary in 2006. She has been teaching in and around Calgary for the past eight years and choreographing for productions such as Dance Montage, Alberta Dance Explosions, and DJD's Pre-Professional show, *Footprints*. Her background in musical theatre lead her into the film industry where she has appeared in music videos, television, and feature films including her leading role in *Live Dreams*. In 2005 she started the all female hip hop group, Malfunktion, that has been featured in *Slamberry Jam*, *Through the Looking Glass* and *Urban Dance Encounters*. Her interest in hip hop culture has brought her together with funk pros, the Electric Boogaloos from California, House Legend, Caleaf, and many other teachers from around the globe. She has had the opportunity to work with amazing local talent in shows such as *Fairytales of Funk*, *iDub* for the High Performance Rodeo, and *The Girl I Always Wanted to Be* with En Corps dance Collective. This is Saxon's first season with DJD.

Linda Leon Costume Designer

Linda is delighted at the opportunity to work this wonderful dance program. This is her second visit to Decidedly Jazz Danceworks having designed costumes for *Larimer St.* Recent design credits include the set for *The Bundle* at Red Deer College, *I'll Be Back Before Midnight* for Vertigo Theatre and *Silverwing* for Manitoba Theatre for Young People. She has designed several projects for the Banff Festival of the Arts such as *The Odyssey*, *The Hobbit* and *Miinigooweziwin*. Linda Leon is a member of Associated Designers of Canada.

Ivan Nuñez Segui Dancer

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

Malika Srivastava Dancer

At the age of 13, Malika discovered jazz music and dance at the School of Decidedly Jazz. In 2001 she traveled to Toronto where she studied contemporary dance at York University, but her love for jazz dance brought her back to Calgary where she studied at the U of C Dance Program and the School of Decidedly Jazz in the Pre-Professional Program. During this time Malika immersed herself in the Calgary dance community working with various choreographers and performing in Alberta Dance Explosions, Dance Montage, eko dance projects and the U of C's Mainstage. Apart from studying in Calgary, Malika's love for jazz has taken her to Cuba, New Orleans and most recently to Brazil. This is her second season with DJD.

Kaleb Tekeste Dancer

Kaleb is a local dancer, choreographer and teacher. He began dancing when he was 10 years old and at the age of 16 was introduced to street styles of dance which inspired him to take dancing more seriously. He joined the dance program at

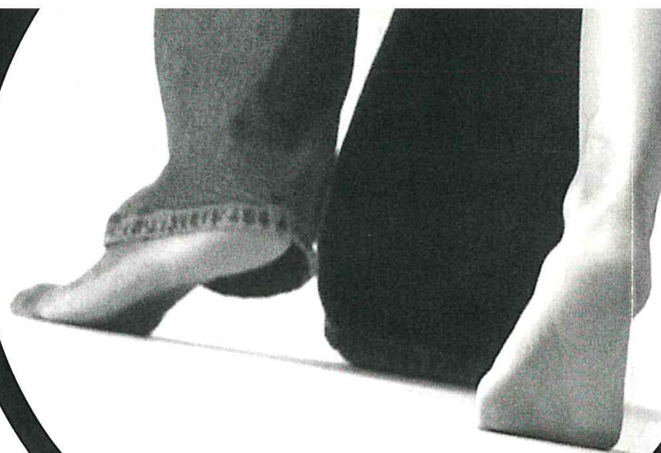
his high school, Crescent Heights, and upon graduation continued dancing and teaching Hip Hop at various studios in and around Calgary, including at the School of Decidedly Jazz. He has choreographed for shows such as Calgary Cares, Dance Montage, and Alberta Dance Explosions. In 2004, Kaleb joined the Pre-Professional Program at DJD and was brought on as understudy for last season's *in Charcoal & Crimson*. As destiny would have it, he found himself jumping into a role a few days before opening thus marking his debut with DJD.

Deanne Walsh Dancer

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



actone



1 • Smooth Sailing

Music: Ella Fitzgerald

Choreographed by: Sarisa

Performed by: the Company

2 • Route #1

Music: Maceo Parker

Structured by: Ivan

Improvised by: Malika

3 • On Board

Music: Rubim de Toledo

Choreographed by: Sarisa

Performed by: Ahmed, Sarisa & Saxon

4 • Route #2

Music: Calexico

Structured by: Deanne

Improvised by: Ivan

5 • Shout! (like you mean it)

Music: Ray Brown Trio

Choreographed by: Malika

Performed by: Ivan, Kaleb, Ahmed, Saxon, Deanne and Malika

For Kenny and Ray-Ray with lots of love.

