



ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

Guelph Dance
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Our Mission

Guelph Dance strives to be a nationally recognized leader in contemporary dance by offering a platform for professional, new-generation, and youth dance artists to share their vision, push creative boundaries, and engage community audiences.

Our Vision

To engage and enthrall.

Our Mandate

Guelph Dance serves the Canadian contemporary dance community, providing dance events and outreach activities in Guelph, Ontario. We create opportunities for artists to push the boundaries of contemporary dance while engaging audiences and broadening their cultural experiences.

We strive to foster an appreciation for dance in youth by presenting workshops directly in public schools and by giving local youth exposure to professional dance artists.

To ensure financial accessibility, we provide affordable ticket pricing to performances and a variety of free events for people of all ages.

To strengthen community relations, we partner with other local festivals and continually seek opportunity for co-productions.

To broaden cultural accessibility, we are developing programs for at-risk groups who are financially, socially, or physically challenged.

We thoughtfully curate our programming to ensure high quality, innovative and culturally diverse works that represent the eclectic blend of dance being produced in Canada.

History of Guelph Dance

Founders Janet Johnson and Catrina von Radecki started the Guelph Contemporary Dance Festival in 1998, when they arrived in Guelph (Catrina from Montreal, Janet from Toronto) and found there was no established dance community yet in place. Ever the arts entrepreneurs, they decided to create one, with the belief that dancers should be able to live, dance, and perform outside major metropolitan areas. Johnson and von Radecki began to teach, choreograph, and stage events in Guelph; and after 20 years, Guelph Dance can boast that it reaches over 5,000 people with activities and performances throughout the year. In the summer of 2017 after 19 years of hard work and great commitment, Janet Johnson stepped down from the organization to pursue personal projects. Catrina was named Artistic Director and Leslie Fisher took on the newly created role of Outreach and Development Manager. They were later joined by Adriana Rosselli Londoño as General Manager.



Message from the Board President

Last year marked our 20th anniversary! A truly large feat when you consider how difficult it is for a small festival that celebrates an art form still considered challenging and inaccessible to many, especially in a small city. The Guelph Dance Festival has courageously and single handedly managed to cultivate a growing population of appreciators, admirers, dancers and educators. Over these twenty years Guelph has become a city that is marked on the map and recognized as a platform and center for Contemporary Dance. Simply amazing!

Over these last 20 years, Guelph Dance has ambitiously and tirelessly built a community for contemporary dance. Producing 20 Contemporary Dance Festivals, countless productions, co-productions, workshops in schools and studios as well as operating many youth art and dance camps, Guelph Dance has created and nurtured a new audience for Contemporary Dance. The passion and perseverance needed to make this happen should not be underestimated .

Much of the success goes to the unwavering efforts of our artistic director, Catrina Von Radecki, who has been at the helm guiding us through new and unknown terrain each and every year with unwavering dedication. As well we will always be grateful for the passion and commitment from our past founder and co-artistic director Janet Johnson and everything she brought to help GD be the the amazing groundbreaking festival that it is today.

As well, much of the success of the 2018 festival came from our amazing new staff. Adriana Rosselini Londoño, our new general manager has proven to be an incredible new addition. Her steadfast work ethic, amazing organizational skills and cooperative and gracious demeanor make her an invaluable asset to our team. Our new Outreach and Development Manager, Leslie Fisher has proven to be an incredible, passionate, energetic addition and has helped revitalize us all.

We have also been very lucky to welcome and embrace a new addition to our board, Nichola Martin. Nichola has been making excellent strides at leading us to new fundraising goals. We are thrilled that she has taken on leading this huge task. We are so happy she has come aboard.

Through the many changes that GD has incurred over the last couple of years, all these new positive changes have helped reinvigorate and revive us. Now we are ready to take on the next 20 years!

We start this year with a celebratory fundraiser called "Community in Motion". Please come and celebrate and support Guelph Dance, March 1st at 10C, 42 Carden St.

Many thanks for everyone's support!

Michelle Miller, President of the Board of Directors for Guelph Dance

Message from the Artistic Director

This June, Guelph Dance presented its 20th Festival! In celebrating this landmark season, Guelph Dance remained committed to showcasing the very best in Canadian contemporary dance, while providing opportunities for people of all ages and stages of development to experience dance.

We were very excited to be offering the new *Breaking Ground Mentorship Program* where artists were encouraged to dig deeply into the creative process with the support of mentor Sharon B. Moore. During the Festival weekend we opened the studio doors to the general public as part of our *In the Studio* series to witness these works in progress and to discuss creative process with the artists following the show.

