



CANADA'S ROYAL
WINNIPEG BALLET

ANDRÉ LEWIS
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



ANNUAL REPORT 2016/2017



OUR MISSION

To enrich the human experience by teaching, creating and performing outstanding dance.

OUR VISION

To be a leader in dance and make a positive difference to a broad and diverse public.

The RWB will be renowned as a company that teaches, creates and performs outstanding dance.

The RWB will be embraced in Winnipeg and beyond. We will be seen as ambassadors for dance, for our city, our province and our country.

The RWB will be a dynamic member of the world dance community. Our work will reflect passion, exuberance, honesty, excellence and integrity. We will take our place among the premiere dance companies of the world.



COVER: EVELYN HART AND RWB COMPANY IN *VESPERS*, PHOTO BY STANISLAV BELYAEVSKY
 TOP: RWB COMPANY IN *DRACULA*, PHOTO BY RÉJEAN BRANDT, BOTTOM
 SAEKA SHIRAI AND YUE SHI PERFORMING *DON QUIXOTE* IN VARNÁ, PHOTO BY VICTOR VIKTOROV

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

The 2016-17 season was one in which the Royal Winnipeg Ballet gained in organizational strength and developed a renewed sense of optimism for the future.

In this, our 77th season, the RWB thrilled audiences in Winnipeg and on tour with well-loved favourites from our repertoire, including *Dracula* and *Nutcracker*. We also explored new works with the world premiere of James Kudelka's *Vespers* and student performances by other young and upcoming choreographers such as Jera Wolfe. We continued with our strong tradition of touring, performing to audiences in United States and Western Canada. Our dancers experienced success both as individuals and as a Company. Dancers Saeka Shirai and Yue Shi were awarded silver medals at the Varna International Ballet Competition and Yoshiko Kamikusa earned a bronze medal in Helsinki. The Company earned rave reviews for its performances in Winnipeg and across North America.

We faced head-on the financial challenges of the previous years. Through a measure of careful cost controls, reduced staff, and effective leadership, the RWB made significant cuts to our operating expenses, thus increasing our revenues. The result is a stronger and more stable organization.

Our strengths are considerable and deeply rooted. The Company and the RWB School are each distinct entities that interact and collaborate on a daily basis. It is a unique structure and one of our key strengths. Many of our company dancers have come directly from our school, and a number of our former dancers have joined the company as teachers and ballet masters. Our post-secondary Aspirant Program works closely with the Company and often performs in our full-length shows. Every year students from both divisions are on stage with the Company in *Nutcracker*.

We believe that engaging with our community is just as important as the artistry of our performances; we continually look for opportunities to share our art form in Winnipeg and beyond. The scope of our community outreach continues to grow as we make ballet accessible through programs and performances. It is a deeply held commitment: we are an integral part of the community that supports us, and in turn we support our community.

The RWB sincerely thanks our government partners, funders, sponsors, corporate partners, donors, subscribers and patrons, whose generosity and support has allowed us to exist and continue to grow over the years. Our heartfelt thanks to each of you for the support that drives the RWB to constantly grow and develop, continuing our commitment to enrich the human experience by teaching, creating and performing outstanding dance.



Don Leitch,
Chair, RWB Board of Directors

COMPANY SEASON

Our 77th season began in the summer with a successful return to Varna, Bulgaria where dancers Saeka Shirai and Yue Shi were awarded silver medals in the Varna International Ballet Competition. Yoshiko Kamikusa earned a bronze medal in Helsinki. These dancers followed in the footsteps of great RWB artists such as Evelyn Hart, David Peregrine, Laura Graham and Suzanne Rubio who won medals in Tokyo, Varna, Paris and Helsinki.

In July we continued the long-standing tradition of Ballet In The Park with three nights of dance at the Lyric Theatre in Assiniboine Park. The RWB Company performed excerpts from *Nutcracker* and Val Caniparoli's *A Cinderella Story*, the Professional Division students performed Marius Petipa's *Paquita* pas de trois and the Junior Dance Ensemble Recreational Division students danced *LOVE*. Presented by Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries, Ballet In The Park has been an annual Winnipeg tradition for many years.

In the fall, *Dracula* continued to prove its appeal and helped us bring new audiences to the Ballet. The performances took place over Halloween – inspiring a number of audience engagement activities, all of which were enthusiastically shared on social media by an audience younger than our traditional patrons. In her *Winnipeg Free Press* review, Holly Harris praised *Dracula* as a “...powerfully dramatic work, which has retained its death grip on viewers’ imaginations.”

The holidays are a time for traditional tales of adventure and enchantment when *Nutcracker* takes centre stage at the Centennial Concert Hall. This timeless family favourite has become a treasured part of the Christmas season in Winnipeg, entrancing audiences young and old. Students from our School experience dancing alongside the Company, taking on the roles of young Clara, mice, polar bears,

angels, and reindeer. Our walk-on roles stirred up even more excitement than usual when members of the Winnipeg Blue Bombers and stars from the Winnipeg Jets joined our cast for a night, bringing TSN to the theatre to do a special television segment on the Ballet.