6 • Route #3

Music: Koop

Choreographed & performed by: Kaleb

7 • Route #4

Music: James Brown

Structured by: the Company

Improvised by: Sarisa

8 • Paraíso

Music: Madeleine Peyroux, Cinematic Orchestra

Choreographed by: Saxon

Performed by: Deanne, Saxon, Ahmed, Kaleb, Malika and Ivan

Thank you Shavey for your constant support and encouragement.

9 • Route #5

Music: James Brown

Structured by: the Company

Improvised by: Sarisa

10 • Travellin' Shoes

Music: Ruthie Foster

Choreographed & performed by: Deanne

Special thanks to Christie Preston for introducing me to this song and for so much more.

11 • Yama Yama Blues

Music: Billy Holiday, Clarence Williams, The Dirty Dozen Brass Band

Choreographed by: Deanne

Performed by: Kaleb, Saxon, Malika, Ahmed and Ivan



intermission

acttwo

1 • Reminiscing... while waiting...

Music:

Charles Mingus, M. Iannaccone, H.L. Newbery, dj Spooky, Shirley Horn, Rubim de Toledo and Arsenio Rodríguez Scull

Audio Engineering:

Rubim de Toledo

Choreographed by:

Sarisa

Performed by:

Ahmed, Deanne, Malika, Saxon, Ivan and Kaleb

*For that sweet, little man in Havana,
hopefully he's still dancing under that streetlight...
and for all those captivated in the state of nostalgia...*



Artists:

Artistic Director:

Sarisa Figueroa

Choreographers:

Sarisa Figueroa, Saxon Fraser, Malika Srivastava, Kaleb Tekeste and Deanne Walsh

Dancers:

Ahmed F. Hodelin, Sarisa Figueroa, Saxon Fraser, Ivan Nuñez Segui, Malika Srivastava, Kaleb Tekeste and Deanne Walsh