The Guelph Dance Festival plays an important role in building relationships and providing a platform for women, youth, people of colour and Indigenous dance artists to tell their stories and speak their truths. This year we hosted a panel discussion on Friday, June 1st, concerning the Future of Contemporary Dance. In celebration of our 20th annual festival, we looked to our past to recognize our accomplishments and looked to the future to imagine next steps.

In an effort of inclusivity, the general public had the opportunity to dance in Karen Kaeja's piece *CRAVE*, performed on Saturday in the On the Stage B and *Arts Explosion* Campers, Funkbucket Drummers, as well as artists from the *MADE* program led the audience from site to site during our *In the Park* series. I am very excited by the community involvement which continued with audiences members being encouraged to participate in the *Dance Market* demos and in our Hip Hop, Contemporary Indigenous Dance and Modern dance workshops. With all that energy and enthusiasm building up over the weekend, we then all gathered on Saturday evening for our 20th anniversary celebration at the Red Payapa with Indigenous techno music and hip hop dancing along with Mix Mix Dance Collective!

As we mark 20 years, I want to thank, from the bottom of my heart, Dorothy Fisher (Stage Manager) and Taras Cymbalisty (Lighting Designer) who have been part of our backstage crew for the entire 20 years! They haven't missed one!!! I would also like to thank our incredible Board of Directors, many of whom have also not missed a festival over the last 20 years and to all the volunteers and tech crew who work tirelessly behind the scenes. We'd also like to extend gratitude to new staff members Leslie Fisher and Adriana Rosselli who have been phenomenal additions to our team! A very, very, special thank you goes to Janet Johnson, co-founder of the festival, who has put her heart and soul into the festival over its long history. Finally, thank you to all of the sponsors, donors and funders; you all reflect so well on our pride in community and we couldn't have done it without you!

Catrina von Radecki, Artistic Director

Key Developments since 1998

- 1998: Inaugural Festival.
- 1999: 1st annual OAC grant.
- 2001: 1st Workshop in Schools.
- 2002: Incorporated as a not-for-profit charity.
- 2003: Acquired office space in downtown Guelph supported by OTF funding.
- 2004: 1st On the Street series.
- 2004: Participated in first CanDance Network Tour (also in 2006 and 2009).
- 2005: Developed a 3-year plan under the guidance of Jennifer Mackie.
- 2006: 1st CSA Nooner, University of Guelph.
- 2006: New web-based database system and documents library.
- 2007: 1st Annual Canada Council artist touring grant.
- 2008: 10th anniversary year. First Commissioning Project.
- 2009: 1st Artist Residency.
- 2010: 3-year strategic plan funded by OAC's Compass Program.
- 2010: New marketing campaign with 4 other community festivals, now promoted as Guelph Fab 5.
- 2011: 5,337 patrons participated in the 2010-2011 events.
- 2012: Co-presented at each of the Fab 5 festivals, bringing our reach to 10,000 who viewed dance in Guelph through our programming.
- 2013: Rebranded to Guelph Dance and developed a new website.
- 2014: Hosted 2nd Annual Local Initiatives series and new After Party event. Reached 2,547 during the festival weekend and 9,266 with our events and co-productions throughout the year.
- 2015: Weeklong residency with NYC-based Jody Oberfelder Dance Company and highest Festival attendance to date with 2,883 patrons in attendance.
- 2016: Restructured staff; expanded In the Park Series to a 2nd park location (Hanlon Creek)
- 2017: Departure of Janet Johnson, move to new office space at 10C Shared Space.
- 2018: Celebration of the 20th annual Guelph Dance Festival & change of Fiscal Year end from June 15th to August 31st.

The Year in Review

The 2017-18 season included the 20th annual Guelph Dance Festival, Summer and March Break Arts Explosion Camps, Co-Productions, and Workshops in Schools.

Guelph Dance Festival

The 20th annual Guelph Dance Festival (June 1-June 3, 2018) celebrated 20 years of dance in our community with guests from Ontario, Quebec and Alberta. Contemporary, urban, Indigenous, Chinese and street dance were all represented in our events that included *On the Stage*, *In the Park*, *In the Studio*, *Youth Moves* a festival party and a panel discussion on the Future of Contemporary Dance. Our inaugural Breaking Ground Mentorship Program was huge success with four participating choreographers.

On the Stage A and B, presented at the River Run Centre on Friday and Saturday nights, featured Susie Burpee & Robyn Thomson Kacki (Toronto/Winnipeg), Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre (Toronto), Fila 13 Productions (Montreal), Kaeja d'Dance (Toronto), Pamela Tzeng (Calgary), and Mix Mix Dance Collective (Toronto).