At the end of January, the RWB returned to the Pantages Theatre, its home throughout the fifties and sixties. We presented a varied program with William Forsythe's *The Vertiginous Thrill of Exactitude*, *Don Quixote*, Mark Godden's beautiful and poetic *Angels in the Architecture* and Lila York's *Celts* as a grand finale. The intimate setting was ideal for this mixed program and the audience responded with great enthusiasm.

In March the RWB played host to Alberta Ballet and their production of *Love Lies Bleeding*. This critically acclaimed ballet by Alberta Ballet's artistic director and choreographer Jean Grand-Maitre tells the story of the life of Elton John through a fusion of contemporary ballet, jazz, and hip-hop.

The Company's season ended on a high note with the extraordinary *Vespers*. In this magical production, renowned Canadian choreographer James Kudelka worked with the RWB dancers to create a new ballet that combined creative classical ballet technique with complex movements and patterns to create unique perspectives on relationships, nature and the spiritual world. The ballet was set to Claudio Monteverdi's stunning score and was performed by a live choir accompanied by the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. Legendary Canadian ballerina Evelyn Hart returned to the Company to work with the RWB and James Kudelka on *Vespers*. It was an inspiring experience for the dancers and staff to work with this iconic Canadian artist and RWB alumnus.

TOURING & DANCERS

TOURING

From October to November, the RWB toured Mark Godden's *Dracula* to Minneapolis, MN, Worcester, MA, Bronx, Buffalo, and Stony Brook, NY. The RWB delighted audiences in Fayetteville, AR, Victoria, Nanaimo, and Vancouver, BC, with the holiday classic, *Nutcracker*.

In the spring, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet took two of our most-loved ballets on tour: *Swan Lake* and Val Caniparoli's *A Cinderella Story*. In March, the RWB was in Detroit, Michigan performing Val Caniparoli's *A Cinderella Story* at the ornate Detroit Opera House. This was followed by a trip to Norfolk, Virginia where the Company performed *Swan Lake* with the Virginia Symphony Orchestra at the Chrysler Hall for the annual Virginia Arts Festival.

DANCER PROMOTIONS

The RWB was thrilled to announce the promotion of six dancers in the 2016/17 season. At the end of the season, Josh Reynolds was promoted from Second Soloist to Soloist and Jesse Petrie was promoted from Apprentice to Corps. Halfway through the season, Yue Shi and Saeka Shirai advanced from Apprentice to Corps, while Chenxin Liu advanced from Corps to Second Soloist.



Josh Reynolds
Soloist



Jesse Petrie
Corps de Ballet



Chenxin Liu
Second Soloist



Yue Shi
Corps de Ballet



Saeka Shirai
Corps de Ballet

DANCER FAREWELLS

The RWB wishes all the best to Thiago Dos Santos, Luzemberg Santana, Kostyantyn Keshyshev, Sarah Po Ting Yeung, Egor Zdor and Philippe Larouche as they bid adieu to the RWB.



Thiago Dos Santos
Corps de Ballet



Kostyantyn Keshyshev
Second Soloist



Egor Zdor
Second Soloist



Luzemberg Santana
Corps de Ballet



Sarah Po Ting Yeung
Corps de Ballet



Philippe Larouche
Apprentice

GUEST DANCER

This season the RWB delighted in having the iconic Evelyn Hart return to the stage with the Company for the world premiere of James Kudelka's *Vespers*.



Evelyn Hart
Guest Dancer



RWB SCHOOL VISION

- To inspire young artists and support them in the pursuit of their goals
- To be a school of choice for dancers and dance teachers locally, nationally and internationally
- To provide quality dance education in a positive, healthy and respectful environment



TOP: RWB SCHOOL PROFESSIONAL DIVISON STUDENTS IN *FIRST STEPS*
 BOTTOM: RWB ASPIRANTS IN *ON THE EDGE*, PHOTOS BY STANISLAV BELYAEVSKY

PROFESSIONAL DIVISION

Our mandate is to provide the RWB Company and professional companies around the world with highly trained and versatile classical ballet dancers and dance teachers.

Students come to the Professional Division from across North America and around the world. The first step in joining the school is the audition process; school faculty cross the country on an annual audition tour. In 2016, the tour kicked off in October with auditions for the Ballet Academic, Aspirant, and Teacher Training Programs. Auditions took place in cities from coast to coast. RWB School Artistic Faculty conducted Question and Answer sessions and held master classes in most centres.

Performance experience is a critical part of any dancer's training. In November the Concert Hour Ballet program took Senior students from the RWB School Professional Division across the province to share the power of dance with other school-aged children in schools and community spaces. This year's performance series included stops in Winnipeg, Gilbert Plains, Roblin, Flin Flon, MacGregor, Neepawa, Landmark, and Carmen, Manitoba. The annual First Steps Choreography Competition is a highly anticipated opportunity to see the creativity of the student choreographers. This year, 11 student choreographers premiered new works and were awarded prizes by an esteemed jury of Winnipeg arts professionals. In May, Spotlight took over the stage at the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre Mainstage as students of the Professional Division performed in the world premiere of *Reminiscence* by Jera Wolfe and excerpts from *Raymonda* and *Carmina Burana* in this year-end showcase. The RWB season wrapped up with *On the Edge* in the RWB Founders' Studio in May. Dancers in the Aspirant Program performed *In Tandem* by Peter Quanz alongside seven other classical and contemporary works in an intimate performance.