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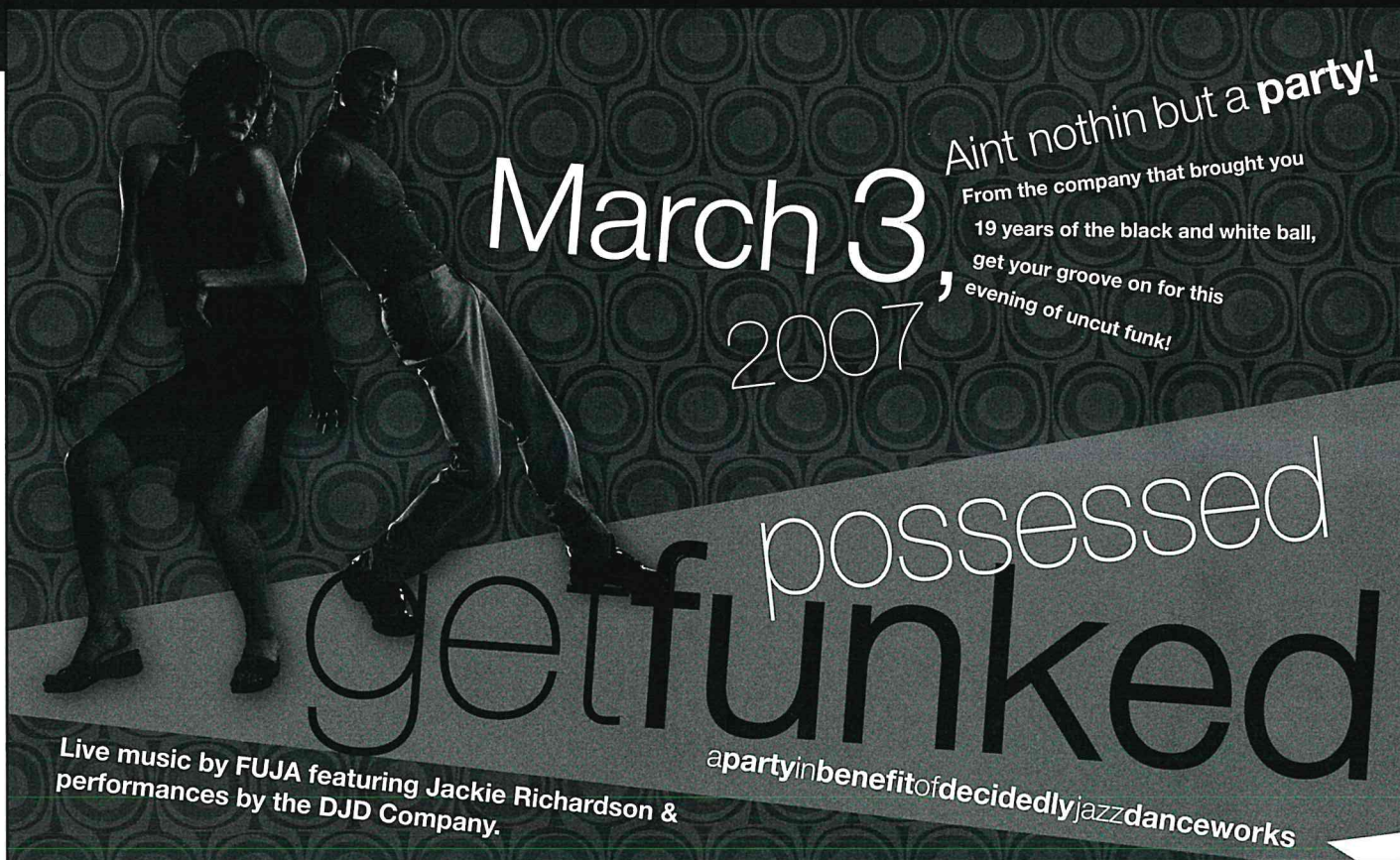
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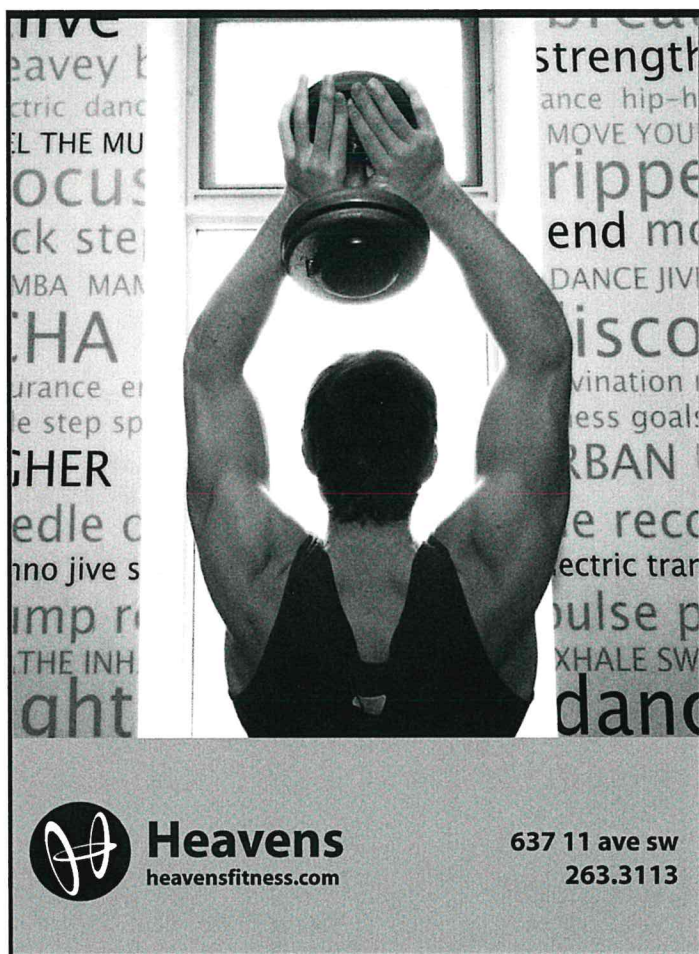