In the Park offered three times at Exhibition Park, continues to be a beloved series by Festival patrons! Our continued partnership on Saturday with the Exhibition Park Neighbourhood Group during the Creativity Picnic is growing stronger as we strive to bring to the neighbourhood a full day of activities for the whole family. *In the Park* performances were showcased a diversity of form, style and humor, leaving patrons wanting to see more from invited companies from Toronto Cinetic Creations, Red Sky Performance, BoucharDanse and Montreal's Gadfly.

Additionally, in partnership with BoucharDance, and thanks to the Government of Ontario through a Francophone grant, Guelph Dance was able to offer the opportunity to youth dancers from our community to work with and perform with BourcharDance In the Park series. Twelve dancers between the ages of 12-14 successfully auditioned for the project. The youth dancers worked weekly for two months with Sylvie Bouchard (choreographer) Meredith Thompson (assistant and dancer) and Lynette Segal (rehearsal director and local dancer) to learn the choreography and had the opportunity to perform alongside the professional dancers in the *La Gigue en Souvenir*.

Dance Market-Following the Saturday *In the Park*, a variety of dance, fitness, and wellness demonstrations were offered by area practitioners at the *Dance Market*. This is an excellent opportunity for people to experience activities that they can then take part in throughout the year.

In the Studio presented four works in progress by local artists who participated in the first-ever **Breaking Ground Mentorship Program**, under the mentorship of Toronto's Sharon B. Moore. Julia Garlisi, Amber Sherwood Robinson, Solana Del Bel Belluz and Robert Kingsbury delighted the audiences with their new creations. During a four-day intensive dance artists had the opportunity to discover new tools in developing their craft as well as the time and space to explore, all with the support of their peers along the way.

Youth Moves closed the festival once again with seven companies and over 50 youth dancers performing for a faithful audience at the River Run Centre.

Artist in Residence- Sharon B. Moore was our 2017-18 Artists in Residence, developing with dancer Hilary Knee **CAKE!** a new piece exploring the demands of modern life on a young woman as she tried to achieve balance while making a cake. As part of her residence, Sharon also worked with four local artists as the first mentor of the Breaking Ground Mentorship Program in which participants were encouraged to take risks, explore and develop a new work in progress.

WORKSHOPS

The Guelph Dance Festival offered two masterclasses with local dance artist Suzette Sherman and two workshops open to the general public and dancers alike. Guest artists from Mix Mix Dance Collective, Ashley Perez and Emily Law warmed up Saturday morning with a vibrant street dance workshop. On Sunday morning, things got started with a Contemporary Indigenous Dance workshops taught by Maori artist Eddie Elliott, who was visiting from New Zealand as part of an ongoing international exchange offered by Red Sky Performances.

ARTS EXPLOSION CAMPS

Guelph Dance's Summer 2017 Arts Explosion Camp ran for three weeks and served children ages four to 13, five of whom were fully subsidized thanks to the generous support of the Guelph Community Foundation. An amazing roster of professional teaching artists taught dance, visual art, music, and theatre at the River Run Centre and Guelph Youth Dance Studios.

March Break Camp 2018, also at the River Run Centre, served 54 children, six of whom were fully subsidized thanks to the Rotary Club of Guelph-Trillium. Disciplines taught included dance, visual art, music, and theatre.

Due to our Fiscal Year change, we are also reporting on the Summer 2018 Arts Explosion Camps, which were so successful it got us thinking on the possibility of offering an extra week in 2019. In this occasion five participating campers received subsidies from the Guelph Community Foundation!

For both camps, dedicated high school students served as volunteer camp counselors. Several of them were serving for a second or even third time! Their hard work with the campers helped to make our camps a great success.

WORKSHOPS IN SCHOOLS

In partnership with Bouchardanse, and thanks to funds from the Government of Ontario through a Francophone investment opportunity, Guelph Dance was able to provide workshops on Contemporary Square Dancing taught by Hannah Shira Naiman to over 500 students at King George PS, Brant Avenue PS and Edward Johnson PS in Guelph. Additionally, thanks to the International Student Program at the Waterloo Region Catholic District School Board, our workshops also reached 45 visiting students from Colombia, who danced with us at the University of Waterloo.