One of the highlights of this year was watching students Kolbie Edwards, Victoria Jenkins, Michel Lavoie, Liam Saito and Seung Yeon Lee participate with other dancers from around the world in Canada's National Ballet School's Assemblée Internationale 2017 in Toronto from April 30-May 5, 2017. School Director Arlene Minkhorst, Director of School Operations Kate Fennell, and School artistic faculty member Anastasia Dunets also attended.

We are pleased to report that, of the ten Ballet Academic Program students who graduated in June 2016, 8 have found employment, or 80%. Of the 4 students who graduated from the Teacher Training Program, 4 have worked professionally or 100%. Of the 7 students who completed the Aspirant Program in June 2016, 5 have worked professionally, or 71%. We are extremely proud of these talented artists and everything they have achieved in their careers thus far.

ARTISTIC FACULTY & GUEST TEACHERS

The RWB School welcomed School graduate and former professional dancer with Stuttgart Ballet Kira Hofmann to the artistic faculty in January 2017.

We were also fortunate to enjoy the talents of four guest teachers this year: Ashleigh Powell, Cosima Borrer Stadnik, Vladimir Stadnik, and Mikhail Zavialov. School graduate Jera Wolfe was also engaged as a guest choreographer to create a new piece for Spotlight.

In June 2017, we acknowledged and thanked Stanislav Belyaevsky, Anastasia Dunets, and Oleksandra Kondratyeva for their contributions and wished them well as they pursue new opportunities.

RECREATIONAL DIVISION

Our mandate is to make a meaningful contribution in communities across Manitoba by providing quality dance instruction in a range of disciplines to dancers of all ages, levels and interests.

The hard work and dedication of the students in our Recreational Program was on full display in a series of performances throughout the spring. In March, the School presented Steppin' Out in the RWB Founders' Studio.

The program featured dancers from our Adult Program who graced the stage in front of family and friends for three performances in this tailor-made recital. In April, we played host to Festival Preview. Students in our Intensive Training Program and Dance Ensembles shared the work they have been preparing for the Manitoba Provincial Dance Festival and other festivals and competitions with their family. The School's performances concluded with Dance Spectrum in June. Over the course of three shows performed to packed houses of proud parents and friends, dancers in our Pre-School and Children & Teens programs took their place at centre stage for our much beloved year-end recital series.

Another highlight of the year was the partnership between the RWB School and the University of Manitoba's Kinesiology and Recreation Management as they collaborated on a research project entitled The Experience of Dance and Disability. Students in our ExplorAbility for Adults program volunteered to participate in testing that looked at balance and mobility, movement performance, and social support. The students also took part in interviews. The study will be used to document and share the impact the program has on the development of participants' physical abilities and their social experiences.

School Artistic Faculty Eugene Baffoe was one of four Canadian dancers from culturally diverse backgrounds commissioned by Canada's National Ballet School to participate in an exciting artistic collaboration for Sharing Dance 2017, in celebration of Canada 150. Mr. Baffoe shared the routine with Canadians of all ages and abilities throughout the year, including representing the RWB School for a third time in Nauyasat, Nunavut.

Manitoba Provincial Dance Festival awarded Intensive Training Program student Danika Burdeniuk with the Junior Musical Theatre Scholarship for her piece "You can play with your food," choreographed by School Artistic Faculty Member Alenna Mark.

ARTISTIC FACULTY & GUEST TEACHERS

Jacques Bourguoin, School graduate and teacher at The Edmonton School of Ballet and Step by Step, returned to the RWB School as a guest instructor in August 2016 for Dance Intensive.

The RWB School welcomed Olivia Sarmiento and School alumni Alenna Mark to the artistic faculty in September 2017 to teach hip hop and musical theatre respectively.

The RWB School acknowledges and thanks Rachel Cooper, Karyn Maertens, Sharlyne Santos and Alex Schade for their contributions in June 2017 following another successful recital season.

PROFESSIONAL DIVISION

2016/17 BALLET ACADEMIC PROGRAM GRADUATES

Tania Angelovski
Windsor, ON

Roman Chorneyko
Saskatoon, SK

Kolbie Edwards
Lake Country, BC

Clare Fleming
Kelowna, BC

Seung Yeon Lee
Seoul, Korea

Joshua Phillips
Chilliwack, BC

Mitchell Przybilla
Edmonton, AB

Liam Ried
Kentville, NS

Jonah Schroeder
Winnipeg, MB

Michaela Skuce
Rossland, BC

Bryce Taylor
Yarker, ON

2016/17 TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAM GRADUATE

Karyn Maertens
Winnipeg, MB

2016/17 SCHOLARSHIPS

The School provided \$112,499.39 in scholarships in support of 35 students.