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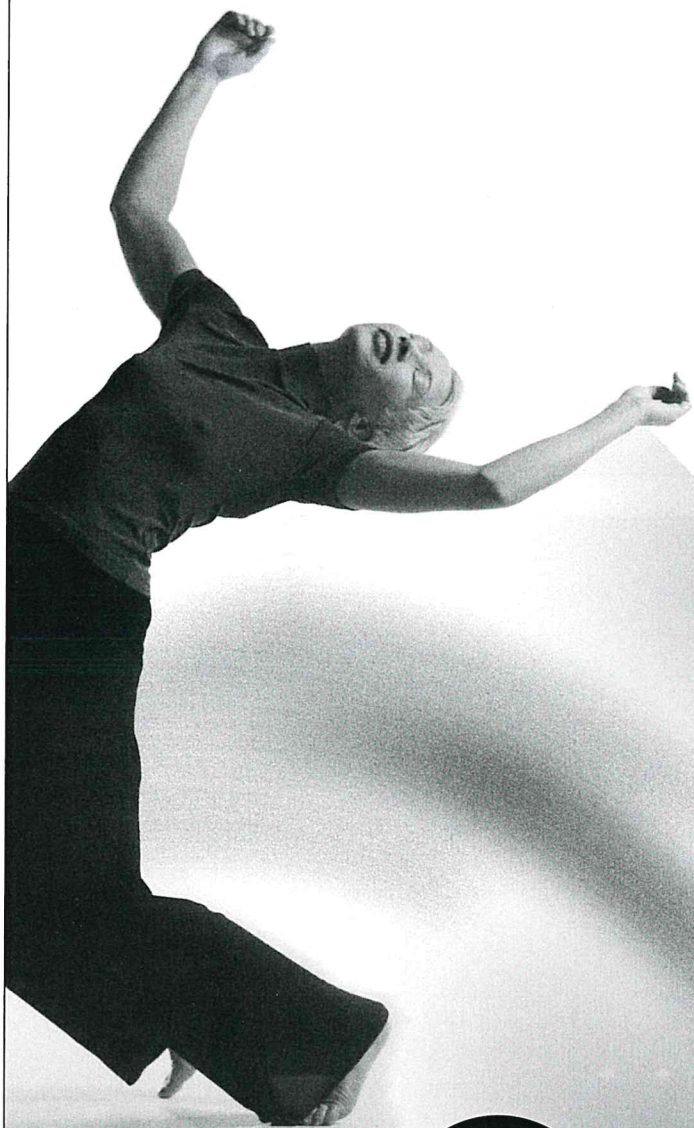
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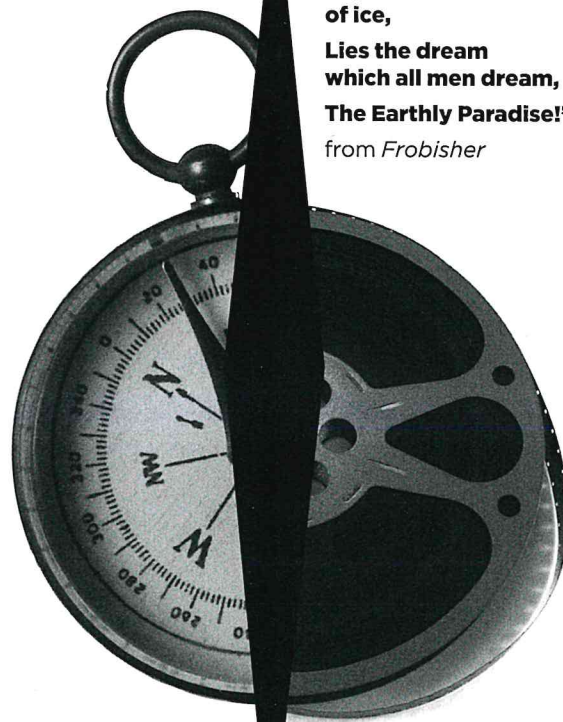
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#1 Rhythm Club

The first of many jazz appreciation societies founded in 1933

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

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Burns Memorial Fund
Jim & Patricia Davidson
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Blue Notes

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

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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)

3 Anonymous
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Athena Resources Ltd
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Barry Styles
Heather Campbell
Dr. Martha Cohen
Jan Damery
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Julie Watkins
Tamar Zenith/ Newzones
Gallery of Contemporary
Art

Lindy Hoppers

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

3 Anonymous
Pam Bayne
Susan Bennett
Diane Blackstone Krasnow
Nancy Close
Virginia Dobson *
Judith Dworkin
Catherine Ford &
Ted Busheikin
Brenda Mackie
Brian Mahoney
Shep Sector &
Marina Paperny
Gordon Tait
Susan Tyrrell & Brian Mills
Candy Watson *

