

75
YEARS

RWVB

CANADA'S ROYAL
WINNIPEG BALLET
ANDRÉ LEWIS ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



ANNUAL REPORT 2014/2015

LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

MISSION

The Royal Winnipeg Ballet enriches the human experience by teaching, creating, and performing outstanding dance.

VISION

The Royal Winnipeg Ballet will be embraced in Winnipeg and beyond. We will be seen as ambassadors for dance, for our city, our province, and our country. Our work will reflect passion, exuberance, honesty, excellence, and integrity. We will take our place among the premiere dance companies of the world.

2014/15 has been a remarkable season at Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet. The brilliant performances and experiences we've been able to share with our audiences and community have really made our 75th anniversary even more memorable.

New works are always at the heart of Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet. In October 2014, we premiered *Going Home Star - Truth and Reconciliation*. This profound work based on the experiences and stories from the Indian Residential School System forever changed the entire organization. With great pride we also performed works such as the endearing story of *Nutcracker*, the stunning *Swan Lake*, and a mesmerizing production of *The Faerie Queen - A Ballet Based On A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

This season the RWB also continued to engage the community in different ways off stage. We made connections through Ballet In The Park, Culture Day's Dance Downtown, Sharing Dance Day, School matinee shows, open working rehearsals, Concert Hour Ballet, Quantum Program and so much more.

Investing in our community is not only the right thing to do, but it also benefits the company and RWB's Recreational and Professional Divisions. Attending the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, students receive so much more than just excellent dance training: they learn how to become great people in our community. We'd like to thank our funders, government partners, sponsors, donors, subscribers and ticket buyers whose generosity and support has allowed the RWB to exist and grow over the years. Our heartfelt thanks to you for being a part of our story.

André Lewis
Artistic Director



Jeff Herd
Executive Director



Arlene Minkhorst
School Director



David Reid
Chair, RWB Board of Directors



DANCERS

Amanda Green, Liang Xing
Yayoi Ban, Sophia Lee
Dmitri Dvogsolets, Yosuke Mino
Sarah Davey, Elizabeth Lamont
Tristan Dobrowney, Eric Nipp,
Egor Zdor
Yoshiko Kamikusa, Chenxin Liu,
Alanna McAdie, Anna O'Callaghan,
Manami Tsubai, Liam Caines, Stepan Possin,
Thiago Dos Santos,
Luzemberg Santana, Ryan Vetter
Katie Bonnell, Jaimi Deleau,
Amy Young, Tyler Carver

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Principal, Recreational Division Kelly Bale
Interim Principal, Recreational Division
Nicole Kepp
Vice Principal, Recreational Division Nicole Kepp
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Katrin Benedictson
Principal Pianist Donna Laube
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Payroll Administrator Deneen Swartz
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Professional Division Registrar Kari Keech
Recreational Division Registrar Tali Sitschkar
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Office Assistants Jayne Cormack,
Rikke McFeeters, Melanie Saunders

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Facilities Maintenance Kong Ly, Doug Grant
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Assistant Carpenter/Head Flyman
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Head of Properties Tim Hrabchak
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Assistant Electrician M. Drew Derbowka
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Audio Visual Technician/Production Assistant
John Kaminski
Tour Trucking Arnold Brothers Transport

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Chantal Hogue, Carol Hoydalo, Danielle Lester,
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Bob Pleschke, Stephan Possin,
Hannah Rogalsky Hogan, Ellen Stothers,
Bobi Stupack, Yolibe Velasquez de Cowie
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Cook Kylie Evans
Kitchen Assistants Doris Bedard, Jonabelle Tay
Kitchen Student Assistant Madeline Bez

Residence Caretaker Gawain Umphrey

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Footwear Manager Janet Anderson
Head of Touring Wardrobe/Milliner
Brenda Belmonté
School Costume Coordinator Angela Vaags
Head Sewer Angela Gaft
Sewers Gabriella Barone, Zenaida Cruz,
Rose Curatolo, Noel De Leon, Karen Luchak, Kathleen Lynch,
Diana Miller, Anciska Milne, Carrie-Ann Wilson

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The Royal Winnipeg Ballet would like to acknowledge the contributions made by the Women's Committee, represented by Jane Fudge, President, and the Alumni Association, Marilyn Marshall, President.

RWB MEDICAL SUPPORT TEAM

Medical services provided by Pan Am Clinic.
Physiotherapy service provided by Centric Health Sports Therapy,
Medical Department.....Dr. Brian Lukie, M.D.,
Dr. Deborah Hill, MBCM FRCPC
Physiotherapists.....Laurie Urban B.A., B.P.T. FCAMP,
Diploma Sports Physiotherapy, Kevin Dyck, B.M.B (PT),
Sam Steinfeld, B.Sc., B.M.R. (PT)
Massage Therapist.....Leanne Lawrie, R.M.T.
Sports & WellNess Nutrition Consultant.....Marieke Breakey,
B.Sc.(HNS), R.D.

DANCERS,
STAFF & BOARD

COMPANY SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

GOING HOME STAR - TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

This highly acclaimed production, with the support of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, used the power of dance as a representation of the emotions and experiences both told and untold by Residential School survivors and their families. *Going Home Star - Truth and Reconciliation* explores the world of Annie, a young, urban First Nations woman adrift in a contemporary life of youthful excess. She meets Gordon, a longhaired trickster disguised as a homeless man, and they learn that without truth there is no reconciliation.

The creative team that brought this story to life includes renowned choreographer Mark Godden, Canadian novelist and TRC Honourary Witness Joseph Boyden, Cree actress, former Member of Parliament, and TRC Honourary Witness Tina Keeper, Canadian multimedia artist KC Adams, accomplished costume designer Paul Daigle, and Juno Award-winning composer Christos Hatzis with Polaris Prize-winning Inuk throat singer Tanya Tagaq and Steve Wood and the Northern Cree Singers along with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra.

Cited as quite possibly as “*the most important work in its 75-year history*” (Holly Harris, Winnipeg

Free Press) *Going Home Star - Truth and Reconciliation* was a labour of love and passion; a risk-taking venture into unknown, unfamiliar and troubled territory which proved to be successful as the audiences showed that they wanted to listen, watch, and learn. After seeing the performances, many expressed their experiences of empathy and how they came to understand the true history and legacy of the Indian residential school system. It achieved what RWB had hoped, that the ballet would be a tool to open up dialogues, recognition and understanding about this important albeit dark part of Canada’s history.