Doreen Macdonald Scholarship
Nathaniel Moore

Millicent Rockwell Donnelly Bursary
Abigail Harris

2016 Paddy Stone Scholarship
Nathaniel Moore

Leon & Lorraine Rubin Scholarship
Ethan Rodrigues

David Peregrine Memorial Award
Connor Grant-Canseco

University Women's Club Performing Arts Bursary
Elisha Woo

Daimler-Chrysler Scholarship
Toya Debari

Rene Highway Scholarship
Bryce Taylor

Jane McEvoy O'Donnell Scholarship
Joshua Phillips

Dr. Alice Cheatley Scholarship
Jasmine Brown

Kally Kennedy Memorial Scholarship
Karyn Maertens

Odette & Odile Scholarship
Emma Courish

Juanita Y. Alexander Scholarship For Artistic Excellence
Clare Fleming

Investors Group Summer Scholarships (Summer 2016)

Avery Grant (AB)
Florence Nadeau (QC)
Julia Boyd (SK)
Sydney Dowden (NL)
Harmony Mills (BC)
Simon Jackson (NB)
Laura Johnson (NS)
Kristina Zhukalina (PE)
Sophia Zonni (ON)
Selah St. Hilaire (MB)

Investors Group Professional Division Fall/Winter Scholarships

Julianna Generoux
Avery Grant
Nathaniel Ritter-Magot
Jonah Schroeder

Craig Music & Entertainment Scholarship
Conrad Mueller

Esso Kids Award of Excellence Scholarship
Tymin Keown

Endowment Award
Henriette Hartl
Ryo Hamasaki

Rose & Berel Sholom Memorial Scholarship
Marin Greenan

Julia Arkos Memorial Award
Sydney Barber

Canadian Pacific Scholarship
Sarah Snider

RWB Alumni Scholarship
Hannah Smith
Jonah Schroeder

Founders Scholarship
Michaela Skuce

Royal Bank of Canada Award
Tania Angelovski
Roman Chorneyko
Morgan Harms

Felix Jinga
Seung Yeon Lee
Ethan Rodrigues
Michaela Skuce
Hannah Smith
Taisi Tollasepp

Douglas & Elizabeth MacEwan Scholarship
Victoria Jenkins, Liam Saito

Evelyn Hart Scholarship
Ana Mekvabishvili

Arnold Spohr Scholarship
Tania Angelovski, Liam Reid

Prince Edward Award
Seung Yeon Lee
Michel Lavoie

2016/17 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The School provided \$81,325 in financial assistance in support of 35 students.

2017 FIRST STEPS AWARDS

1st place: *Look Up*
Erin Atkinson

2nd place: *Disasterpiece*
Conrad Mueller

3rd place: *Resolution*
Cameron Fraser-Monroe

Honourable Mention:
If You Can Dream It, Anna Smith

The Paddy Stone Scholarship for Jazz, Tap & Musical Theatre:
Last Train To St. Louis, Karyn Maertens

The People's Choice Award:
Look Up, Erin Atkinson

The Jacqueline Weber Award for Classical Choreography:
Élégie, Jonah Schroeder

The Royal Winnipeg Ballet School Award:
Look Up, Erin Atkinson

The Doreen MacDonald Scholarship Award:
Thinking Pink, Sarah Snider

2016/17 ALUMNI & CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

2016 Ballet Academic Program (BAP) graduate Monika Haczkiwicz accepted a position with Atlanta Ballet

2016 BAP graduate Keaton Leier accepted a position with Houston Ballet II

2016 Teacher Training Program (TTP) graduate and two-time

recipient of the Kally Kennedy Scholarship Lisa Brooks accepted a teaching position with the RWB School Recreational Division

2016 TTP graduate Seira Shimamura, was offered a teaching position for 2016-17 with the Fraser Valley Academy of Dance in Mission, BC

2016 TTP graduate Hannah Arras accepted a teaching position at Soul Connexion in Calgary, AB

2015 BAP graduates and Aspirants Morgan Thiessen and Matthew Klippenstein accepted contracts with Citie Ballet in Edmonton, AB

2014 BAP graduate and Aspirant Mark Griffiths accepted a position with Ballet Cymru in Wales, United Kingdom

2013 BAP graduate Julia Jones-Whitehead joined Ballet Victoria

2008 BAP graduate and former RWB Second Soloist Tristan Dobrowney joined the Lviv State Opera Ballet in Ukraine

RECREATIONAL DIVISION

2016/17 STUDENT NUMBERS

The School reached over 1,700 people with quality dance programming. Another 700 people joined us for Sharing Dance Day in Winnipeg for a total of 2,400.

216 students participated in Adult Summer Dance

76 students participated in Dance Intensive

1,206 students participated in Regular Session programming

137 students participated in Satellite programming

47 students participated in Quantum programming

31 students participated in ExplorAbility programming

Approximately **700** people participated in Sharing Dance Day

2016/17 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The School provided \$3,190 in support of students through the RD Opportunity Fund.



TOP LEFT: RWB BALLET BALL - HAVANA NIGHTS GUESTS BOTTOM LEFT: RWB COMPANY FOR BARRE AFTER HOURS
 TOP RIGHT: RWB PROFESSIONAL DIVISION STUDENTS DANCING AT THE RWB BALLET BALL - HAVANA NIGHTS, PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOLMES

SPECIAL EVENTS



BARRE AFTER HOURS

On July 23rd 2016, RWB's second-annual Barre After Hours took place. Attendees enjoyed a night of live music and art along with hors d'oeuvres and cocktails during this 18+ event. This annual event provides a unique opportunity for dancers and the public to come together while also raising money for the organization.