Feetwarmers

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

5 Anonymous
Sandra L. Adams &
Leonard L. Frantz
Larry Adorjan
Joanne Baker*
Barbara Beaton
Beverly Berkhold
Tema Blackstone &
Hung-Kuan Chen
Stephen Brink
Ray & Jeannine Crossley
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Jeanette Everett
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Barry Potvin
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Anne Stone Johnson
Keltie Stowkowy
Valerie Strike
Shirley Watson
Kelly Whelan
J. Wood & Q. Pittman
Terry & Alice Wood

Rhythm Section

The musicians who provide the rhythmic foundation of a jazz ensemble

12 Anonymous
Maureen Armitage
Susan Armstrong
Catharine Clayton
Brett Code
Nancy Colburne
Gloria Dalton
Kathy Davies *
Nancy & Raani Desai
Anne-Marie & Bill Duma
Nick Finn
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A Round of Applause

Countless thanks to the following supporters who contributed items and services in-kind to DJD and to our special events – *in Charcoal & Crimson* Gala Silent Auction (June 7, 2006) and *possessed: Havana's La Tropicana* party (March 4, 2006). Special thanks also to the consulting professionals listed on page 10 who generously donate their time and talents to DJD. We encourage you to support those who support us.

#1 Rhythm Club

The first of many jazz appreciation societies founded in 1933

Calgary Herald
Canadian Rocky Mountain Resorts
Evoco
Heavens Fitness
Hotel Arts
Marqui Inc.
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The Banff Centre
Topline Printing

Big Easies

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

Blue Notes

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

Christie Lites
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Sharon Karst
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Lifeform Furniture
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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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Charlton Hobbs
Anthony Cooney
Freewheeling Adventures
Margot Gyorgy
Havana House
Kensington Floors
Carpet One
Loreto Bay Co.
Maxxium Canada
Poets Cove Resort and Spa
SMED Group
Sound Arts Design
The French Connection
Fine Antiques
Tribune Restaurant
Willow Studio

Lindy Hoppers

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

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Jarvis Hall Fine Frames
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Kensington Riverside Inn
Le Chapeau Rouge
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Mud River Photography
Pacey's
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Paul Kuhn Gallery
PMA
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Southcentre
Teatro
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Feetwarmers

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

Acupuncture and Health Group
AE3
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Rhythm Section

The musicians who provide the rhythmic foundation of a jazz ensemble

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To the best of our knowledge, this list reflects donations received from August 1, 2005 – November 1, 2006. Please call 228-8183 to advise us of any changes or omissions so we may correct our records. Thank you again!



Jazz Roots Club Donors

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Cake Walkers (\$500-999)

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Vicki Adams Willis
Athena Resources
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Heather Campbell
Dr. Martha Cohen
Jan Damery
Dynamic Drilling Fluids International Ltd.
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The Jazz Roots Club connects jazz enthusiasts in supporting the vibrant spirit and artistic excellence of Decidedly Jazz Danceworks.

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



From left - Board Director Kelly Thompson, Geri Moon, Vicki Adams Willis, Cheryl Cohen and Naida Feldman



From left - Development Manager Larissa Groch with Anne Hawthorne-McPherson



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From left - Andrea Brussa, Holly Hoover, Vicki Adams Willis and Sharon Richardson

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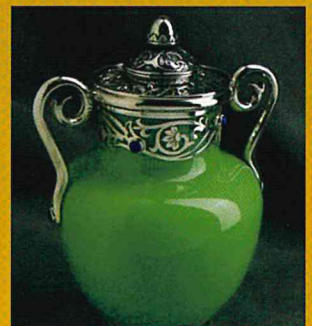
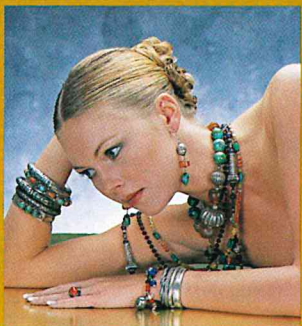
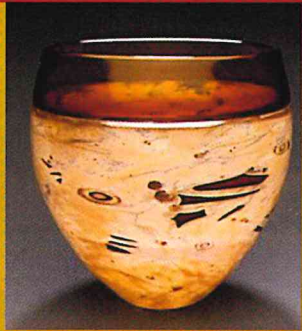
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