

25 YEARS
DECIDEDLY JAZZ
DANCEWORKS
PRESENTS

twentyfive



June 3 - 14, 2009

Max Bell Theatre, EPCOR CENTRE for the Performing Arts

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They don't teach dance like this in school. But Decidedly Jazz Danceworks does. With support from Enbridge, DJD brings the history and the joy of jazz dance to thousands of Calgary elementary students. On stage is the Jazz Crew – fledgling dancers from DJD's Professional Training Program. For them, the shows are a chance to hone dancing, choreographic and performance skills. Their work is a step toward a career in dance. It's also an inspiration. Because when all that jazz hits all those kids, imaginations will be stirred, and feet are bound to sprout wings. Support for culture and community is part of Enbridge's commitment to building sustainable communities. For more information, please visit enbridge.com.



Our first **60** years

MESSAGE FROM DJD'S ARTISTIC DIRECTOR VICKI ADAMS WILLIS

TWENTYFIVE

Quite often this year I have found myself wondering, "How did it happen? How in the world did we make it this far? And, my goodness, how did we manage to survive 25 years filled with a plethora of sometimes unimaginable challenges?"

But then I think of the multitude of remarkably talented, dedicated, and enthusiastic people who have been vital and dynamic participants in the DJD journey - the angels who sweated their way through the daily stuff, the angels who landed on our shoulders in the nick of time, and the angels who enduringly protected us from afar.

twentyfive is a tribute to some of those angels, as well as events, dance pieces, projects and circumstances that have not only led us to this point but have indeed made us who we are today at DJD.

The fact is, it has taken thousands of people to get us to this place. From our immensely talented creators and artists to our stellar staffs and crews, from our fiercely dedicated boards and volunteers to our oh-so-generous individual, corporate and government supporters, and from our enthusiastic students and loyal audience members, to the obliging media folk and Canadian dance presenters, DJD has been a colossal group effort, and the gratitude that I feel for that effort is incalculable.

twentyfive has been a rather massive and daunting project and it too has taken a team effort to realize. My heartfelt thanks go to that amazing team, in particular to Sarisa whose rehearsal director duties included learning and teaching a ridiculous amount of choreography, and the dancers who were charged with picking up that ridiculous amount of choreography in rather short order, to Graham and Tyrell for dealing with the unique technical challenges of *twentyfive*, to Joanne who did an amazing job of unearthing some well hidden archival material, to Kim whose clear eye and choreographic generosity were, as always, inspiring and invaluable, and to Kathi who once again brilliantly provided the artists of DJD with the means to carry on.



Frankie Manning
(1914 - 2009)

I would like to dedicate *twentyfive* to the memory of those who are no longer with us - angels whose contributions to the DJD journey will forever be remembered. They are - Alberta music icon, Clarence "Big" Miller whose lessons were profound, legendary hooper Buster Brown who well into his 80's could out tap us all, choreographer Leni Williams, drummer John Pain, trumpeter Bob Day, and wardrobe goddess, Tracey "Trak" Hooper who all left us long, long before they should have, DJD board president and love of my life, Garry "double the budget" Willis who saw the future of DJD when the rest of us were steadfastly planting the seeds, my mother, Alberta dance pioneer Alice Murdoch Adams who in quietly going about doing what needed to be done, inadvertently sowed the seeds for our current vibrant Calgary dance scene, and last but not least, the most recent to pass in April, just short of his 95th birthday, Lindy Hop legend, Frankie Manning.

In 1998 Frankie spent a week in our studios working with our company and the place absolutely vibrated with his glowing spirit. We will all remember the day when the octogenarian, explaining to the men in our company how to do a certain Lindy lift, swept Sarisa off her feet and deftly propelled her through the air. He and his dance partner were responsible for adding all of those crazy lifts and tosses to the Lindy Hop back in the 1930s, so when you watch DJD perform the Lindy tonight, do think of Frankie - and smile. His sweet, warm, sparkly-eyed smile was certainly one of the best one could ever experience.

Vicki Adams Willis
Artistic Director



The Original Company

Left to right: Sean Cheesman, trusty mascot Papillon, Hannah Stilwell, Vicki Adams Willis, Jill Currie, and Michèle Moss



ABOUT DECIDEDLY JAZZ DANCEWORKS

The beginning was a dream shared by Vicki Adams Willis (then founding head of the Jazz Division in the Program of Dance at the University of Calgary) and two of her graduating students, Michèle Moss and Hannah Stilwell.

In 1984 they created Decidedly Jazz Danceworks with the goal of preserving and promoting the rich history and spirit of jazz. The original company consisted of four dancers and an artistic director intent on sharing their vision of jazz with others. Now celebrating its 25th year, DJD has carved a niche for itself in the heart of Canada's dance audience. DJD is one of the few professional dance companies worldwide 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 influence of virtually all dance genres. In its purist 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 company's founding and current artists. As progressive historians, they 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.

Historically, much of the integrity of jazz dance has depended on the interaction between dancer and musician, and in order to honour this tradition the company works primarily with live music. DJD has performed with numerous music notables including Big Miller, Mark Murphy, Tommy Banks, P.J. Perry, Jackie Richardson, Tim Williams, Diane Miller, George Koller, Julie Michels, Kristian Alexandrov, iBombal and The Edje, as well as with tap notables Buster Brown, Josh Hilberman 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 extensively throughout Canada as well as to Chicago, Japan, the Turks and Caicos Islands and Cuba.

In addition to performing and touring, DJD's mandate includes a strong education component. To this end, the company offers educational performances as well as residencies, workshops and master classes for all ages and levels. The School of Decidedly Jazz, which programs both recreational and professional training, has an annual enrollment of 2400 students between the ages of 2 and 82.

For more information visit www.decidedlyjazz.com



MESSAGE FROM DJD'S GENERAL MANAGER

KATHI SUNDSTROM

Welcome to *twentyfive*, a celebration of this amazing company's quarter century of inspiration, creativity, energy, and growth! My association with DJD goes way back and actually pre-dates the company - if I can stretch the word "association" to include my long-time friendship with one of the co-founders, Hannah Stilwell. Hannah and I got into our share of... let's call it "mischief" when we attended high school together. But that's another story...

When DJD was founded in 1984, I was right there in the inaugural audience, and I've been a loyal audience member since, having attended, and been inspired by, every production.