GALA: HAVANA NIGHTS

Over 300 guests enjoyed exquisite performances, delicious food and incredible prizes at the RWB's 2017 Ballet Ball - Havana Nights. Guests were welcomed with glasses of sangria and entertained by the Latin-infused stylings of the Papa Mambo Trio during a packed cocktail reception. Dancers from our Company, as well as from the Professional and Recreational Divisions of the RWB School, performed six pieces, including a preview excerpt of James Kudelka's newest full length ballet, *Vespers*. The evening ended with a rollicking after-party featuring a Salsa dancing performance and lessons!

The RWB is grateful to all our sponsors and guests and especially our presenting sponsor TD Bank Group for their commitment to the art of dance and support of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet. Ballet Ball Chair Dana Mayberry led a talented and hardworking Ballet Ball Committee that generously donated their hard work and expertise. Proceeds from the Ballet Ball enable the Royal Winnipeg Ballet to continue its mission to present world class ballet, and to educate, inspire, and train young dancers from around the world.

TREES OF HOPE

The Royal Winnipeg Ballet was selected as the fortunate organization to receive contributions from Fairmont Winnipeg's annual Trees of Hope Campaign. Trees of Hope is an annual Holiday season campaign put on by the Fairmont hotel chain. Guests of the Fairmont contributed at the service desk and then hung a pair of pointe shoes on a Christmas tree in the Fairmont's lobby. Proceeds were divided between RWB's Pointe Shoe Fund & the RWB School Recreational Division Opportunity Fund. In total, \$4,530 was raised through this campaign.

RWB PERFORMS AT MEXICO CITY GALA

On February 2nd the Royal Winnipeg Ballet was invited to perform at the launch of Canada's 150th events in Mexico City, Mexico. At the invitation of the Canadian government, RWB Company Dancers Katie Bonnell and Kostyantyn Keshyshev performed *Going Home Star - Truth and Reconciliation* at the beautiful National Museum of Anthropology.

AWARDS & NOMINATIONS



MCPL VINCENT CARBONNEAU, RIDEAU HALL © OSGG, 2017.

ANDRÉ LEWIS, M.S.M., TINA KEEPER, O.M., M.S.M., HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HONOURABLE DAVID JOHNSTON, GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA AND MS. ASHLEY RICHARD.

PRESENTATION OF CANADIAN HONOURS

Governor General David Johnston, joined by lieutenant governors and territorial commissioners from each province and territory, presented Canadian honours with a special focus on recognizing outstanding Indigenous leadership. André Lewis, Tina Keeper, and the late Elder Mary Richard, received the Meritorious Service Medal (Civil Division) for their initiation of *Going Home Star – Truth and Reconciliation*. The ceremony took place on June 19, 2017 at Rideau Hall, in Ottawa.

WINNIPEG ARTS COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

Arlene Minkhorst, RWB School Director, and Philippe-Alexandre Jacques, RWB School Artistic staff member, dancer, and choreographer were nominated for awards at the 11th annual Winnipeg Arts Council Awards. Ms. Minkhorst was nominated for the Investors Group Making a Difference Award and Mr. Jacques was nominated for the RBC On The Rise Award. The Awards celebrate the artists, arts administrators, and patrons whose dedication makes Winnipeg a hub for cultural achievement.

JUNO NOMINATIONS AND WIN

The Royal Winnipeg Ballet received two 2017 Juno nominations for *Going Home Star- Truth and Reconciliation*. The first nomination was for composer, and previous Juno winner, Christos Hatzis, for Classical Composition of the Year. The second nomination was for Steve Wood and the Northern Cree Singers, Polaris Prize-winner Tanya Tagaq, and the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra for Classical Album of the Year: Large Ensemble or Soloist(s) with Large Ensemble Accompaniment. This nomination won a 2017 Juno.



MANITOBA LIQUOR & LOTTERIES VOLUNTEERS AT BALLET IN THE PARK, PHOTO BY: HEATHER MILNE

SPONSORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

We believe that partnering with our sponsors is an opportunity to exchange mutual benefits and build a stronger cohesive community. We consciously align ourselves with likeminded organizations that uphold the standards of excellence and integrity and the shared goal of keeping arts and culture, business and tourism thriving in Winnipeg.

Our Winnipeg Main Stage performances provide the unique opportunity for sponsors to engage clients and have national visibility. The Royal Winnipeg Ballet is grateful to the Richardson Foundation, our Production Supporter for the season opener *Dracula*; to Great West Life for being the Premier Sponsor of Winnipeg's holiday classic, *Nutcracker*; to Wawanesa for stepping up to the plate as Presenting Sponsor for our Pantages performances in February and to BMO Bank of Montreal, Presenting Sponsor of our season closing production and world premier *Vespers*. The RWB's annual performances of Ballet In The Park were once again made possible thanks to the sponsorship of Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries.