Along with the stage performances, the Legacy of Hope Foundation’s exhibition, 100 Years of Loss and other curated artworks and archival items ensured the visibility and depiction of the lasting impacts and consequences of the Indian residential school system. The RWB engaged with students, survivors, families and people from all walks of life. The Student Matinee was all-inclusive inviting schools from Winnipeg, Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario. As part of its community outreach, the RWB secured sponsored and subsidized tickets for survivors and created Pay What You Can Thursday to provide additional access to everyone. Not only did we see residential school survivors at each show but Canadians from

every ethnic background came to participate and meet each other at the pre-show programs such as the Pre-Show Chats, Elder’s Corner and musical performances during intermission. Respecting the importance and sensitivity of the performances, the RWB also made available Health Support Workers to provide both physical and spiritual assistance and counseling services to those who needed it.

RWB’s commitment to this show did not stop at the creation of the ballet. RWB was completely transformed as an organization, participating in Cultural Awareness Training, going on a group retreat to take part in a sweat lodge, pipe ceremony, traditional feasting and storytelling from Mr. Ted Fontaine, elder, author and a residential school survivor. We also hosted Ms. Doris Young, an educator and residential school survivor who gave dancers and staff an opportunity to learn about life in a residential school through the eyes of a survivor. These experiences gave a deeper connection to the work for both dancers and staff.

Going Home Star - Truth and Reconciliation is a true reflection of RWB’s mission to be an advocate for art as a vehicle for social change that maintains a tradition of excellence in teaching, performing and creating outstanding dance.



NUTCRACKER

Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet holiday favourite returned to the Centennial Concert Hall from December 20-28 with thirteen new furry characters. Twelve baby polar bears and one adult polar bear named Hazel, enriched the Canadian edition of *Nutcracker* that the RWB is well-known for. The baby polar bears warmed the hearts of audiences and were played by 12 students from the RWB School Recreational Division. With costume design by Paul Daigle, these characters added delightful choreography to a new *Nutcracker* scene. *Nutcracker* would also not be complete without the addition of celebrity guest walk-on roles which included The Honourable Shelly Glover, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages, Mayor Brian Bowman, Beau and Heather Prosak (99.9 BOB FM), Chrissy Troy (Virgin Radio 103.1), Doug Speirs (Winnipeg Free Press), Colleen Bready and Gord LeClerc (CTV Winnipeg News), Sierra Noble (musician), Bailey Carlson (Make a Wish), Ben Diamond and Claire Ann Deighton (Gala Auction Winners), Daria Zmiyiwsky (Winnipeg Sun), Ron Cantiveros (Filipino Journal), Maria Aragon (Vocalist) and Ron Paley (Musician). Rising star Alanna McAdie performed her debut as Clara. McAdie shared this role with Sophia Lee and Yayoi Ban. The Nutcracker Prince was performed by Liang Xing, Dmitri Dovgoselets and Yosuke Mino.

RWB COMPANY IN NUTCRACKER

SWAN LAKE

A diamond anniversary season would not be complete without the perennial classic masterpiece *Swan Lake*. *Swan Lake* has become one of the most popular classical ballets from RWB's repertoire since its debut in 1987. The demanding dual roles of Odette/Odile were performed by Sophia Lee, Yayoi Ban and Yoshiko Kamikusa. The regal role of Prince Siegfried was performed by Liang Xing, Dmitri Dovgoselets and Ryan Vetter. Soloist Yosuke Mino reprised his 2010 role as the jolly jester and second soloist Eric Nipp's role as Rothbart was infused with athleticism.

In addition to the breathtaking choreography, timeless score, and magnificent set, 28 newly created tutus graced the stage thanks to the donors and supporters of the Tutus In Bloom campaign. This campaign was created to cover the cost of replacing the swan tutus, which were designed and created over 28 years ago. The production also included local Polish dance ensemble S.P.K. Iskry performing the boot-stomping Mazurka.

YAYOI BAN AND DMITRI DOVGOSELETS IN SWAN LAKE | PHOTO BY: SAMANTA KATZ

THE FAERIE QUEEN - A BALLET BASED ON A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

The Faerie Queen - A Ballet Based On A Midsummer Night's Dream is the seminal work of Barbados-born, Canadian choreographer John Alleyne. Alleyne's contemporary ballet, based on William Shakespeare's famous comedy *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, enjoyed its Winnipeg premiere with Sophia Lee playing the lead role of Puck, a fairy with a penchant for chaos. Joining her in lead roles are Sarah Davey (Tatiana), Liang Xing (Oberon) and Dmitri Dovgoselets (Egeus). The sharp humour of this much-loved story came to life with innovative, athletic choreography and an enchanting musical score composed by Michael Bushnell and Owen Underhill, adapted from Henry Purcell's baroque opera, *The Fairy Queen*.

LIANG XING WITH RD STUDENTS IN THE FAERIE QUEEN | PHOTO BY: LEIF NORMAN





LA BAYADÈRE KINGDOM OF THE SHADES + THE MISADVENTURES OF PINOCCHIO

The interconnectivity between the RWB Company and the RWB School was showcased with the addition of the School's Professional Division performances of In Concert which were included in the official Company season for 2014-2015. This dynamic mixed repertoire program features *La Bayadère's* most frequently performed sequence, the dream-like *Kingdom of the Shades*. Choreographed by Anna-Marie Holmes after Marius Petipa, audiences were awestruck with the mesmerizing procession of ballerinas in white tutus dancing in unison across a moonlit stage. Choreographed and staged by Stéphane Léonard, *The Misadventures of Pinocchio* followed beloved wood carver Geppetto and animated marionette Pinocchio as they faced a series of trials and tribulations and learned valuable lessons from their mistakes.



Q DANCE

Known for innovative and aesthetically daring choreographic choices, this year's dynamic *Q DANCE* at the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre was a virtuosic collection of contemporary ballet. The mixed repertoire program featured two World Premieres – *Pop, Bubble, Fizz!* from *Q DANCE* artistic director and choreographer Peter Quanz and *Weft* from New York City-based dance innovator, Gabrielle Lamb. This year also marked the return of Quanz' neoclassical work *Untitled* which originally premiered in 2013. For one performance only, on June 10th, guest dancers Amar Ramasar (New York City Ballet, Principal Dancer) and Rebecca King (Finnish National Ballet, Soloist) performed *Blushing*, a duet to Lana del Rey's Young and Beautiful. Subsequent performances of this piece were done by Alanna McAdie and Stephan Possin.



ROYAL WINNIPEG BALLET TOURS

The Royal Winnipeg Ballet represented Winnipeg, Manitoba and Canada as the Company toured mainland China with *Romeo + Juliet* and *Moulin Rouge®-The Ballet* where we performed in six cities including Shanghai and Guangzhou during the Fall of 2014. MOULIN ROUGE

The enduring holiday favourite, *Nutcracker* delighted audiences in Victoria, Nanaimo and Vancouver with the addition of thirteen polar bear characters in early December.