A few years after the company was founded, another role was added to my association with DJD when a boy I thought was kinda cute asked me to work a Bingo. I did, and it was only a matter of time before I was more than a loyal audience member, more than a volunteer Bingo team member - I became a member of the Board in 1989. Following a quick initiation, I became a member of the executive and then, for the 92-93 season, President of the Board. In 1993 I joined the staff as General Manager and have had the privilege of holding that position ever since.

What I would like to celebrate with you tonight is the astounding growth DJD has undergone in the past 15 years. When I became General Manager in 1993 the operating budget was \$773,615 with an accumulated debt of (\$9,988). Fundraising back then brought in approximately \$115,748 and The School of Decidedly Jazz generated \$90,778. Fast forward to today and those numbers are significantly different. DJD now has an annual operating budget of almost \$2.6 million with an accumulated surplus of \$682,455 and an endowment fund of approximately \$150,000 at The Calgary Foundation.

Fundraising contributed more than \$854,000 to our bottom line last year, and the School generated more than \$600,000 in revenue.

What started as a dream has grown into a thriving professional arts organization with deep local roots as well as wide national acclaim thanks to our many tours including two recent national tours and another planned for next season. The biggest reason for our success has been the hundreds of people who have contributed their time, talent, creativity, laughter, tears, toil, applause, and dollars to this company over the years. Whether you are one of the many hundreds of donors or volunteers; one of many thousands of audience members or dance school students; whether your role has been as artist, technician, staff member, teacher, consultant, or funder your contribution has made a difference and we count you among our friends.

Tonight we thank you for your service, support and patronage. We thank you for being such a loyal audience and for attending our shows again and again. We look forward to celebrating with you tonight and seeing more of you over the next 25 years. And if we ever ask you to volunteer for Bingo, watch out - you never know what might happen next!

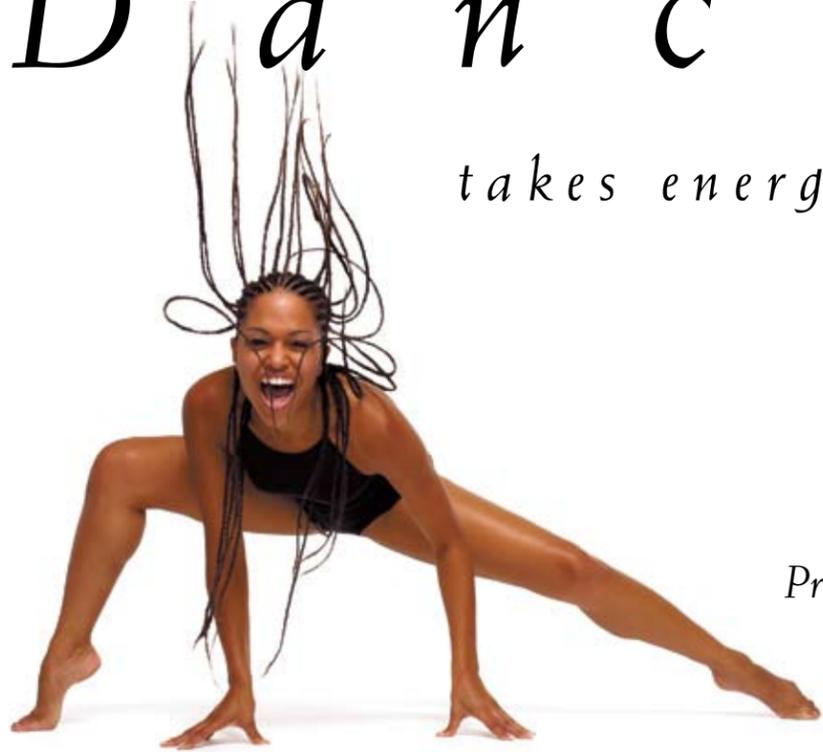
Sincerely,

Kathi Sundstrom
General Manager



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BIOGRAPHIES

Vicki Adams Willis

DJD Co-Founder and 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, she founded the Jazz Division in the Faculty of Fine Arts' Program of Dance at the University of Calgary in 1978, and co-founded Decidedly Jazz Danceworks 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, has been recognized by U of C's Women's Resource Centre, and was named one of the University of Calgary's Top 40 Alumni.

Kristian Alexandrov

Music Director/Composer/Keyboards/ Percussion

Winner of the 2008 Canadian Smooth Jazz Award for Best Pianist, Kristian grew up in a family of musicians in Sofia Bulgaria. At six years of age, Kristian was accepted into the prestigious L. Pipkov School of Music where he completed 12 years of intense training as a pianist and percussionist. Since moving to Canada in 1995, Kristian has firmly entrenched himself in the Canadian music scene, as a composer, performer, producer, clinician and studio musician. One of the highlights is his 11-year musical involvement with DJD as composer and musical director. Onstage Kristian has worked alongside some tremendous artists, including Randy Brecker, Eric Marienthal, Alain Caron, Bob Mintzer, Jens Lindemann, George Koller, Joshua Hilberman, Tommy Banks, Tap Tel Aviv, Shannon Gaye and Jackie Richardson. In June 2008, Kristian was invited to the International Trumpet Guild (ITG) 33rd Annual Conference, hosted by Jens Lindemann at The Banff Centre, as the pianist in the jazz trio accompanying the featured artists. While there Kristian had the incredible opportunity to share the stage with Wycliffe Gordon and Sean Jones (Lincoln Jazz Orchestra), Adam Rapa, Mike Murley, Guido

Basso, G.G. Shinn, Ramon Vasquez, Lorenzo Trujillo, Benoit Glazer, and Andrea Tofanelli. Having recently relocated to Vancouver, Kristian's latest CD project is *Akoustika*, a firm nod to his jazz roots.

Cory Bowles

Poet

Originally from Truro, NS, Cory is the principle choreographer and director of the companies Verve Mwendo and Transfiction, where he has created over 40 works for the stage and film. With a strong passion for the storytelling traditions of his cultural background, he travels from coast to coast, and to the Caribbean, Brazil and Africa to study afro-roots. He is a sought-after teacher and instructor throughout Canada and is currently mentor for young directors with Viewfinders International Festival for Youth. He has received a Gemini for his role of "Cory" in the hit television series *Trailer Park Boys*, provides the voice for the animated series *Poko*, and wrote and directed the award winning short film *The Scavengers* which has enjoyed screenings worldwide. In 1999, Cory became a scholarship student at Decidedly Jazz Danceworks, which led to performing with the company and teaching at the school for two seasons. He is more than excited to be back "home" once again to create with his friends.