Thanks to the support of Presenting Sponsor, MTS Future First 2016, Concert Hour Ballet 2016 took our young dancers into nine Winnipeg schools and visited the rural communities Gilbert Plains, Roblin, Flin Flon, MacGregor, Neepawa, Landmark and Carmen. Through Concert Hour Ballet, people who may not otherwise have access to the performing arts were presented with an extremely high caliber of dance, and advanced level RWB dance students were given a valuable opportunity to train in the rigours of touring.

In addition, the support of our government partners is critical to our ability to sustain our operations over the years. We are sincerely grateful for their ongoing commitment.



TOP: SHARING DANCE DAY PARTICIPANTS, PHOTO BY: LEIF NORMAN
BOTTOM: SATELLITE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS, PHOTO BY: LYNETTE GIESBRECHT

CULTURE DAYS

On October 2nd, we opened our doors to Dance Downtown's Manitoba Dance Day. In conjunction with Dance Manitoba and Rainbow Stage, we partook in this free, fun-filled afternoon as part of Culture Days 2016.

SHARING DANCE

Sharing Dance is the RWB School's leading community outreach initiative. Created by Canada's National Ballet School, Sharing Dance offers free opportunities for Canadians of all ages and abilities to get healthy, active and artistically engaged. From coast to coast to coast, Sharing Dance programming saw more Canadians moving together than ever before this year in celebration of Canada 150. The RWB School delivered an enhanced version of the program in schools in five underserved communities and ran open classes for the public from January through June 2017. Our lively Sharing Dance Day event in Winnipeg was the biggest yet – drawing nearly 700 participants from 12 schools and several community groups to the University of Winnipeg Axworthy Health and Recplex on June 7, 2017. The celebration included professional dance performances, classes in hip hop and Indigenous dance, and a group performance of the 2017 Sharing Dance routine.

I LOVE TO READ

For the month of February, RWB School Professional Division students visited schools across Winnipeg for "I Love To Read" Month, a month dedicated to the love of reading and being read to.

WINNIPEG PRIDE PARADE

For the first time, the RWB marched as an organization in Pride Winnipeg. Pride 2017 marked the 30th anniversary of the Parade and the RWB was proud to be a part of it! The Parade began at Memorial and York, traveled down Portage Avenue, and concluded at The Forks for the Pride Festival.

BALLET IN THE PARK

Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet launched its 77th season with Ballet In The Park. From July 27-29, the RWB Company performed excerpts from *Nutcracker* and Val Caniparoli's *A Cinderella Story*, the Professional Division students performed Marius Petipa's *Paquita* pas de trois and the Junior Dance Ensemble Recreational Division students danced LOVE.

SATELLITE PROGRAM

RWB School Artistic Faculty travelled to St. Malo, Eriksdale, and Altona, Manitoba again to conduct weekly classes in ballet, creative movement, and jazz, bringing quality dance instruction to Manitobans who would not otherwise have access. Special thanks to our volunteer Satellite Program Coordinators without whom this program would not be possible.

EXPLORABILITY FOR ADULTS

This year, the RWB School offered three sessions of the ExplorAbility for Adults program, designed specifically for adults of varying abilities. The program enjoyed a boost in attendance during session three, doubling the number of participants enrolled, with most being new to the program. Participants had the opportunity to be a part of our Sharing Dance movement again this year, learning a modified version of the routine and performing it with dancers from around the city as a part of Sharing Dance Day in Winnipeg.

QUANTUM PROGRAM

The RWB School Recreational Division continued to partner with the Winnipeg School Division to provide their students dance instruction in modern, jazz, and ballet during the school day. At the conclusion of the program, students from all three streams – dance, theatre and fine art – shared their work in a finale performance at the Winnipeg Art Gallery in March, 2017.

SEASON SPONSORS & DONOR LISTINGS

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.



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts
du Canada

Nous remercions le Conseil des arts du Canada de son soutien. L'an dernier, le Conseil a investi 157 millions de dollars pour mettre de l'art dans la vie des Canadiennes et des Canadiens de tout le pays.



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CONSEIL DES ARTS DU MANITOBA



WINNIPEG
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TOP: JAMES KUDELKA, DMITRI DOVGOSSELETS AND COMPANY IN REHEARSAL FOR *VESPERS*, PHOTO BY DAVID COOPER
 BOTTOM: RWB SCHOOL PROFESSIONAL DIVISION STUDENTS IN CONCERT HOUR BALLET, PHOTO BY STANISLAV BELYAEVSKY

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Principal Dancers

Sophia Lee, Jo-Ann Sundermeier
Dmitri Dovgoselets, Liang Xing

Soloists

Yayoi Ban
Yosuke Mino, Josh Reynolds

Second Soloists

Sarah Davey, Elizabeth Lamont,
Alanna Mcadie, Chenxin Liu
Kostyantyn Keshyshev, Egor Zdor

Corps de Ballet

Katie Bonnell, Jaimi Deleau,
Yoshiko Kamikusa, Manami Tsubai,
Sarah Po Ting Yeung, Saeka Shirai
Tyler Carver, Liam Caines,
Thiago Dos Santos, Stephan Possin,
Luzemberg Santana, Ryan Vetter, Yue Shi

Apprentices

Jesse Petrie, Philippe Larouche

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Executive Artistic Director: André Lewis
Music Director & Conductor: Tadeusz Biernacki
Senior Ballet Master: Johnny W Chang
Ballet Masters: Tara Birtwhistle,
Caroline Gruber, Vanessa Lawson, Jaime Vargas
Assistant to the Artistic Staff: Judy Arnason