Prior to Winnipeg performances, RWB took *The Faerie Queen – A Ballet Based On A Midsummer Night's Dream* on the road with a 3-city Prairie Tour including stops in Saskatoon (April 21), Regina (April 22), and Brandon (April 23). Having enjoyed its World Premiere with Ballet BC in 2000, this production was a first for these Canadian centres. The brilliant ballet score was accompanied by a live symphony orchestra in Regina (Regina Symphony Orchestra).

TOP: RWB PROFESSIONAL DIVISION STUDENTS IN LA BAYADÈRE | PHOTO BY: RÉJEAN BRANDT PHOTOGRAPHY
MIDDLE: RWB COMPANY IN Q DANCE | PHOTO BY: VINCE PAHKALA
BOTTOM: RWB COMPANY IN MOULIN ROUGE®-THE BALLET | PHOTO BY: MICHELLE BLAIS

DANCER PROMOTIONS

During the 75th anniversary season, Liang Xing, who initially joined the RWB as a Guest Dancer was offered a permanent spot with the Company as Principal dancer. Born in Beijing, China, Liang is known for captivating audiences as Gordon in *Going Home Star - Truth and Reconciliation*, Prince Siegfried in *Swan Lake*, the Nutcracker Prince in *Nutcracker*, and Romeo in *Romeo + Juliet*.

Second Soloist Yayoi Ban become a Soloist as she entered her 9th season in the Company, and Corps de Ballet dancers Sarah Davey and Tristan Dobrowney have each been promoted to Second Soloist. Apprentices Manami Tsubai and Yoshiko Kamikusa became members of the Corps de Ballet. Former RWB School Aspirant Jaimi Deleau joined the Company as an Apprentice. The RWB also welcomed two new Apprentices, Amy Chieko Young and Tyler Carver.



Liang Xing
Principal Dancer

Yayoi Ban
Soloist

Sarah Davey
Second Soloist

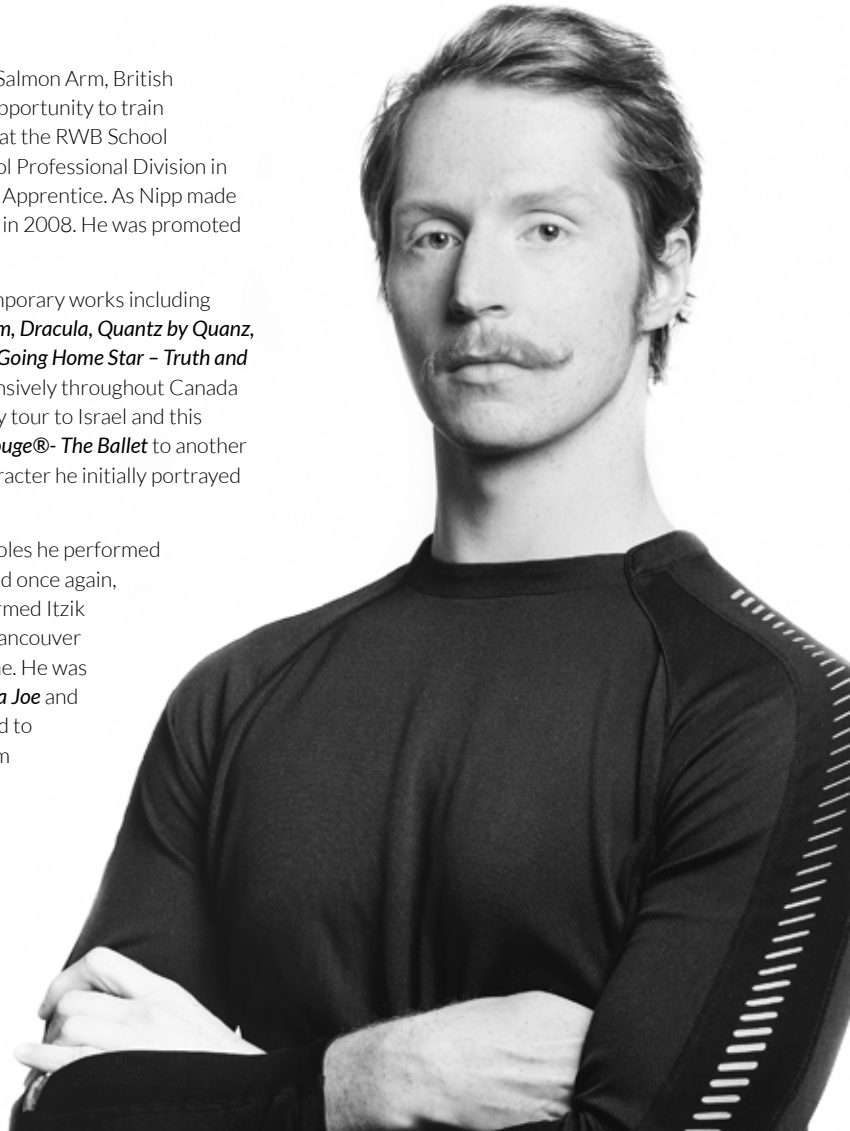
Tristan Dobrowney
Second Soloist

ERIC NIPP RETIREMENT

Eric Nipp's love of dance and performance extends back to his hometown of Salmon Arm, British Columbia. He began dance training at age 11 and when presented with the opportunity to train professionally, Nipp made the move to Winnipeg at age 13 to pursue studies at the RWB School Professional Division. After graduating from the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School Professional Division in 2005, Nipp joined Ballet Kelowna for one season prior to joining the RWB as Apprentice. As Nipp made strides in artistry and technique, he moved up in the ranks to Corps de Ballet in 2008. He was promoted again in 2011 to the rank of Second Soloist.

Nipp's vast repertoire includes an incredible selection of classical and contemporary works including *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Serenade*, *Carmina Burana*, *Hikarizatto*, *In The Upper Room*, *Dracula*, *Quantz by Quanz*, *Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, *Val Caniparoli's A Cinderella Story*, *Romeo + Juliet*, and *Going Home Star - Truth and Reconciliation*. During Nipp's tenure with the RWB Company, he toured extensively throughout Canada and the United States. He also joined the Company on their 70th Anniversary tour to Israel and this season's tour to mainland China. The mainland China tour brought *Moulin Rouge® - The Ballet* to another international stage, giving Nipp the chance to reprise the role of Zidler, a character he initially portrayed when the ballet enjoyed its World Premiere in 2009.