Jim Brennan

Saxophones

Jim established himself as a performer and educator in the Canadian jazz community by performing and touring with such notable musicians as Randy Brecker, Illinois Jaquet, Ray Charles, Tommy Banks, Kenny Drew Jr., Geoff Keezer, Wayne Bergeron, Maynard Ferguson, Slide Hampton, Ravi Coltrane, and Dianne Schuur. Jim holds a Bachelor in Jazz Studies from St. Francis Xavier University and a Masters in Jazz Studies from Rutgers University in New Jersey, where he studied with renowned master saxophonist Ralph Bowen. Jim has recorded two CDs under his own name and a new CD with his brother (the Brennan Brothers - *The Throw Down*) that has him collaborating with Geoff Keezer, Dana Hall, Ralph Bowen, Craig Brennan, Terrell Stafford and Rubim de Toledo. Jim is currently the Chair of the Department of Theatre, Speech and Music performance at Mount Royal College. This is his second show with DJD.

Kimberley Cooper

Artistic Associate/Resident Choreographer/Dancer

Kimberley has seen or danced in every DJD production since its birth in 1984. She has been dancing with the company since 1989 and has been Resident Choreographer/Artistic Associate since 2001. In 2002 she created her first full-length work, *Popular*, which was produced by DJD for One Yellow Rabbit's High Performance Rodeo. Since then she has co-created *Velvet* (2003) and *iBULLA! a loud Cuban Jazz Experiment* (2005), with DJD co-founder Hannah Stilwell, and *in Charcoal & Crimson* (2006) on her own for DJD. Throughout this time she has continued to dance with the company. In addition to her work with DJD she has also danced and choreographed independently. Her work has been produced locally by Dancers' Studio West, the University of Calgary's Program of Dance, One Yellow Rabbit, eko dance projects, Springboard Dance, in Edmonton by Alberta Dance Alliance, and in Vancouver by Dances for small Stages. In 2002 she was named Emerging Artist of the Year by Alberta Dance Alliance. In 2004 she created the dance film *Distemper* with director John Albanis. In 2006 the two released their next short film *Methuselah*, with Jason Stroh as a co-choreographer. Both films were set to music by Amon Tobin, as was her 2008 DJD work, *wowandflutter*. Most recently she co-directed *Alchemy* and created *The Skyscraper* DJD's site-specific piece in the Grain Exchange Building for OYR's High Performance Rodeo.

Heather Cornell

Tap Choreographer

Heather recently performed her solo collaborative show *Finding Synesthesia* (Andy Milne, composer) at the prestigious London and Salzburg Jazz Festivals. Other current projects: *Short Stories* with Vienna based artists Sabine Hasiske and Alexander Lockner and the artistic direction for CanTap a collaborative company of internationally renowned Canadian tap artists and musicians. Called "the Oscar Peterson of tap" (Globe and Mail), she began her career as an apprentice to six of the first



Vicki Adams Willis



Kristian Alexandrov



Cory Bowles



Jim Brennan



Kimberley Cooper



Heather Cornell

generation of American tap masters: Buster Brown, Eddie Brown, Harriet Browne, Cookie Cook, Steve Condos and Chuck Green. She is artistic director of Manhattan Tap, a New York-based ensemble of tap dancers and musicians and is known for her innovative collaborations on original music for tap. A pioneer in concert tap, she is one of six women profiled in the new documentary *Thinking on Their Feet, Women of the Tap Dance Renaissance*. Heather travels worldwide with her company and as a soloist, and has created shows with the late jazz icon Ray Brown (bass), Bob Telson (Gospel at Colonus), and Keith Terry and Crosspulse. Other choreography credits: *The Play What I Wrote for Broadway* and *Three Penny Opera*, Atalaya Theatre, Seville, Spain. TV credits: a KQED special with JTE and Honi Coles; Gregory Hines' *Tap Dance in America* for Great Performances on PBS; and a special for the Canadian Television jazz series *Sounds Impressive*. She is responsible for training many of today's generation of tap artists. Heather is thrilled to be invited to choreograph for DJD's 25th. Bravo!!

Heather Crossan Stage Manager

Heather began stage managing back home, in Newfoundland, over 12 years ago. She has had the pleasure of working on countless productions and tours on the island as well as across the country. Most notable was the Canadian tour of *Underwraps: A Spoke Opera*, the show 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 with Chris, Marley and Stfu. This season marks Heather's fifth year working with DJD, during this time she has had the pleasure of stage managing 12 productions and is pleased to have *twentyfive* be lucky 13!

Rubim de Toledo Bass

Bassist and composer, Rubim de Toledo, is well known as a Jazz and Latin bassist as well as being a highly in demand sideman for projects in any style. He has a fertile career as a bandleader and is proud to have recently released his third solo recording. At the age of 17, Rubim began his professional career playing with the late

Clarence 'Big' Miller and soon afterwards, went on to perform in groups with local Jazz moguls P.J. Perry and Tommy Banks. Rubim is also a founding member of the musical group iBomba! and has toured extensively across Canada and internationally with the Latin ensemble. This year Rubim released his third solo disc entitled, *The River*. This recording features all original compositions from the live soundtrack to the Decidedly Jazz Danceworks' production, *Tinge and Tone* for which he was music director. As an educator, Rubim is proud to be a faculty member of the Mount Royal College Music Program where he is the director of the Mount Royal College Large Jazz Ensemble and various student combos, as well as the program's instructor of Jazz improvisation. *twentyfive* is Rubim's seventh production with DJD. He originally performed with DJD in *iBULLA!* and has been music director for DJD's productions, *in Charcoal & Crimson*, *Tinge and Tone* and *The Skyscraper*.

Sarisa Figueroa de Toledo Artistic Assistant/Rehearsal Director

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). In addition to dancing with DJD, she has performed with One Yellow Rabbit, Springboard Dance Collective, Theatre of the Living Statue, Sage Theatre, Edmonton Festival Ballet as well as for various independent choreographers and directors. She was Artistic Director for DJD's dancer-choreographed evenings *Larimer St.* in 2005, *root 7* in 2006 and *Alchemy* (Co-Artistic Director with Kimberley Cooper) in 2008 as well as Artistic Director for DJD's June production *Tinge and Tone* in 2008. Sarisa has also choreographed for Alberta Dance Explosions, eko dance projects and Alberta Theatre for Young People and also teaches for the DJD company and school, around Calgary and Alberta and most recently in Vada, Italy for La Bella Vita Arts.