Our Thanks

Guelph Dance Board of Directors (2017-18)

President: Michelle Miller
Vice-President: Kim Bolton
Treasurer: Marie Zimmerman
Secretary: Heather Finn
Members at Large: Nichola Martin and Lynda Walters

Staff/Crew (2017-18)

Artistic Director, Catrina von Radecki
General Manager, Adriana Rosselli Londoño
Outreach & Development Manager, Leslie Fisher
Festival Assistant, Janaya Campbell
Outreach & Youth Moves Assistant, Sofia Mollahassani
On the Stage & Youth Moves Lighting Design, Taras Cymbalisky
On the Stage & Youth Moves Stage Manager, Dorothy Fisher
On the Stage Assistant Stage Manager, Jill Grantmeyer
In the Park Sound Technician, Richard Gorrie
In the Park Stage Manager, Amber Sherwood-Robinson
In the Park Assistant Stage Manager, Ben Harvey
In the Park MC, Daniel Poulin
In the Park Leader of the Audience Site Manager, Katie Ewald
Rehearsal Director BoucharDanse Youth Dancers & In the Studio Stage Manager, Lynnette Segal
In the Studio, Sound Technician
Graphic Designer, Gareth Lind, LINDdesign
Bookkeeper, Anne Monkhouse
Accountant, John Lindsay
Videographers, Nicholas Loess
Photographer, Dean Palmer

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Moving Ahead (\$50-99)



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Monica Davis Scholarship Fund

Karie Bilger, Julia Forward

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Afro-Tribal Dance (Binty Koroma & Bintou Barrow), Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre, Carousel Dance Centre, Contemporary School of Dance, Barbara Dametto, Katie Ewald, Heather Finn, Guelph Chinese Performing Arts, Guelph Youth Dance Training Program, Living Yoga & Health, LIFT Guelph, Loyobo Fit, Lynette Segal, MT Space, Nia Guelph, Park'n Dance, School of Toronto Dance Theatre, Swansea School of Dance, The Mitzvah Technique, Yvonne Weiss

MEMBERS (2017-18)

Renay Aumiller, Micha Baltman, Sanjukta Banerjee, Meredith Blackmore, Ishra Blanco, Kim Bolton, Debra Brown, Susie Burpee, Yves Candou, Julianne Chapple, Connection Dance Works, Corpus, Lina Cruz, Mehdi Duman, Jacqueline Ethier, Fereh Ferenc, Francesca Frewer, Karissa Fryarr, Jennifer Goodwin, Julia Garlisi, Group Acorde, Kayla Henry, Katrina Hughes, Emily Hughes, Candice Irwin, Molly Johnson, Kaeja d'Dance, Peter Kelly, Robert Kingsbury, La Caravan Dance Theatre, Bethany Litner, Little Pear Garden, Isorine Marc, Alyssa Martin, Nichola Martin, Belinda McGuire, Jane Alison McKinney, Michelle Miller, Moon Horse Dance, Carolyn Morris, New Blue Emerging Dance, Yvonne Ng, David Norsworthy, Jonathan Osborn, John Oswald, Lisa Phinney, Sarah Porter, Sebastian Provecher, Carmen Romero, Lucy Rupert, Maureen Shea, Helen Simard, Holly Small, Mickael Sprinhirny, SQx Dance Compnay, Dipa Talukder, Toes for Dance Inc., Pam Tzeng, Vanguardia Dance Projects, Lynda Walters, Mary Wyga, Marie Zimmerman

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SPECIAL THANKS

Maggie Bolton, Adam Bowman, Patti Broughton, Kim Cruickshank, Kim Cusimano, Emily Davies-Robinson, Exhibition Park Neighbourhood Group- Justine Dainard and Ellyn Lusic, Katie Ewald, Shannon Fleming, Kaelan Forbes, Stella Genova, Lisa GillOrme, Julia Grady, Jill Grantmyre, Judy Harquail, Rena Hooey, Dave Horner, Janet Johnson, Michael Johnston, Dana Keller, Shannon Kingsbury, Jane Marsland, Jessica Morales, Janet Morton, Karen Myers, Liz O'Donnell, Ann Pappert, Andrea Patehvir, Jacqueline Prince-Sweet Temptations, Yasser Qahawish & Artisanale, Courtney Riddell, River Run Centre Staff & Volunteers, Joy Sammy, Brad & Christine-Schmuck Truck, Lynette Segal, Hannah Shira Naiman, Georgia Simms, Karina Soares, Kelly Steadman, Ilanna Tamari, Meredith Thompson, Sheila Trask

Fab 5 (Eden Mills Writer's Festival/Helene Duguay, Marie Zimmerman/Hillside Festival, Julie Hastings/Guelph Jazz Festival, Caroline Meili/Guelph Film Festival)

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