With a love of acting and performance, Nipp also delighted in the character roles he performed including *Nutcracker's* Drosselmeier, and *Swan Lake's* Baron von Rothbart, and once again, *Moulin Rouge® - The Ballet's* Zidler. Along with the RWB Company, he performed Itzik Galili's *Hikarizatto*, and Mark Godden's *As Above, and So Below* at the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympic Games, Cultural Olympiad. Nipp's partnering skills also shone. He was paired with Tara Birtwhistle in her farewell performance of *The Ecstasy of Rita Joe* and Paloma Herrera in *Twyla Tharp's The Princess & The Goblin*. We are honoured to have had Nipp's talents flourish at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, and we wish him great success in his next exciting chapter.



SOPHIA LEE, DMITRI DOVGOSOLETS AND ERIC NIPP HEADSHOT
PHOTOS BY: RÉJEAN BRANDT PHOTOGRAPHY

SPECIAL EVENTS

BALLET IN THE PARK

Ballet In The Park marked another year of summer tradition for many people. Presented by Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries, Ballet in the Park took place from July 23-25 at the Assiniboine Park Lyric Theatre.

The RWB Company performed internationally acclaimed choreographer James Kudelka's *The Four Seasons*. Hailed by critics as a "modern masterpiece" and danced to Vivaldi's four violin concertos, *The Four Seasons* had its Winnipeg premiere in *Mixed Programme*, which concluded the RWB's 74th season. This presentation also included special appearances by André Lewis, Tara Birtwhistle, Vanessa Lawson and Jaime Vargas.

Ballet In The Park also included a performance by the RWB School Professional Division, which featured excerpts from *Swan Lake*. Audience members were also treated to a Hip-Hop performance by RWB School Recreational Division students.

PARKS CANADA HONOURS RWB'S HISTORY

Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet was extremely proud to be commemorated as a national historic event of Canada by Parks Canada on December 23, 2014. The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Canada's Environment Minister and Minister responsible for Parks Canada, announced the designation of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet as a **National Historic Event of Canada**, and unveiled a Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada plaque to mark the momentous occasion. The Royal Winnipeg Ballet is commemorated by Parks Canada as one of the earliest ballet companies in the country which helped establish ballet as a theatrical dance form in Canada; for its distinctive repertoire in Canadian context that was designed to appeal to a broad selection of Canadian society; and for its extensive national and international tours.



2015/2016 SEASON LAUNCH

On April 16th RWB's annual Season Launch welcomed media guests and community members to the newly renovated Founders' Studio to unveil the upcoming season of breathtaking dance. Jeff Herd hosted the event and showcased a video announcing the repertoire for the 2014/15 season, as well as *Going Home Star - Truth and Reconciliation*'s national tour and *Moulin Rouge® -The Ballet*'s European tour. Highlights of the event also included an excerpt from *Swan Lake* and a blessing given by honoured Elders, Clarence and Barbara Nepinak.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION REUNION

The RWB Alumni Association held their reunion on October 4th during the week of the world premiere of *Going Home Star - Truth and Reconciliation*. The RWB was proud to host a number of visiting RWB Alumni members who travelled from near and far and participated in several alumni events including a reunion dinner at the Centennial Concert Hall before taking in a performance of *Going Home Star - Truth and Reconciliation*. At the end of the show, all RWB Alumni posed for a group photo on stage, and witnessed an exciting announcement. RWB Executive Director Jeff Herd was presented with a \$20,000 donation from the RWB Alumni Association, which will be used to digitize photo files in the RWB Archives. Thank you, RWB Alumni Association!



BARRE AFTER HOURS

The Royal Winnipeg Ballet welcomed the summer with Barre After Hours – a first-time rooftop parkade party! Guests enjoyed a downtown roof-top view while dancing under the stars with the sounds of Attica Riots and DJ Mama Cutsworth. This first-time event sold out with proceeds benefiting the Royal Winnipeg Ballet.

CANADA'S BALLET JÖRGEN PRESENTS CINDERELLA

On February 7th, Canada's Ballet Jörgen presented *Cinderella* at the Centennial Concert Hall. Jörgen's choreography returns to the original Russian tradition of having women perform the roles of the stepsisters and highlighted the magical aspects of the story.

A DIAMOND GALA EVENING

RWB's 75th Anniversary Diamond Gala, hosted at the RBC Convention Centre was a great success. It was RWB's biggest gala to date with 377 people in attendance. Guests were treated to several performances throughout the evening including: *Luminous* by Peter Quanz, *La Bayadère* by Marius Petipa, *Shiny Moment* by Yosuke Mino, and *For You* by Kristina Washchyshyn. Major sponsors included TD Bank Group (Presenting Sponsor), The Diamond Gallery (Draw Sponsor), and Natural Bakery (Dancer Dinner Sponsor). Our guests participated in Silent and Live Auctions along with a Draw for a 1.02 carat round diamond with a \$500 gift certificate towards the diamond setting from The Diamond Gallery. Thanks to our donors, sponsors and supporters, the RWB raised \$160,000 in net revenue.

TUTUS IN BLOOM

In order to present *Swan Lake* for the 75th Anniversary season, the RWB wardrobe department needed to replace 28 tutus that were designed and built a quarter of a century ago. The Tutus in Bloom fundraising campaign was created with the goal to raise \$60,000 to make this possible. Building a tutu requires extraordinary attention to detail and a great amount of time. The construction is meticulous, with each layer individually dyed and hand-sewn to the next. On average, the cost of creating each tutu is approximately \$2,000. The campaign was a success raising \$62,235 thanks to the generosity of new donors and tutu sponsors.

THE BUSINESS OF BALLET

This year the RWB held its first annual corporate networking event entitled The Business of Ballet. This event gave the RWB the opportunity to show our appreciation to the corporate sponsors, donors, funders, and partners like Manitoba Trade & Investment and World Trade Centre - Winnipeg. The event included a performance by dancers in the Aspirant program, an address by the Board Chair regarding the business of the arts, and a season review by André Lewis.

RWB SCHOOL POINTE SHOE FUND

The RWB School Pointe Shoe Fund was established in honour of Jacqueline Weber's retirement and for her 40 years of commitment to Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet School. During her tenure as the Professional Division Principal, she provided support and guidance to students and parents, ensuring that talented young dancers could pursue their dreams. Mrs. Weber was a gifted instructor whose passion for the art form of ballet and love for her students inspired many generations of dancers. The RWB School Pointe Shoe Fund supports dancers with pointe shoes for performance opportunities, and provides assistance to students who need help to cover the cost of purchasing pointe shoes for class. Much time and many elements go into crafting the pointe shoe – satin, glue, and leather are used to create this quintessential tool for dancers in training. They are designed to break down and mold to the foot of a dancer, in turn gifting the audience with those breathtaking moments we see on stage.