Harry Frehner Lighting and Set Designer

Harry is thrilled to be back with DJD. Recent projects with Calgary Opera, Theatre Calgary, Alberta Theatre Projects, and The Banff Centre have happily kept him close to home this year. This is his 16th collaboration with DJD, starting with *Stolen Moments* in 1995, with his most recent ones being *Tinge and Tone* and *Magnetic Consequences*.

Edgar Gilbert-Reyes Apprentice Dancer

Born and raised in Calgary, Edgar started dancing at the age of eight at The School of Decidedly Jazz. He began his training mainly in the field of hip-hop, but soon developed a taste for jazz. Edgar has studied in cities such as Toronto, Vancouver, and Los Angeles, working with artists such as Canadian Idol winner Eva Avila, and Keshia Chante. This is his first year dancing with DJD.

Catherine Hayward Dancer

Catherine grew up in Winnipeg where she began dancing at the age of five. Her dance studies led her to Ryerson University where she graduated with honours from the dance program, earning her BFA. At Ryerson, Catherine had the opportunity to work with independent choreographers such as Heidi Strauss, Kathleen Rea, and Vicki St. Denys. An interest in jazz dance brought her to Calgary to train in the Professional Training Program at DJD. During this time she immersed herself in the Calgary community performing in the DJD school tour of *Live & in Sync*, *Shift*, The Fluid Festival and eko dance projects, as well as dancing in and choreographing for *Footprints*, Alberta Dance Explosions and *Re:verb*. Catherine has studied in various places in North America and her love of jazz has taken her to Sweden to study Lindy Hop. She is excited to be in her second season dancing with DJD.

Tyler Hornby Drums

Tyler is emerging as one of the most versatile and contemporary drummers in Canada. He has been on numerous tours around North America, South America and Europe, where his drumming is a popular staple at many jazz

festivals, clubs, and concerts. Tyler's acoustic jazz album, *Shadows of a Brighter Day*, received rave reviews and was selected for a National Campus Compilation entitled *Dig Your Roots*. In addition to playing with his own quartet, Tyler has performed with such artists as; Bob Mintzer, Ingrid Jensen, Frank Mantooth, Alain Caron, Randy Brecker, Tom Harrell, Tommy Banks, Shelly Berg, Ralph Bowen, and Maciek Grzywacz. While maintaining a busy performing schedule Tyler also teaches for the Mount Royal College Jazz Diploma Program, and is the director of the Drumset Educational Camp which is held in Calgary each summer. After completing his B.Mus in Jazz Studies from the University of Calgary, Tyler obtained his Masters Degree in Jazz Performance / Pedagogy (2006) at the University of Colorado (Boulder) where he studied composition with Grammy Award winning pianist Chip Stephens. Tyler has composed music for several shows, including U of C Mainstage *Senses, Sex Over 40*, and most recently a Jazz CD for children entitled *More Rocky Mountain Fairy Tales*.

Shayne Johnson Apprentice Dancer

Shayne began his dance training at the age of five and his professional career at the age of 12. Since then he has studied across North America winning numerous scholarships to schools in Canada and the USA including The Banff Centre, The Edge in LA and Joe Tremaine Academy. At age 15, Shayne won the title of BC Provincial Champion in the category of Stagework and Tap and shortly afterwards, joined the Canadian National Tap Team under the direction of Matthew Clark, which included a performance with Savion Glover's *Bring In The Noise, Bring In The Funk* ensemble. Over the next three years, Shayne became a member of the Grizzlies Extreme Dance Team for NBA Entertainment, starred as the 'Rock Star' in the Pop group XLR-8 for the hit show *Cirque Pop 2K2* and appeared on television variety shows and in many fashion industrials. It was during this time he realized his passion for choreographing and teaching. After graduating from high school, Shayne was hired by Norwegian Cruise Lines as a dancer in 2003 and since then, has been hired for performance contracts, as dance captain, and to choreograph, direct and install new

shows on their biggest ships. New to Calgary, Shayne is on the faculty of Premiere Dance Academy and very excited to be a part of the DJD Company. After participating in Decidedly Jazz Danceworks' Professional Program this fall, he was asked to join the company for *twentyfive*.

Dinou Marlett-Stuart Dancer

After dancing for 12 years in Calgary, Dinou traveled to England to attend Performer's Dance College where she completed a three-year degree programme and then danced professionally for two years in many lead roles in original productions throughout England. Since returning to Calgary in 1994, Dinou has been teaching, as well as producing, choreographing and performing in various projects such as Calgary Cares and Alberta Dance Explosions. She was a guest artist in the DJD school show *Live & in Sync* (2001) and Kimberley Cooper's *Popular* (2001) for OYR's High Performance Rodeo. She understudied roles in *Perched on the Edge of a Quarter Note* (2002) and was a full-time company member from 2002-04. Dinou was blessed with a daughter in October 2004 and since then has had a chance to work with Kimberley Cooper as a dancer and Rehearsal Mistress for the Bravo production of *Distemper* and *in Charcoal & Crimson*. She returned to DJD in 2007 because her need to dance was so strong. She would like to thank her family for all their support in helping her follow her path.

Michèle Moss DJD Co-Founder

Michèle Moss, choreographer, dancer and educator, is currently an Assistant Professor in the B.A. Dance program at the University of Calgary where she earned her MA in 2007. Michèle is a proud co-founder of Decidedly Jazz Danceworks with whom she performed professionally from 1984-1997. During her official tenure at DJD (1984-1999) she served as dancer, founding board member, Associate Artistic Director, founding dance school principal and choreographer. She has been creating work in the jazz idiom since 1986 and has numerous works in the DJD repertoire. In 1995 her personal focus evolved to family and raising her beautiful daughter, Odessa. Professional focus

also evolved to include textual and ethnography research (most significantly in New York, West Africa, Cuba) as well as her embodied research practice. During a sabbatical leave in the fall of 2008 she was commissioned to create a work on Winnipeg dance company NAfro, and conducted ethnographic dance research in Cuba as well as spending quality time driving Odessa to her swim practices and dance rehearsals! Upcoming projects include directing a September '09 production for the U of C - BA Dance Professional Series and attending conferences / workshops in Jamaica, New Orleans, and West Africa. Michèle continues to choreograph for the DJD company (recent work 2008), teach in the community dance school as well as conducting special training events, intensives and workshops.