School Artistic

Director: Arlene Minkhorst
Principal, Professional Division: Suzanne André
Director, Teacher Training Program:
Johanne Gingras
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Office Supervisor: Karin Krueger
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Office Assistant: Rikke McFeetors
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Facilities Maintenance: John Kaminski
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Joel Ferguson, Jade Manov

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Production Stage Manager: Ingrid Kottke
Head Carpenter & Crew Chief: Jef Ward
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Master Electrician: Marc Gagnon
Head of Properties: M. Drew Derbowka
Heads of Audio: Shaun McLean
Heads of Audio: Iain Graham
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Jolanta Janiszewska, Michelle Mourre,
Dale Rogalsky, Nina Rudakova, Jay Stoller,
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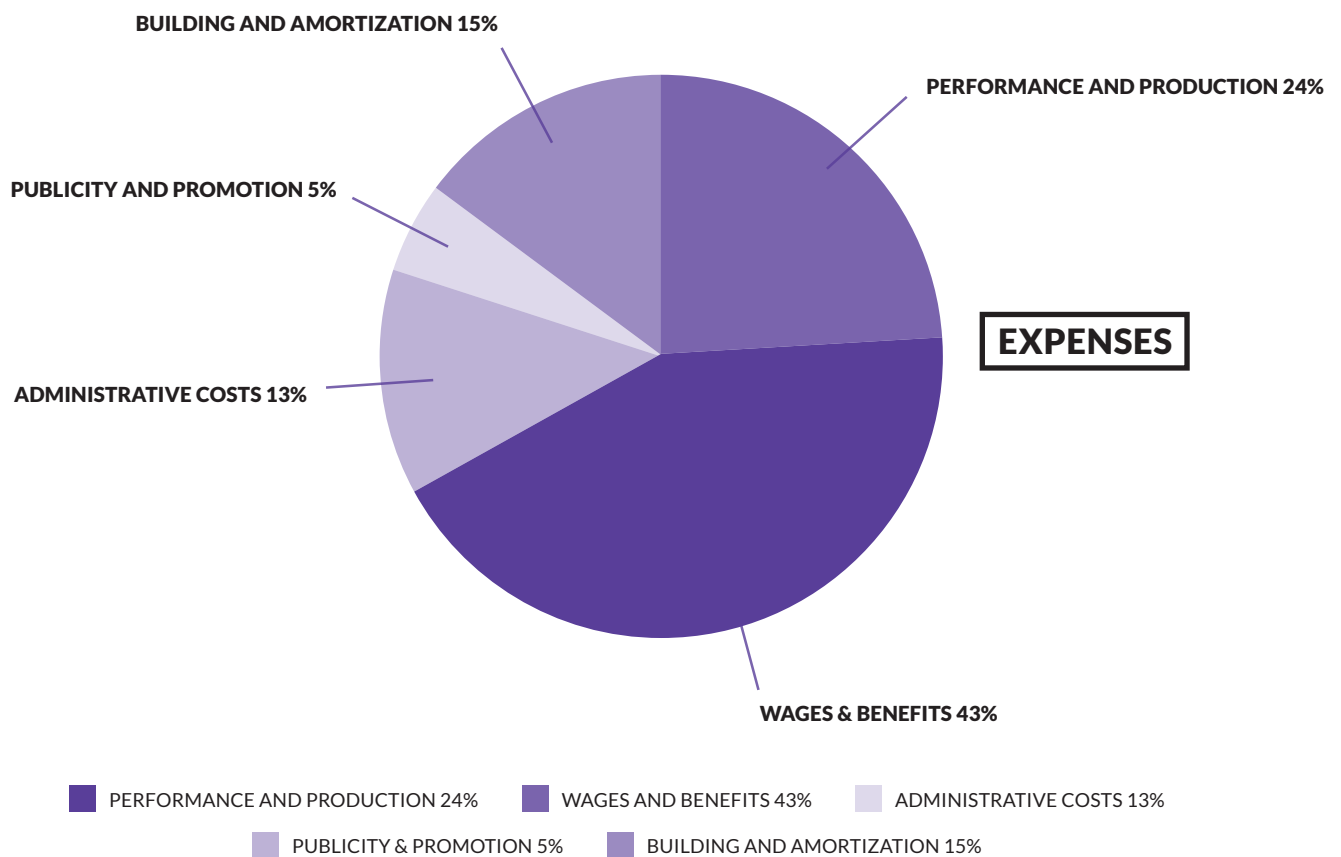
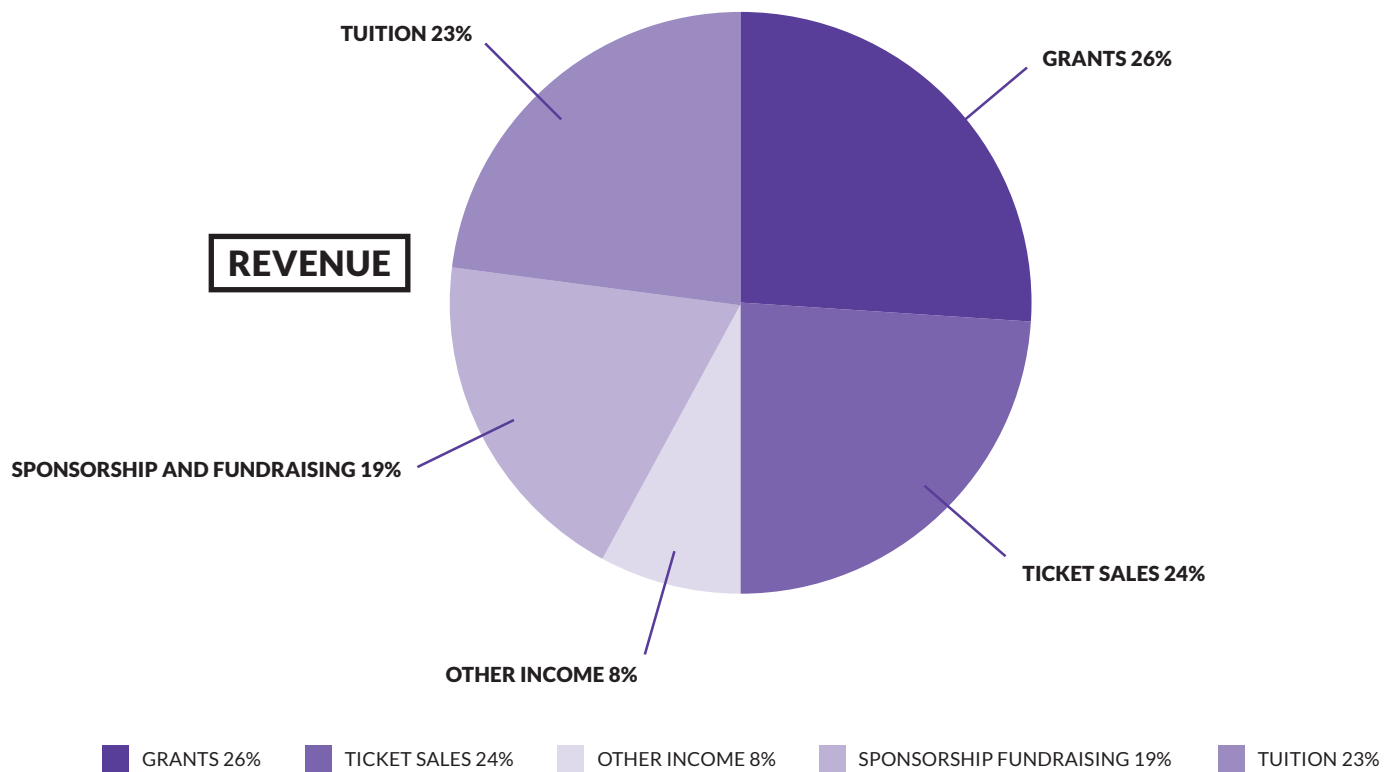
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION as of

