

Karen Kain
Artistic Director

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Spring into action with International Dance Day April 29, 2010

On Stage
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for the Performing Arts

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April 7, 2010... The **Canadian Dance Assembly (CDA)** invites all Canadians to participate in the numerous activities taking place across the country during **International Dance Day, 2010**. **CDA members will host an array of performances, workshops and activities** to promote the art of dance to the public. On the heels of the Cultural Olympiad, let us continue the momentum of spirited celebration and embrace the abundance of talent within our borders!

Initiated in 1982 by the International Dance Committee of the UNESCO International Theatre Institute (<http://iti.unesco.org>), International Dance Day falls on **April 29** of every year, commemorating the birthday of Jean-Georges Noverre, a distinguished choreographer who brought about significant reforms in ballet production. Every year, an international message authored by a well-known dance personality is circulated around the world as part of International Dance Day celebrations. Additionally, since 2005, the Canadian Dance Assembly has issued a Canadian message in conjunction with the UNESCO message.

This year, the Canadian Dance Assembly has invited award winning dancer-choreographer **Crystal Pite** to author the International Dance Day message. Pite has received critical acclaim both in Canada and abroad and is known as one of Canada's most innovative and exciting choreographers, recently creating the highly acclaimed *Emergence* for The National Ballet of Canada, which returns in the 2010/11 season. Pite's message speaks to the nature of dance that lives in us all; she invites us to delight in our existence and "to be *danced* by experience".

"On April 29, we invite you to celebrate International Dance Day. You are dancers, all of you. Life moves you; life *dances* you. To dance is to investigate and celebrate the experience of being alive. Like life, a dance creates and destroys itself in every moment. Like love, it is beyond reason. Ephemeral as breath, concrete as bone, dance is made of you. You sculpt space. You write with your body in a wordless language that is deeply understood. You grace the space within and around you when you dance. Force, trajectory, inertia, and recovery: dancing is a ride, a duet between your instinct and imagination. To dance is to heighten your experience of the present moment. Your body is your *location* - when you dance, you are profoundly engaged in being there. To dance is to feel the resonance of your life, to delight in your existence. To be human is to *be danced* by experience, energy and emotion. On International Dance Day, let's celebrate the life that moves us." – Crystal Pite, Kidd Pivot Frankfurt RM

The International Dance Day Message, commissioned by ITI – UNESCO, has been written this year by **Julio Bocca**. Bocca has been a guest artist with major ballet companies around the world; he is the recipient of numerous awards and currently is director of Ballet Argentino which he founded in 1990. His message is as follows:

"Dance is discipline, work, teaching, communication.
With it we save words that perhaps others would not understand
and, instead, we establish a universal language familiar to everyone.
It gives us pleasure, it makes us free
and it comforts us from the impossibility
we humans have to fly like birds, bringing us closer

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to heaven, to the sacred, to the infinite.
It is a sublime art, different each time, so much like making love
that at the end of each performance it leaves our heart beating very hard
and looking forward to the next time.”

The following pages provide an overview of some of the highlighted activities taking place in celebration of International Dance Day. Also, new this year, be sure to check out the **International Dance Day - Canada Facebook page**; become a fan of dance!

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British Columbia

From contemporary to flamenco and salsa to hula hooping, Vancouver celebrates International Dance Day with a series of events at the Scotiabank Dance Centre. Free events include an open rehearsal and introductory flamenco class with Spanish Passion Productions, a beginners' salsa/merengue class with Corey Solomon of Dance4U, an introduction to hula hooping for adults with Pixie Hoops, and an open rehearsal with No Hitting. As well, Scotiabank Dance Centre's lobby will host a new photo exhibit by Lola Dance, in honour of the late choreographer Lola MacLaughlin who passed away last year.

Performances to check out include MovEnt's thrilling and highly physical style of contemporary dance in two performances as part of The Dance Centre's popular Discover Dance! noon series. At 8pm, the company also performs Helesic's full length *Around the Block* (runs through to Saturday May 1). For more information on activities taking place at Scotiabank Dance Centre, phone (604) 606-6400 or visit www.thedancecentre.ca.

In Victoria, Dance Victoria will present Wen Wei Dance's show *Cockpit* May 1. Digging deep into his personal history, Wen Wei creates a new work that recalls his time as a young teenager at a boarding school in Mao's China. Visit www.dancevictoria.com for details.

Alberta

LiveStyle: Calgary's annual Urban Arts Festival will take place celebrating positive youth engagement through music, art, and dance of urban culture. The event has three major components including a celebration on International Dance Day. Blue Collar Dance will host a free lunch hour demonstration in City Hall and there will also be a showcase presented in Olympic Plaza May 1. <http://calgary.cityguide.ca/live-style-urban-art-festival-may-23/08-019469.php>.

In Edmonton, celebrated activities range from salsa lessons to live performances to dinner theatre! Enjoy a meal while taking in the Good Women Dance Collective or the Edmonton Métis Traditional Dancers. Or, try your hand at salsa dancing with Salsaddiction. Also, Mile Zero Dance will present a free showing of work that has been created with artists from the Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts. The showing is at 12 noon and will involve invited guests and a short film by Anna Rambow. Other events in Alberta consist of The Cold Lake Cloggers who will be hosting an Open House in Cold Lake. For more information on the International Dance Day events taking place across Alberta, please visit www.abdancealliance.ab.ca.

Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan will mark International Dance Day with a lineup of performances and workshops. In Regina, Wen Wei Dance performs their show *Cockpit* April 27, 28 at the Conexus Arts Centre. Wen Wei creates startling and provocative performance works of a distinctive trans-cultural sensibility. "I try to have my own voice – not modern, not ballet, not

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Chinese Classical dance, yet it is all of these things. It's all dance movement." (Wen Wei Wang). Wen Wei Dance will also lead a series of workshops and Master classes April 26, 27 and 29.

In Saskatoon, Free Flow Dance Theatre Company will host a performance on April 30 which will feature a showcase of a variety of local dance talents. Tickets are just \$5 at the door. For more information on these events or to register for the Wen Wei Dance workshops visit www.dancesask.com.

Manitoba

In celebration of International Dance Day, Mouvement/Winnipeg Dance Projects will present *Landscape Dancing* at 1pm April 29. Come and meet on the stairs at the front of the Legislative building on April 29 at 12:30 pm and celebrate dance in Manitoba. Enjoy the beautiful movements of Landscape Dancing and be part of a group photo with the Minister of Labour and Immigration, Jennifer Howard and other government officials. Other performances taking place in Winnipeg include Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet's *Val Caniparoli's A Cinderella Story* April 28-May 2 at the Centennial Concert Hall, tickets at 204-956-1360. Also, May 5-9 Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers presents *Between the Sycamore* at the Rachel Browne Theatre.

For those who are interested to sign themselves up for a workshop, Brenda Gorlick will host a special 4 hour Musical Theatre workshop April 14 for participants ages 10 and up. Confirmed workshop leaders consist of Chris Brauer, Sofia Costantini and Naomi Foreman. To learn from Manitoba's finest coaches visit www.brendagorlick.ca.

Ontario

DanceTO proudly presents an afternoon of free dance activities at Yonge-Dundas Square May 2 between 1-5pm to mark International Dance Day. The show will feature b-boy battles, capoeira matches, Nia demonstrations, contemporary choreography, belly dancing, ballroom lessons, hip hop routines, dance-theatre shows, African dance, and more. Situated in the open heart of Toronto, this special public event offers an eye-opening and interactive experience, highlighting Toronto's rich, diverse and inclusive dance community. This event is fun for all and everyone is encouraged to participate! For further details on this event visit www.danceumbrella.net/idd.htm.

The Dance Ontario Youth Board has organized a unique performance that will take place at the Toronto Pearson airport, Terminal 1 on April 29. There will also be many performances taking place in and around Ontario during this time, please check the Dance Ontario website for information on upcoming shows www.danceontario.ca.

Quebec

From April 26 until May 2, the Regroupement québécois de la danse (RQD) presents *Pas de danse, pas de vie!* This year marks the 5th edition celebration of *Pas de danse, pas de vie!* and also the 25th anniversary of the RQD. A variety of exciting free activities will be offered to the public. Dance classes, street performances, public rehearsal, discussions with artists, roundtables and more! For event details please visit the RQD website www.quebecdanse.org.

In Quebec, the Conseil de la culture des régions de Québec et de Chaudière-Appalaches will be offering its 12th year of free programming activities for the public in celebration of

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dance. Watch out for activity planned for April 25, 2010 under the banner, « À pied levé... dansez! ». www.culture-quebec.qc.ca/jidanse/

Nova Scotia

The province of Nova Scotia has declared April 24 to May 01 to be Nova Scotia Dance Week! The Canadian message will be read aloud at events happening throughout Nova Scotia during this time. Three dance artists of different generations and dance forms will read the Canadian dance message at Live Art's presentation of Denise Fujiwara on April 29. Additionally, the message will be read aloud in classrooms throughout the province.

Dance Nova Scotia has challenged all of the province's schools to "Dare to Dance" for twenty minutes on International Dance Day, a prize of 18 hours of dance workshops for the school that has the highest percentage of student and staff participation. A similar challenge has gone out to all of the municipal recreation departments in the province. You can catch dance in other locations such as the Municipal libraries where dance collections will be on display. Or, come see The Smokin' Hot Contra Band which will play in the Grand Parade in downtown Halifax at lunch time on April 29. Invitations are being sent to all offices in building in the blocks around the Parade Square and to all government offices to encourage their employees to turn out to celebrate the fun and fitness of community dancing. Check out the Dance Nova Scotia website for updates. www.dancens.ca

The Canadian Dance Assembly is a proud supporter of *destination dance~danse*, Canada's first online stop for Canada-wide dance listings. For more detailed listings on International Dance Day activities and performances throughout the country visit www.destinationdancedanse.com. This calendar is provided and maintained by Dance Media Group/Groupe Danse Média, publishers of *The Dance Current* magazine.

The National Ballet of Canada is a member of the CDA.

The Canadian Dance Assembly (CDA) is the voice of the professional dance sector in Canada and advocates for a healthy, sustainable environment in which professional dance practice can grow and thrive. CDA is a reputable source of information on the current state of dance in Canada and provides representation to policy-makers and the public. CDA enables its national membership of dance professionals and organizations to connect with their peers through regular communication, forums, conferences and workshops, and facilitates opportunities for networking, dialogue and exchange on topics relevant to the Canadian dance sector.

The National Ballet of Canada's 2009/10 season is presented by CTV and The Globe and Mail.

Emergence is generously supported by Gail Hutchison.

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