Nicole Minogue Costume Designer

Nicole Minogue is overjoyed to be back at DJD for her fourth season. Being a BC girl originally, Nicole came to Alberta to complete her schooling, and then worked at The Banff Centre and Citadel Theatre before finding her niche with DJD. Other DJD shows Nicole has been involved in are *iBULLA!*, *Pulse*, *in Charcoal & Crimson*, *root 7*, *Magnetic Consequences*, *wowandflutter*, *Tinge and Tone* and *Alchemy*.

Danny Nielsen Tap Choreographer

Danny Nielsen has been tap dancing for 13 years. He began his rhythm tap career in 2003 when he became a member of MADD Rhythms Canada that gave him an opportunity to learn from highly regarded tap dancers Lisa La Touche, Bril Barrett, Martn 'Tre' Duman III, George 'Mo Leggs' Patterson III, and Van Porter. In August 2008, Danny danced in the opening number for the Jerry Lewis Telethon in Las Vegas, choreographed by Chloe Arnold and featuring Ted Levy. He has performed at tap festivals in Vancouver, Los Angeles, Chicago, Edmonton and St. Louis. He is currently sharing his passion teaching and performing in his hometown and abroad.

Heather Crossan



Rubim de Toledo



Sarisa Figueroa de Toledo



Harry Frehner



Edgar Gilbert-Reyes



Catherine Hayward



Tyler Hornby



Shayne Johnson



Dinou Marlett-Stuart



Michèle Moss



Nicole Minogue



Danny Nielsen



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 National School of Art in Havana 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 *iBULLA!* project in 2004, and returned to Calgary in the fall of 2005 to continue dancing with the company. This is his fifth season with DJD.

Malika Srivastava
Dancer

Malika is honoured to be dancing with Decidedly Jazz for a fourth season. The past three years at DJD have deepened her knowledge and respect for jazz music and dance. Malika also relies on her travels during the summer months to increase her exposure to jazz; she has spent time in Cuba, Brazil, New Orleans, New York and most recently Montreal in search of jazz education and inspiration. Apart from dancing with DJD, Malika has performed in U of C's Mainstage, Dance Montage, eko Dance Projects, Alberta Dance Explosions and the Fluid Festival. Malika is truly grateful to be dancing with such a talented group of people and she thanks them for always inspiring her.

Hannah Stilwell
DJD Co-Founder

Hannah Stilwell, DJD co-founder, is a performer, teacher and choreographer entranced by the relationship between audible and visual rhythms. Throughout her career, she has dedicated herself to the discovery of many dance forms that have become North American jazz dance. Since her early training in Calgary starting in 1964, her work has taken her to Africa, Cuba, Jamaica, India, and throughout North America. She has directed several full evening shows for DJD including the co-creations of *Velvet* and the critically acclaimed cross-cultural show *iBULLA! A Loud Cuban Jazz Experiment*, with DJD Artistic Associate Kimberley Cooper. Hannah holds a B.A. from U of C where she has

instructed dance since 1982. Currently, Hannah is also working as a Content Analyst and Writer in the digital marketing world and continues to offer travel-study trips to Cuba, along with a variety of freelance dance adventures. She has recently been appointed to the Calgary Arts Development Board of Directors. Hannah thinks it's fantastic that she has known Vicki Adams Willis for over 36 years.

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 that 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 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 Professional Program at DJD and was brought on as understudy for 2006'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. Back from a six-month hiatus from the company during which he studied dance in Montreal, Kaleb is enjoying his second full season with DJD.

Bob Tildesley
Trumpet, Flugelhorn

Born in Calgary, Bob Tildesley played in R & B bands here before moving to Edmonton at age 20 where he quickly emerged as the city's leading jazz trumpeter - and indeed one of Canada's finest-through his work in the late 1970s with pianists Tommy Banks and Bill Emes and saxophonists Bill Jamieson and P.J. Perry, all associations that would continue into the 1990s. An expressive soloist, particularly skilled with mutes, Tildesley showed himself to be as adept playing bebop with Perry on the LP *Sessions* and the CD *Quintet* as handling blues and swing on two CDs recorded in Edmonton by the legendary Kansas City pianist Jay McShann, *Hootie's Jumpin' Blues* and *Still Jumpin' the Blues*. He has been no less willing a participant in post bop, post modern and "free" situations. Bob is excited to be involved in his seventh DJD show, and congratulates them for 25 great years of creative dance and music!

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. As a choreographer she has created dances for U of C's Dance Montage, Alberta Dance Explosions, The F.E.A.T.S. Festival, eko dance projects and Alberta Dance Theatre for Young People. The pursuit of the roots of jazz has taken her to the U.S.A., Cuba and frequently to West Africa. Her travels to Guinea have been a great source of inspiration and personal growth. Deanne teaches at The School of Decidedly Jazz and throughout Alberta. She is very much enjoying her sixth year with the DJD Company.

Danielle Wensley
Dancer

Danielle has been dancing in Calgary since she was three years old. She has been involved in performance groups such as The Young Canadians and eko Dance Projects (formerly Youth Dance Unlimited), both giving her extensive experience and appreciation for the process of creating dance for stage. Danielle attended Dr. E.P. Scarlett High School where she joined the dance program and worked closely with former DJD dancer, Jill Currie. She was involved with the Professional Training Program at The School of Decidedly Jazz for several years where she discovered a great appreciation for jazz music and dance. Danielle is truly dedicated to DJD and has been involved in as many different facets of the company as possible. She performed in *Footprints*, a production created by the members of the DJD Professional Training Program as well as *Live & in Sync!*, DJD's educational touring show (2006 and 2007), and she continues to teach many classes at The School of Decidedly Jazz along with residencies in elementary schools in the Calgary area. Danielle cannot express in words the excitement she feels about being a part of the company for their 25th Anniversary season.