	OPERATING FUND	BUILDING FUND	SCHOLARSHIP FUND	CAPITAL FUND	June 30, 2017 TOTAL	June 30, 2016 TOTAL
ASSETS						
Current Assets						
Cash	695,794				695,794	170,314
Receivables	222,691				222,691	1,012,213
Prepaid expenses and other assets	56,199				56,199	218,930
	974,684				974,684	1,401,457
Inter-fund balances	(610,509)	444,426	166,083			
Capital assets	149,762	7,598,768			7,748,530	8,150,197
	513,937	8,043,194	166,083		8,723,214	9,551,654
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES						
Current Liabilities						
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	546,675				546,675	1,086,895
Deferred revenue	1,725,034				1,725,034	1,711,874
Credit facility		1,291,507			1,291,507	1,363,257
	2,271,709	1,291,507			3,563,216	4,162,026
FUND BALANCES						
Restricted		6,751,687	166,083		6,917,742	7,234,475
Unrestricted	(1,757,772)				(1,757,744)	(1,844,847)
	513,937	8,043,194	166,083		8,723,214	9,551,654

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

	OPERATING FUND	BUILDING FUND	SCHOLARSHIP FUND	CAPITAL FUND	June 30, 2017 TOTAL	June 30, 2016 TOTAL
REVENUES	11,781,599		200,979	13,381	11,995,959	12,277,057
EXPENSES	11,696,102	363,182	137,112		12,196,396	13,671,596
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES BEFORE THE FOLLOWING	85,497	(363,182)	63,867	13,381	(200,437)	(1,394,539)
GAIN ON DISPOSAL OF ASSETS	1,578				1,578	383,952
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	87,075	(363,182)	63,867	13,381	(198,859)	(1,010,587)
Contribution to The Winnipeg Foundation			(28,658)	(2,113)	(30,771)	(147,521)
	87,075	(363,182)	35,209	11,268	(229,630)	(1,158,108)
FUND BALANCES - BEGINNING OF YEAR	(1,844,847)	7,114,869	130,874	(11,268)	5,389,628	6,547,736
FUND BALANCES - END OF YEAR	(1,757,772)	6,751,687	166,083		5,159,998	5,389,628





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