TOP: KATIE BONNELL AND RYAN VETTER IN *LUMINOUS* | PHOTO BY: LEIF NORMAN |
MIDDLE: RWB COMPANY IN *SWAN LAKE* | BOTTOM: BALLET GIRLS



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

SHARING DANCE DAY

On May 24, 2015, the RWB School participated in the inaugural Sharing Dance Day in Winnipeg! Approximately 100 people were in attendance. The RWB School partnered with Canada's National Ballet School and Physical and Health Education Canada on Sharing Dance, a National arts engagement strategy for a healthy, active Canada. Sharing Dance Day is an annual community celebration of dance where participants come together to perform the Sharing Dance routine.

SHARING DANCE DAY | PHOTO BY: AMY SIMOES

DANCE DOWNTOWN

RWB's annual program for the National Culture Days weekend was held on Sunday, September 28th. The 2014 event offered a screening of *TutuMUCH* and *40 Years of One Night Stands*, followed by a panel discussion. Curated materials from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and costume sketches from *Going Home Star - Truth and Reconciliation* were also featured in the lobby. In addition, free dance workshops were available in Creative Movement, Ballet, Spanish, Hip Hop, Ukrainian, and Aboriginal dance. Activities with Art City and costume tryouts were also available for children to take part in.

PROFESSIONAL DIVISION

52 Professional Division students were supported through the RWB School's scholarship program in 2014/15 in the amount of \$121,250.

RWB PROFESSIONAL DIVISION SUMMER SESSION SCHOLARSHIP 2014

Isaac Parent

CHELSEA TANG SCHOLARSHIP 2014

Kelsey Miller

DOREEN MACDONALD SCHOLARSHIP 2015

Anna Benko
(awarded at First Steps 2014)

MILLICENT ROCKWELL DONNELLY BURSARY 2014/15

Miranda Lazarenko

PADDY STONE SCHOLARSHIP 2015

Wetika (Jao) Woramontri
(awarded at First Steps 2014)

UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CLUB/ DR. ALICE CHEATLEY BURSARY 2014/15

Kazuki Nishikiori

LEON & LORRAINE RUBIN SCHOLARSHIP 2014/15

Kolbie Edwards

DAVID PEREGRINE MEMORIAL AWARD 2014/15

Michel Lavoie

UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CLUB PERFORMING ARTS BURSARY 2014/15

Emilie Lewis

DAIMLER-CHRYSLER SCHOLARSHIP 2014/15

Morgan Thiessen

RENE HIGHWAY SCHOLARSHIP 2014/15

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JANE MCEVOY O'DONNELL SCHOLARSHIP 2014/15

Jonah Schroeder

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Nicolas Noguera

KALLY KENNEDY SCHOLARSHIP 2014/15

Lisa Brooks

ODETTE & ODILE SCHOLARSHIP 2014/15

Polly Guay

JUANITA Y. ALEXANDER SCHOLARSHIP FOR ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE 2014/15

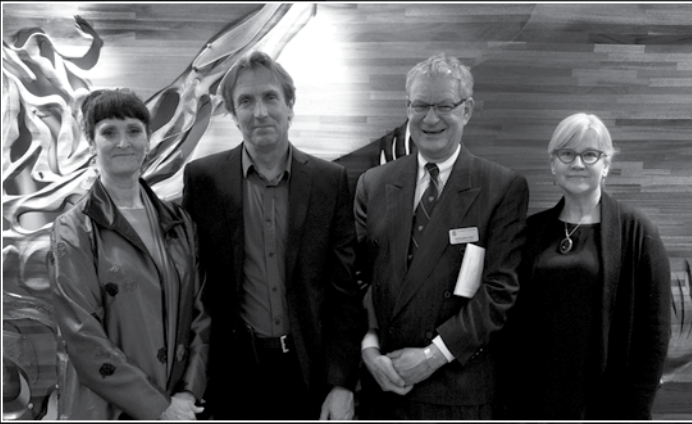
Mako Ayata

INVESTORS GROUP PROFESSIONAL DIVISION SUMMER SCHOLARSHIP 2014

Alexandra Froese (BC),
Marsden Cousins (AB),
Morgan Brown (SK),
Hannah Smith (MB),
Maya Soin (ON),
Miriam Dysart (NB),
Jaeda Alders-Pearl (NS),
Emily Wall (PE),
Anne-Catherine Pelletier (QC)

INVESTORS GROUP FALL/ WINTER PROFESSIONAL DIVISION SCHOLARSHIP

2014/15 Roman Chorneyko,
Polly Guay, Ana Mekvabishvili,
Elizabeth Oates, Sarah Snider



THE 31ST ANNUAL MARJORIE WARD LECTURE PRESENTS: ANDRÉ LEWIS "REACHING YOUR POTENTIAL"

On February 26th, Artistic Director of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, André Lewis stood at the centre of two remarkable tales of reaching one's artistic potential. Advancing from student to dancer to Artistic Director, Lewis shares the steps that a small, prairie ballet club took to become an international tour de force. In this Marjorie Ward Lecture at the University of Manitoba, André Lewis shared his thoughts on reaching one's potential.

ANDRÉ LEWIS AT MARJORIE WARD LECTURE 2 | PHOTO BY: KATHLEEN NICANOR



THE RWB REACHES STUDENTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

During *The Handmaid's Tale* in Ottawa in 2015, NAC dance and the Royal Winnipeg Ballet completed a very special week of dance outreach with workshops in schools, 3 masterclasses, and a "Tea with a Ballerina" event. Over 11 workshops and activities were offered, reaching a total of 446 students. On April 10th, Jaime Vargas visited Youth Ballet and Contemporary Dance of Saskatchewan. In both classes, Mr. Vargas shared some information about ballet training and some of his own experiences as a student and as a dancer, proving that goals can be achieved even when facing difficulty.