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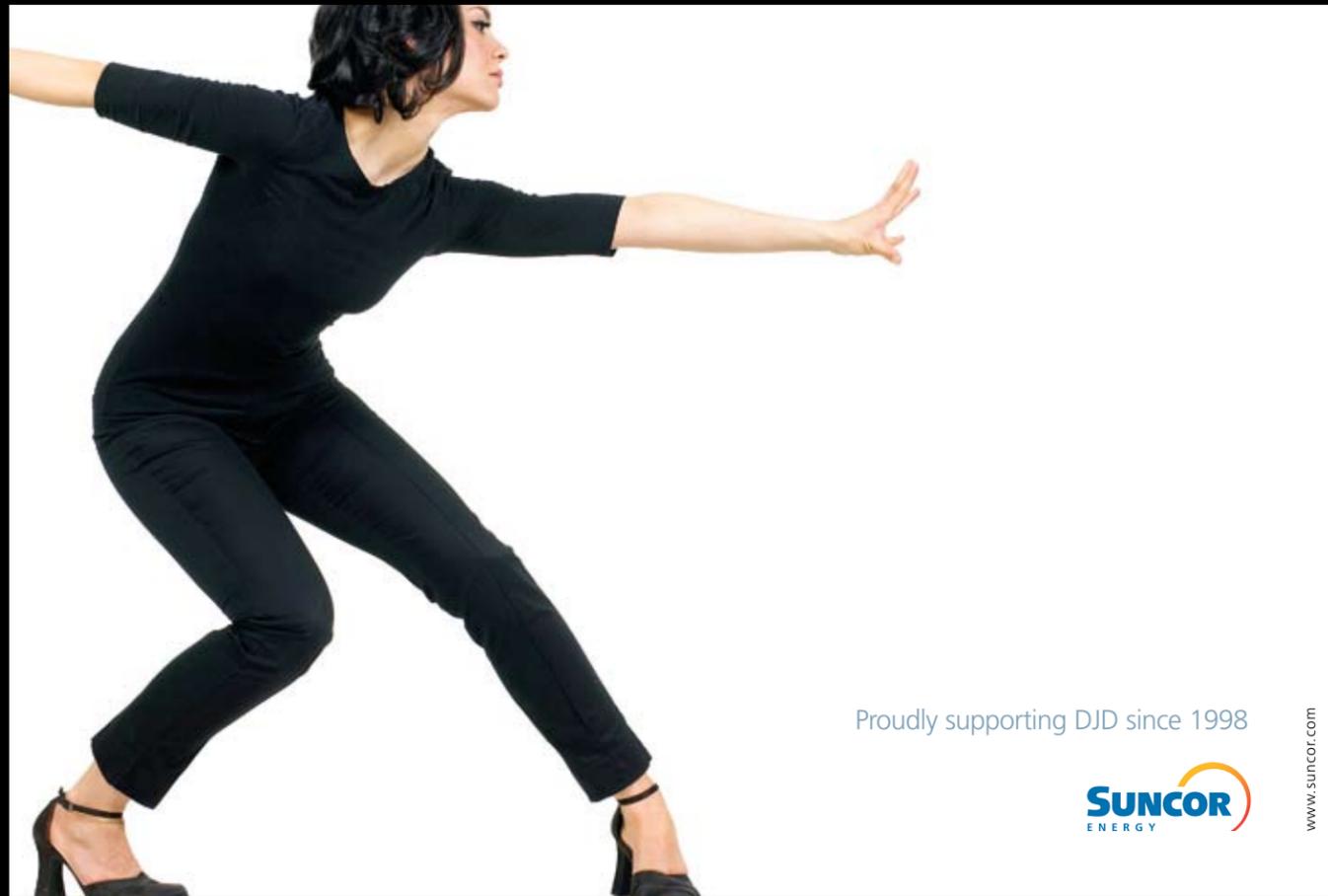
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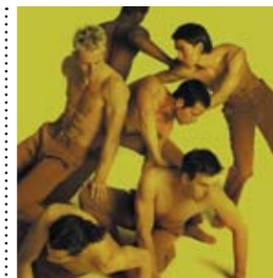
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Vicki Adams Willis, Joanne Baker, Kimberley Cooper, Heather Cornell, Sarisa Figueroa de Toledo, Jamie Freeman Cormack, Michèle Moss, Billy Siegenfeld, Hannah Stilwell, and the scores of dancers who have made invaluable contributions to our choreographic voice over the years

I AM JAZZ

Poetry Written and Performed by : Cory Bowles

Choreographed by: Kimberley Cooper *To read the poem, go to www.decidedlyjazz.com and click on twentyfive*

TAP CHOREOGRAPHY BY:

Heather Cornell with Shim Sham inserts by Danny Nielsen

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Kristian Alexandrov: Keyboards, Percussion; Jim Brenan: Saxophone; Rubim de Toledo: Bass; Tyler Hornby: Drums; Bob Tildesley: Trumpet

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Clarence "Big" Miller

**Music Director, Arrangements
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Keyboards: Miles Jackson

Bass: Doug Stephenson

Drums: Garry DeBoeck

Guitar: Dewi Wood

Saxophone: Richard Harding

**Recorded Excerpts from
IBULLA!, 2005**

**Composer, Music Director
and Keyboards:** Chris Andrew

Bass: Rubim de Toledo

Drums and Percussion: Sandro Dominelli

Vocals and Percussion: Luis Orbegoso

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Sarah Curts
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Chris Dovey
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Gessuri Gaitan
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Laura Kwok
Ginette Lamontagne
Mervi Legare
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Janet Waye
Heather Weaver
Astrid Wolf
Talsa Yates
Kumiko Yokoyama

2009-2010 SEASON

OCTOBER



Remount and tour of *wowandflutter*, Kimberley Cooper's amazing show from 2008 that took the audience on an epic groove-laden ride through an otherworldly realm that spanned from outer space to the bottom of the ocean. The show is choreographed to the intense, rhythmic music of internationally renowned musician Amon Tobin with video components by Alberta video artist David Hoffos. The remount will have the same vibe as the original 2008 production but will be reworked to a leaner and meaner 75-minute one-act piece. Calgary audiences get the first glimpse at The GRAND on October 3 & 4 before it embarks on a cross-Canada tour.

MARCH



Calgary audiences love Tap and from March 19 - 28 we are thrilled to welcome back Josh Hilberman as a special guest with our company for a live music show dedicated to this highly percussive dance form. From the sophisticated style of old-time hoofers to its recent revival celebrated by movies such as *Happy Feet*, Tap Dance is as alive today as it was in its heyday. Get your tickets and shim sham shimmy down to The GRAND for a night of rhythmic rapture.

