



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 8, 2016

Guelph Dance Announces 18th Annual Festival Lineup

Guelph, ON (April 8, 2016) – The **18th Annual Guelph Dance Festival**, June 2-5, 2016, promises to be bigger and better than ever as it hosts 18 dance companies in 9 performances in 5 venues! This extraordinary festival, unique in Guelph, promises to define gravity in new ways this season. From dances on ice to dances from trees, this year's festival is sure to have something for everyone, with ticket prices ranging from free to \$30.

The wildly-popular, pay-what-you-can ***In the Park*** series features four companies this year. **Ferenc Feher** travels from Hungary to perform "Tao Te," an explosive male duet; Mississauga-based **Frog in Hand** brings "Dragon," a piece that includes theatrical sword work; the local **Hidden Heart Collective** performs "Oblivion Shift," exploring missed connections; and **Aeriosa**, from Vancouver, performs "Birds Land Too," a part-aerial, part-land piece that is derived from the behavior of birds. These four companies perform in Exhibition Park on Thursday, June 2 at 7:00 pm, Saturday, June 4 at 12:00 pm, and Sunday, June 5 at 12:00 pm, and – new this year - at Hanlon Creek Park on Friday, June 3 at 5:30 pm.

The ***On the Stage*** shows take place on two different stages this year: the Cooperator's Hall at River Run Centre and the University of Guelph's Gold Ice Rink. Ticket prices range from \$15-30. On the Stage A, on Friday, June 3 at 8:00 pm, features **Le Patin Libre**, an ice skating dance troupe from Montreal. Performing at the University of Guelph's Gold Ice Rink, this company exploits the idea of glide in its full-length piece "Vertical Influences."

On the Stage B, on Saturday, June 4 at 8:00 pm, features **Julia Sasso dances** from Toronto and **Suzanne Miller & Allan Paivio Productions** from Montreal. These two long-time members of Canada's professional dance community perform at the River Run Centre. Sasso's group performs "Sporting Life," a piece that mirrors our fragilities and perverse lust for violence. Miller & Paivio bring "The Water Project: THIRST," which reflects on the perilous crisis of water as a global issue.

Sara Porter is featured at our ***In the Studio*** event, taking place at the Guelph Youth Studios on Saturday, June 4, at 4:00 pm. In this intimate performance, sure to sell out quickly, Porter performs "Sara does a Solo," a fearless account of an aging body and reflective mind. Ticket prices range from \$15-20.

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guelphdance.ca

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Local Initiatives, Guelph Dance's commitment to fostering the local dance community, features **Capacitance**, a multidisciplinary, improvisational performance produced and curated by Guelph dancer Lynette Segal. The show takes place on Sunday, June 5, at 2:00 pm at the Guelph Youth Studios, and is pay-what-you-can.

Festival favourite, **Youth Moves**, features 9 youth dance companies from across Southern Ontario in a professionally-produced performance at the River Run Centre, Sunday, June 5, at 4:00 pm. *Youth Moves* is the place to see the next generation of dance artists in action, *before* they're famous! Tickets range from \$15-20.

There are several educational opportunities throughout the Festival, including free **post-show chats** following *In the Studio* and *Local Initiatives*; a free **pre-show chat** facilitated by Sara Porter before *On the Stage B*; an **ice dance workshop** with Le Patin Libre at 9:30 am on Saturday, June 4 (\$20); a **workshop in Skinner Releasing Technique** with Julia Sasso at 9:30 am on Sunday, June 5 (\$20); **Youth Dance Day** on Friday, June 3, with a full afternoon and evening of dance activities (\$32); and **Teen Dance Day** on Saturday, June 4, with a full morning and afternoon of dance activities (\$45).

For more information about the gravity-defining, 18th Annual Guelph Dance Festival, visit www.guelphdance.ca, email info@guelphdance.ca or phone 519-780-2220. All tickets and registrations are through the River Run Centre, www.riverrun.ca or 519-763-3000.

About Guelph Dance

Established in 1998, Guelph Dance—formerly the *Guelph Contemporary Dance Festival*—is a nationally recognized leader in contemporary dance, offering a platform for professional, new-generation, and youth dance artists to share their vision, push creative boundaries, and engage community audiences.

Guelph Dance gratefully acknowledges the support of its funders: the Department of Canadian Heritage, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council, the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the City of Guelph, the Guelph Community Foundation, the Good Foundation, and the Rotary Club of Guelph-Trillium.

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FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE

Thursday, June 2

7:00 pm: In the Park – Exhibition Park (pay-what-you-can)

Friday, June 3

11:45 am: Youth Dance Day (\$32)

5:30 pm: In the Park – Hanlon Creek Park (pay-what-you-can)

8:00 pm: On the Stage A (\$15-30)

Saturday, June 4

9:30 am: Ice Dance Workshop (\$20)

9:30 am: Teen Dance Day (\$45)

12:00 pm: In the Park – Exhibition Park (pay-what-you-can)

1:00 pm: Dance Market (free)

4:00 pm: In the Studio (\$15-20)

8:00 pm: On the Stage B (\$15-30)

Sunday, June 5

9:30 am: Skinner Releasing Workshop (\$20)

12:00 pm: In the Park – Exhibition Park (pay-what-you-can)

1:00 pm: Dance Market (free)

2:00 pm: Local Initiatives (pay-what-you-can)

4:00 pm: Youth Moves (\$15-20)