CRAIG MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT SCHOLARSHIP 2014/15
Liam Saito

ESSO KIDS AWARD OF EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP 2014/15
Regina Bertuzzi

ENDOWMENT AWARD 2014/15
Victoria Jenkins, Yuya Mizushima

JULIA ARKOS MEMORIAL AWARD 2014/15
Sydney Barber

ANR PIPELINE SCHOLARSHIP 2014/15
Audrey Cook

CANADIAN PACIFIC SCHOLARSHIP 2014/15
Ryley Krauss

ANTONIO KLOCKOW MEMORIAL BURSARY - ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP 2014/15
Conrad Mueller

RWB ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP 2014/15
Alexandra Strandberg, Noah Franck

FOUNDERS SCHOLARSHIP 2014/15
Madison Chisholm

ROYAL BANK OF CANADA AWARD 2014/15
Julianne Chartier, Keaton Leier, Katie Simpson, Seung Yeon Lee

DOUGLAS AND ELIZABETH MACEWAN SCHOLARSHIP 2014/15
Saeka Shirai, Dae Hee Lee

EVELYN HART SCHOLARSHIP 2014/15
Samara Rittinger

ARNOLD SPOHR SCHOLARSHIP 2014/15
Mako Ayata, Keaton Leier

PRINCE EDWARD AWARD 2014/15
Katie Simpson, Brandon Lockhart



CONCERT HOUR BALLET RWB SCHOOL STUDENTS

CLASS OF 2015

The RWB School would like to recognize the hard work and dedication of our graduates, both in the Ballet Academic Program and the Teacher Training Program. We look forward to seeing what opportunities the world of dance will unveil to them as their journey continues. We have no doubt they will inspire the next generation of dancers.



2015 GRADUATES OF THE BALLET ACADEMIC PROGRAM

DIANE SALLER

Certificate of Study

MAKO AYATA

Graduation Diploma

ANNA BENKO

Graduation Diploma

REGINA BERTUZZI

Graduation Diploma

ISABELLA PISAPIA

Graduation Diploma

KATIE SIMPSON

Graduation Diploma

MORGAN THIESSEN

Graduation Diploma

MATTHEW KLIPPENSTEIN

Graduation Diploma

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Graduation Diploma

LIAM SAITO

Graduation Diploma

LUKE THOMSON

Graduation Diploma

2015 GRADUATES OF THE TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAM

STACHA PENNER

Graduation Diploma

ALEX SCHADE

Graduation Diploma

JESSICA SPIRITO

Certificate of Study

ELAINE NEUFELD

Certificate of Study

COMMUNITY PERFORMANCES

On September 11th, Aspirants performed *Caught in Kerfuffles*, choreographed by Aspirant Philippe-Alexandre Jacques, at an event for the Building Owners and Managers Association at the Fort Garry Hotel. The piece was originally choreographed for the Aspirant Program's year-end showcase *On the Edge* in June 2014.

Aspirants, as well as several junior students from both the Professional Division and Recreational Division, were honoured to take part in the televised grand opening of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights on September 19th.

Six Aspirants traveled with the RWB Company on their tour to China in October, performing in *Romeo + Juliet* and *Moulin Rouge® - The Ballet*.

The University of Manitoba celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Faculty of Law with a gala evening at the Metropolitan Entertainment Centre on October 18th. The University commissioned a new work from choreographer and Professional Division graduate Philippe-Alexandre Jacques. The piece, entitled *My Fair Ladies*, featured Aspirants Julia Jones-Whitehead, Hannah Julian and Adrienne Bot.

Aspirants Hannah Julian, Julia Jones-Whitehead, Jin Ah Kim, Shae-Lynn Martin and Madeline Bez performed *X Years* by choreographer and Professional Division graduate Philippe-Alexandre Jacques as a part of David Suzuki's Blue Dot Tour in Winnipeg on October 24th at the Burton Cummings Theatre.

The Young Presidents Organization/World Presidents Organization (YPO/WPO) held an event at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights on October 28th. Aspirant Program students Julia Jones-Whitehead, Hannah Julian and Madeline Bez, as well as Professional Division graduate Philippe-Alexandre Jacques, performed a new work choreographed by Lindsay Nelko.

In November, the School announced its collaboration with Wookey Films on a French-language documentary feature, *Les Boys du ballet*, with funding from The Canada Media Fund under the Francophone Minority Production Program. The documentary will look at boys' ballet training from very young dancers to professionals enjoying established careers in dance.

On February 6th, School alumnus and Company dancer Ryan Vetter and Aspirant Julia Jones-Whitehead performed *The Grand Pas de Deux* from *Sleeping Beauty* as part of a performance by the North Dakota Ballet at the Chester Fritz auditorium in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

On February 28th, Professional Division graduates Saeka Shirai and Philippe-Alexandre Jacques performed *Le Jazz Hot* at a fundraising gala for the Health Sciences Foundation at the Metropolitan Entertainment Centre.

Aspirants Madeline Bez, Adrienne Bot, Jin Ah Kim and Julia Jones-Whitehead performed *X Years*, choreographed by fellow Aspirant Philippe-Alexandre Jacques, for opening night of the Carol Shields Festival of New Works at Prairie Theatre Exchange on May 14th.

On May 16, Professional Division graduates Saeka Shirai and Philippe-Alexandre Jacques performed *Le Jazz Hot* for the Egale Canada Human Rights Trust LGBTQ prom night, held at the Victoria Inn and Conference Centre.



FIRST STEPS

First Steps Choreographic Competition celebrated its 25th Anniversary in 2015, running from February 7th – 13th with a final performance and awards ceremony on February 14th. Started in 1990, **First Steps** gives students at the RWB School an opportunity to produce original choreography as well as to direct all creative elements including music, lighting, costuming, and dancer selection. Four renowned choreographers adjudicated the competition: Mark Godden, choreographer of RWB's critically-acclaimed work *Going Home Star – Truth and Reconciliation, Dracula, The Magic Flute* and *Svengali*, Josee Garant, **Founder**, First Steps, Choreographic Competition, Jordan Morris (*Moulin Rouge® - The Ballet, Peter Pan*), and Vancouver-based international choreographer Heather Myers. **Q DANCE** Artistic Director and choreographer Peter Quanz also conducted workshops and participated in student mentorship throughout the week.

FIRST STEPS AWARDS

CIBC AWARD FOR INNOVATION Philippe Larouche for *Blink and Miss*

1ST PLACE Nicolas Noguera for *Game Number 13*

2ND PLACE Alie Wagar for *Sail*

3RD PLACE Isabella Pisapia for *Run Boy Run*

THE JACQUELINE WEBER AWARD FOR CLASSICAL CHOREOGRAPHY

Anna Benko for *Listen Closely*

PADDY STONE SCHOLARSHIP Keaton Leier for *Tamashii*

RWB SCHOOL AWARD Philippe Larouche for *Blink and Miss*

DOREEN MACDONALD SCHOLARSHIP Nicolas Noguera for *Game Number 13*

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD Jao Woramontri for *First Dance*

HONORABLE MENTION Nathaniel Moore for *The Shadow Shaped by Light*

JACQUELINE WEBER RETIREMENT

This season the RWB celebrated the accomplished career of RWB School Professional Division Principal Jacqueline Weber, on the occasion of her retirement after 40 years of dedicated service. A reception was held in her honour at the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre on May 23rd on the closing night of RWB School Professional Division's presentation of *La Bayadère: Kingdom of the Shades and Pinocchio*. Jacqueline Weber is a graduate of the Professional Division and a former dancer with the RWB Company. In 1979, she was appointed Vice-Principal of the Professional Division, a position she held until 1990 when she accepted the position of Principal.