JUNE



Next June, DJD returns to the Max Bell Theatre for a live music show that pays homage to the Age of the Silver Screen. Resident Choreographer Kimberley Cooper takes her inspiration from a time that was rich in history, change, music, dance, art, and ideas - referred to as The Jazz Age - and explores the look, feel and style of the silent film. This production (title TBA) runs in early June 2010.



Jazz Immersion '09

Summer Intensive
July 19 - 25, 2009
for intermediate - advanced dancers & educators

DECIDEDLY JAZZ DANCEWORKS
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
t: 403-245-3533
www.decidedlyjazz.com

Arts Education

DECIDEDLY JAZZ DANCEWORKS

Arts in Education Programs - 2008/2009
Transforming Lives... One Student at a Time
DJD is deeply committed to sharing our love of jazz music and dance with schools and providing top quality instruction in a fun and energetic atmosphere.

Artist in Schools Residency Program
DJD visited 14 schools this season to teach an intensive series of workshops introducing students to the spirit, life and history of jazz dance.

SHAW)

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

CIBC World Markets Children's Foundation AND Chip & Barb Burgess

Dance Company in Residence at Connaught Community School
Since 1994, DJD company members have visited this inner-city E.S.L. school to teach jazz dance to the student body.

RBC Foundation

"Live and in Sync" School Tour
This season, 5,880 elementary students enjoyed this fun interactive show about the history of jazz and DJD's Professional Training Program students gain invaluable performance experience.

ENBRIDGE ESSO Imperial Oil Foundation

Professional Training Program
DJD's daytime program provides advanced training for emerging dance professionals from across Canada who are passionate about jazz and interested in a career in the field.

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

Bring the spirit and energy of Decidedly Jazz Danceworks to your school.
Please contact **Joanne Baker** at:
t: 403-616-9640 e: jobaker@decidedlyjazz.com

Jazz Roots Club Donors

#1 Rhythm Club (\$10,000+)

Scott Inglis & Nancy Olsen
Allan Markin

Big Easies (\$5,000-9,999)

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Ella Stuart
Dawn Tining & Dave Poulton
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Rug Cutters (\$1,000-2,499)

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Alex Osten
Osten-Victor Fund at The Calgary Foundation
Mary Rozsa de Coquet
Howard Sangwine & Chris Patton
Kathi Sundstrom
Margaret & Glenn Sundstrom
Paula Tyler
Peter & Carol Ann Williams
Jan Wittig

Cake Walkers (\$500-999)

Anonymous
Vicki Adams Willis
Catherine Bagnell Styles & Barry Styles
Pamela Bayne
Ted Busheikin & Catherine Ford
Cheryl Cohen
Dr. Martha Cohen
Jan Damery
Lori Dunsmore Smith & Neil Smith
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Karen Mark
Kerri & Michael McGovern
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Rea Tarvydas
Susan Tyrrell & Brian Mills
Maurice Yacowar & Anne Petrie
Yacowar
Tamar Zenith/
Newzones Gallery of Contemporary Art

Matching Gift Companies

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Reflects gifts received Jan 1, 08 - May 19, 09.
To change your listing, please contact Kathi Sundstrom at (403) 228-8178



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 President Catherine Bagnell Styles and Barry Styles with DJD dancers Deanne Walsh and Danielle Wensley



From left: Joy Thomas, David Harvey and Board Director Sharma Christie



From left: Mary Rozsa de Coquet and Mary Benning



From left: Dawn Tining, DJD's Resident Choreographer Kimberley Cooper and Dave Poulton

Photos by Sara Niinimaa.

Proud Sponsor of the Jazz Roots Club



Our Bold Birthday Wish:

To welcome 25 new Jazz Roots Club donors to celebrate our 25th Anniversary.

WE INVITE YOU TO BECOME ONE OF OUR **25 for 25.**

The Jazz Roots Club connects jazz enthusiasts in supporting DJD's vibrant spirit and artistic excellence. Your generosity will enable DJD to keep producing invigorating, affordable evenings of dance and music, offer educational programs reaching thousands of school children every year and remain a vibrant leader in Calgary's arts community.

Enthusiastic thanks to our 15 new Jazz Roots donors this season:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Pamela Bayne | Homestart Realty | Jock & Diana Osler |
| Cheryl Cohen | Bird Mack | Jim Rea |
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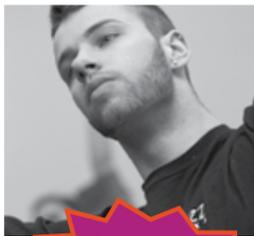


To join or for more information, please call **Kathi Sundstrom** at **403-228-8178**

To become one of our "25 for 25" or for more information, please contact Kathi Sundstrom at 403-228-8178

25 YEARS
DECIDEDLY JAZZ
DANCEWORKS

SPRING/SUMMER/CAMP 2009



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Adults • Teens • Children
Beginner to advanced • All ages • Weekdays & Saturdays
Jazz • West African • Funk • Hip Hop • Tap • Ballet
Breakin' • Bollywood • Drumming • Modern • Moms & Tots
Call to Register: 403-245-3533

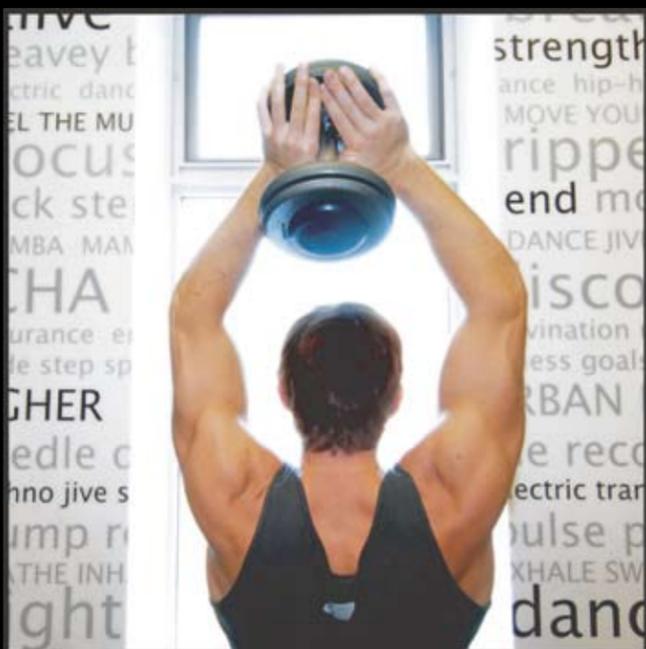
Upcoming school programs:
Spring Session: May 19 - June 29
Summer Day Camps: July & August
July Session: July 6 - 30
NEW! August Session: August 5 - 26

The DJD School is sponsored in part by: **nexen** 1514 - 4th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2R 0Y4 www.decidedlyjazz.com



The Calgary Herald is committed to supporting the arts in Calgary. A vibrant arts community enriches lives, expands horizons, promotes learning and improves quality of living. Our arts and culture community places Calgary on the world's stage and inspires our city to grow and flourish.

CALGARY HERALD



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congratulates DJD on 25 years of
making hearts soar and feet tap.
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11:30AM TO 2PM

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Wasn't that a party?!

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR AT:

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a party in benefit of [decidedlyjazzdanceworks](http://decidedlyjazzdanceworks.com)

SATURDAY MARCH 6, 2010



DRESS TO DANCE. NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY.

VISIT THE LOBBY ART SHOW AND SALE



Happy 25th DJD!

We are so happy to help celebrate this landmark occasion with our interpretations of how much influence jazz dance and music and especially DJD has had on our creative endeavors as visual artists. Trying to keep alive the sights and sounds - those fluid moments in time that won't stand still, except in our minds and our hearts - is a tantalizing challenge!

Come and let the experience of seeing and hearing the remarkable stage performance produced by DJD, past and present, linger with you a little longer through our paintings displayed throughout the theatre lobbies.

Congrats to the most remarkable Decidedly Jazz Danceworks Company,
Sharon Karst, Christine Mitchell
and Paul Van Ginkel



A ROUND OF APPLAUSE

COUNTLESS THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING SUPPORTERS WHO CONTRIBUTED ITEMS AND SERVICES IN-KIND TO DJD AND TO OUR RECENT SPECIAL EVENTS - TWENTYFIVE GALA (JUNE 4, 2009) AND POSSESSED: ALL FUNKED UP PARTY (MARCH 14, 2009). SPECIAL THANKS ALSO TO THE CONSULTING PROFESSIONALS LISTED ON PAGE 9 WHO GENEROUSLY DONATE THEIR TIME AND TALENTS TO DJD. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT US.

#1 Rhythm Club

The first of many jazz appreciation societies founded in 1933
Calgary Herald
Heavens Fitness

Big Easies

"The Big Easy" is the nickname for New Orleans, the birthplace of jazz
Canadian Rocky Mountain Resorts
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The flattened notes fundamental to blues-orientated jazz & the name of a famous record label
Jane Gauthier
Jarvis Hall Fine Frames
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The term describing a great swing dancer, the most popular dance style in the 1920's, 30's and 40's
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The cake walk was a high-strutting competitive dance originated by plantation slaves (the best dancers won a cake)

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Shona Rae
River Cafe
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The couples who improvise the heart-stopping dance that marked the height of the swing era

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Feetwarmers

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

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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 May 1, 2008 - May 6, 2009. Please call us at 403-245-3533 to advise us of any changes/omissions so we may correct our records. Thank you!

TAKE A BOW

HEARTFELT THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS LISTED BELOW FOR RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ARTS. YOUR GIFTS DIRECTLY ENRICH DJD'S ABILITY TO INNOVATE AND LEAD WITHIN THE JAZZ ART FORM. PLEASE ALSO JOIN US IN A ROUND OF APPLAUSE TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED DJD BY ATTENDING OUR TWENTYFIVE GALA (JUNE 4, 2009), POSSESSED: ALL FUNKED UP PARTY (MARCH 14, 2009) AND 17TH ANNUAL DANCE CLASS MARATHON (OCTOBER 19, 2008).

#1 Rhythm Club

The first of many jazz appreciation societies founded in 1933

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

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

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

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

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Jim Morkin
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Tracie & Todd Noble
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Jock & Diana Osler
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Maurice Yacowar & Anne Petrie
Tamar Zenith/
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Lindy Hoppers

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

3 Anonymous
Sandra L. Adams & Leonard L. Frantz
Susan Bennett *
Chella & JZ
Paul & Maria Figueroa
Anne Flynn
Kurian Jacob
Elaine Kinney
Sylviane Lippert,
Doug Proll & Randi Lippert
Brian Mahoney
Anne Stone Johnson
Keltie Stowkowy
Gordon Tait

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Doug Proll & Randi Lippert
Brian Mahoney
Anne Stone Johnson
Keltie Stowkowy
Gordon Tait

Dr. Elu Thompson
Julie Watkins
Candy Watson *
Michael Wensley

Feetwarmers

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

6 Anonymous
Arlene H. Henry Law Corp.
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Barbara R. Beaton
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Barbara Nowinska
Dianne Parkinson-McCabe
John & Johanna Peltier
Valerie Seaman
Tamara Shawa
Christina Siau
Allan & Pam Twa
Shirley Watson
Kelly Whelan
Jody Wood & Quentin Pittman

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Naomi Lacey
Alison Laycraft
Harold & Elaine Lemieux
Martha Macdonnell
Sylvia Madder
Ann Mallory
Ann McCaig
Mary McDonald
Kay McDowell
Vivian McKercher
Sheila Navrady
Barbara Nowinska
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John & Johanna Peltier
Valerie Seaman
Tamara Shawa
Christina Siau
Allan & Pam Twa
Shirley Watson
Kelly Whelan
Jody Wood & Quentin Pittman

Rhythm Section

The musicians who provide the rhythmic foundation of a jazz ensemble

8 Anonymous

Gloria Dalton
Kathy Davies *
Eleonora Drakou
Pam Fawcett
Nick Finn & Heidi Schroter
Gilles Fournier
Dorothy Freeman
Maria Gatti
Karen Harper
Kirk Holloway
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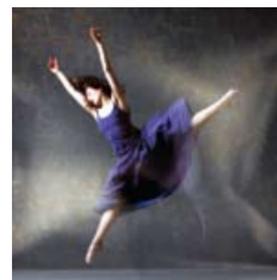
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