GUEST TEACHERS

The School was delighted to welcome back former Artistic Director of Boston Ballet and international guest teacher, Anna-Marie Holmes to set *La Bayadère: Kingdom of the Shades*.

Andrea Nemethova was in Winnipeg from March 9-14. Nemethova trained in Bratislava, Slovakia before dancing with Prague Ballet Theatre, Czech Republic; Vanemuine Ballet, Estonia; Finnish National Ballet and since 2005, with the Wiener Staatsoper Ballet in Vienna, Austria.

Anastasia Dunets and Stanislav Belyaevsky, former soloist and principal dancers with the Kirov Ballet, Staatsballet Berlin and the Finnish National Ballet in Helsinki, came as guest teachers in the spring.

INTERNATIONAL AUDITION TOUR

The School embarked on another successful audition tour across Canada and the United States making 17 audition tour stops. Successful participants move on to the next stage of the audition process during the Summer Session in July 2015 held at the RWB.

RWB SCHOOL AT POLO PARK

On January 10th the School hosted ballet demonstrations, contests, Q+A panel, and celebrity emcees at Polo Park Shopping Centre. This fun-filled day also gave information to interested parents and students wanting to participate in the School's annual Summer Session auditions in Winnipeg on January 25th.

ON THE EDGE

Audiences experienced cutting edge dance with a dynamic mix of contemporary and classical repertoire and watched as the next generation of ballet stars from the School's Aspirant Program performed choreography by Peter Quanz and Brett Taylor, as well as a brand new work by RWB Soloist Yosuke Mino.

CONCERT HOUR BALLETT

The School's **Concert Hour Ballet** featured senior Ballet Academic Program students in performances in 12 schools in Winnipeg School Division 1. Performances were also held in Lac du Bonnet and Beausejour and 6 schools in northwestern Ontario, including a sold out show in Thunder Bay.

RECREATIONAL DIVISION

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

QUANTUM ARTS PROGRAM

ADULT SUMMER DANCE

DANCE INTENSIVE

SATELLITE PROGRAM

RED RIVER EX PERFORMANCE

STEPPIN'OUT PROGRAM

SPRING CONCERT

EXPLORABILITY
PHOTO BY: AMY SIMOES

SPONSORS & DONORS

RWB School Recreational Division students had another great year with several students receiving awards and achievements for their hard work.

2014/15 RECREATIONAL DIVISION JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER Isaac Parent

2014/15 RECREATIONAL DIVISION SENIOR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER Ronan Sheikh

2014 JEAN MACKENZIE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT Vanessa Hrynchuk

35TH ANNUAL MANITOBA PROVINCIAL DANCE FESTIVAL, JUNIOR MUSICAL THEATRE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT Omar Benson for *I Can Do That*, choreographed by Cheyenne Schroeder and Julie Gregorchuk

CONSUMER CHOICE AWARD WINNER FOR BEST DANCE SCHOOL IN WINNIPEG

Each year, consumers are surveyed all across Canada to gather their opinions, perceptions and expectations regarding the services they choose on a daily basis. Leger Marketing, the leading Canadian-owned market research firm, conducts these consumer and business surveys. The research method determines all service providers, selects the top ranked companies, and established that the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School's Recreational Division was the Best School in the Lifestyle category of dance in 2014 and 2015.

RECREATIONAL DIVISION 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

On June 5th the Recreational Division hosted a panel discussion with guest Recreational Division Alumni, Rachael McLaren, current professional dancer with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre and Catherine Wreford Ledlow, former Broadway performer. Both created amazing performance careers and each performed at one of our Dance Spectrum performances. McLaren and Wreford Ledlow performed at **Dance Spectrum 1** and **Dance Spectrum 2** the following weekend.

RD OPPORTUNITY FUND

This fund was created to ensure that as many young people as possible have access to quality dance programming at the RWB School. Applicants are asked to submit a letter outlining the circumstances of their financial need, and bursaries will be distributed at the discretion of RWB School.

We acknowledge the support of the Canada Council for the Arts, which last year invested \$157 million to bring the arts to Canadians throughout the country.



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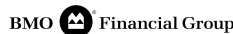


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GOING HOME STAR - TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION PROJECT

The RWB acknowledges the generous
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work, *Going Home Star - Truth and
Reconciliation*.

PRODUCTION INVESTOR

\$50,000+

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Dr. & Mrs. David & Gillian Bird
Rita & Don Campbell
Jennifer & Stephen Chapman
Duane Cheskey & Georgia Kerr
Agnes & John K. Collins
David & Kathleen Connor
Linda & Graham Connor
Richard & Hennie Corrin
Greg Cox & Patricia Salam
R. Lynn Craton
Dr. & Mrs. Ted Cuddy
Bradley Curran
Carmen Curtis In Honour of
Lorna Curtis-Howell
J.V. Dale
Linda Daniels
Dr. Peter & Mrs. Linda Delamere
Diana Dickof
Sheila J. Down
Carol Duboff
Thelma Fast
Dr. Steven Feldgaier
Reg Friend
Inge Froese
Ron Gaffray
Eileen E. George
Dianne Glass
Mrs. Joyce Grace
John Greer
Melinda & Lorne Halpenny
James R. Hammel
Jan Horner
Karen Howell
Joan M. Hunter
Leah Janzen
Betty Jo Johnston
Johanna & John Kassenaar
Father A. M. L. Klassen
Katherine Klassen
Louise Klassen
Marion B. Korn
David & Denise Koss
Mr. Dean Kriellaars
Katarina Kupca
Edith & David Landy
Susan Lingle
Gordon P. Linney
Diane & Alanna Littman
Brian & Shelagh Lobay
Dr. Bryan Kirk & Myrna Mitchell
Carol A. Maccomb
Tannis Manikel
Gayle Marcus
Alan & Joanne Maxwell

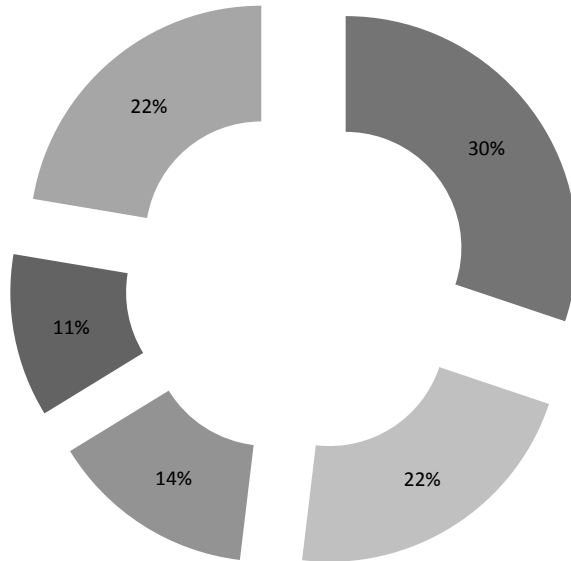
Nicole Michaud-Ostryk
Marion Mills
Vera Moroz
Jane Morris
John & Joan Morriss
MPM Insurance Agency Ltd.
William Murphy-Dyson
Ivanna Namaka
J. Keith & Ruth Neill
Wayne O'Brien
Lesley Oswald
Shelley Parham & David Smith
Jim Parker
Bill & Heather Quinn
Lois Romanica
Sheryl Rosenberg
M. Rosenbloom
Dr. Bruce & Susan Rosner
Anne Russell
Catherine Savage
Donald F. & Doran Sewell
Janet Shindle
Edna Siemens
Dick Smith & Doug Arrell
F. W. Stewart
Darlene Stewart
Marilyn Thompson
Dr. Milada Toffler
Hymie & Shaaron Weinstein
Boyd & Sharon Wermedah
Eileen Wheeler
Donald Whitaker
Ralph Wild
Sabina Willborn

CORPS DE BALLET \$50 - \$149

Doreen Adolph
Patricia Allen
Shoshanna Address
Muriel Andrews
Linda Ashton
Jacqueline Grace Ball
Christian Benhamou
Eva Bérard
Aaron Berg
Alice Bloomfield
Gladys Bodnarus
Pat Bolton
Lilian Bonin
Jeff & Monica Bonnell
Ina Borger
John Borst
Monique Brandt
Catherine Brockway
Marilyn Brown
Lori Butler
M. Isabelle Butters
Mrs. M. Ruth Calvert
Margurite Campbell
Mairi Chadwick
Mrs. Patti Cherney
Lisa Chisholm
Eileen Clarke
Mrs. Judith Danchura
Alison Darling
Gina DeBrincat
Chris Dewar
J. Ekins
Anna Ens
Andrea Erlandson
Brenda & Michael Evans
Ms. Joan Farnfield
Judy Fennessy
Marilyn Ferguson
Barbara Filuk
Henery L. Fineberg
Cynthia Forcand
Naomi & Kent Forman
Denis J. Gagne
Peter Galko
Mrs. Doreen Girling
Dr. Barbara Goldman
Carla Goldstein
D. Gooch
Brian & Geraldine Graham
Ms. Linda Graham

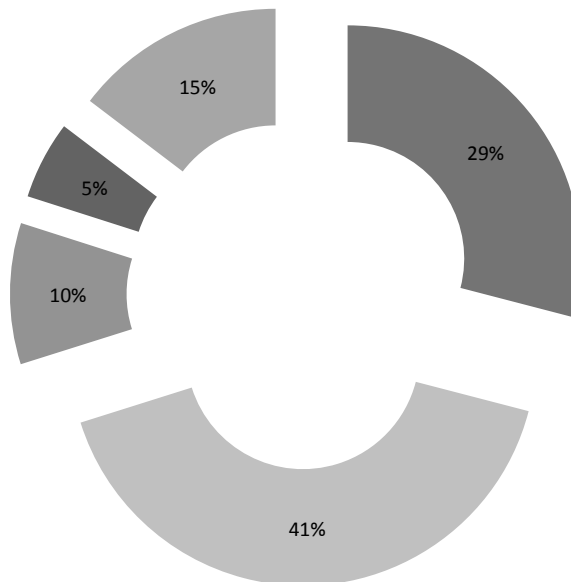
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

REVENUE



- GRANTS
- TICKET SALES
- OTHER INCOME
- SPONSORSHIPS & FUNDRAISING
- TUITION

EXPENSES



- PERFORMANCE & PRODUCTION
- WAGES AND BENEFITS
- ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS
- PUBLICITY AND PROMOTION
- AMORTIZATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION as of

					June 30, 2015	June 30, 2014
	OPERATING FUND	BUILDING FUND	SCHOLARSHIP FUND	CAPITAL FUND	TOTAL	TOTAL
ASSETS						
Current Assets						
Cash and equivalents	705,174				705,174	990,448
Receivables	345,187	196,525			541,712	848,349
Prepaid expenses and other assets	359,249				359,249	468,694
	1,409,610	196,525	-		1,606,135	2,307,491
Inter-fund balances	(100,539)	(57,997)	137,287	21,249		
Capital assets	267,164	8,414,229			8,681,393	7,255,263
	1,576,235	8,552,757	137,287	21,249	10,287,528	9,562,754
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES						
Current Liabilities						
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	547,359				547,359	505,313
Deferred revenue	1,757,424				1,757,424	2,455,359
Credit Facility		1,435,009			1,435,009	
	2,304,783	1,435,009			3,739,792	2,960,672
FUND BALANCES						
Restricted		7,117,748	137,287	21,249	7,276,284	6,744,134
Unrestricted	(728,548)				(728,548)	(142,052)
	1,576,235	8,552,757	137,287	21,249	10,287,528	9,562,754

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES for the year ended

	OPERATING FUND	BUILDING FUND	SCHOLARSHIP FUND	CAPITAL FUND	June 30, 2015 TOTAL	June 30, 2014 TOTAL
REVENUE	12,128,931	840,250	180,494	79,722	13,229,397	11,499,378
EXPENSES	12,715,427	322,488	124,951	25,151	13,188,017	12,266,950
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	(586,496)	517,762	55,543	54,571	41,380	(767,572)
Contribution to The Winnipeg Foundation			(25,224)	(70,502)	(95,726)	(77,799)
Interfund transfer	(586,496)	517,762	30,319	(15,931)	(54,346)	(845,371)
FUND BALANCES - BEGINNING OF YEAR	(142,052)	6,599,986	106,968	37,180	6,602,082	7,447,453
FUND BALANCES - END OF YEAR	(728,548)	7,117,748	137,287	21,249	6,547,736	6,602,082

