

21  
22  
SEASON

# Annual Report





## Land and Water Acknowledgment

We are grateful to practice our art on Treaty One land, the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples, and the homeland of the Métis Nation. We acknowledge that our water is sourced from Shoal Lake 40 First Nation. We stand with the Indigenous community and commit to build an ongoing process of reconciliation and collaboration.

Nous sommes reconnaissants de pratiquer notre art sur le territoire visé par le Traité no 1, le territoire traditionnel des peuples anishinaabeg, cri, oji-cri, dakota et déné, et le foyer de la Nation métisse. Nous reconnaissons que notre eau a sa source sur le territoire de la Première Nation de Shoal Lake 40. Nous sommes solidaires de la communauté autochtone et nous nous engageons à mettre en place un processus continu de réconciliation axé sur la collaboration.



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# Honour Roll, Board of Directors, Indigenous Advisory Circle, School Committee

## Honour Roll of Distinguished Alumni

The RWB is proud of our inaugural Honour Roll of Distinguished Alumni, created to permanently recognize the history of the organization and pay tribute to the artists and builders whose significant contributions to the RWB and the broader world of dance continue to be felt today.



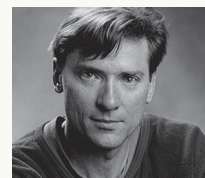
**Anne Armit**  
Director of Wardrobe



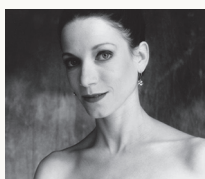
**Betty Farrally, O.C.**  
Co-Founder of the RWB, Principal Dancer, Ballet Master, Artistic Director



**Susan Glass, C.M.**  
Board Member, Board President



**Mark Godden, C.M.**  
Company Artist, Resident Choreographer



**Evelyn Hart C.C., O.M.**  
Principal Artist



**Gweneth Lloyd, O.C.**  
Co-Founder of the RWB, Artistic Director, Choreographer



**Jean McKenzie**  
Principal Artist, Founder of the Recreational Program



**Arlene Minkhorst**  
Professional Division Vice-Principal, Associate School Director, School Director

## Board of Directors

**Don Leitch**, Chair  
**Jean Giguère**, C.M., Chair Emeritus  
John Osler, Kirsten Albo, Jessica Albrechtsen, Bev Davies, Tara Letwiniuk, Dwight MacAulay CVO, Rebecca Parkinson, Trudy Schroeder, O.M., Rick Singh, MD, CCFP, FRCP(C), Tara Snider, Lorraine Yau

## Indigenous Advisory Circle

Kevin Lamoureux, Tara Letwiniuk, Albert McLeod, Danielle Morrison



**David Moroni, C.M.**  
Principal Artist, Founder School Professional Division, Associate Artistic Director



**Ted Patterson** Company Artist, Founder of Scholarship program, Executive/Member of the Alumni Association



**Kathleen Richardson, C.C., O.M.**  
Board President, Honourary President



**John A Russell**  
Set & Costume Designer  
Board President

## School Committee Members

Jessica Dillon, Jim Eldridge, O.M., Peter Macdonald, Evan Maydaniuk, Sean McKenna, Len Offrowich, Rebecca Parkinson, Rob Praznik, Tara Snider, Leisha Strachan, Karen Villagran



**Arnold Spohr, C.C., O.M.**  
Principal Artist, Artistic Director, Artistic Director Emeritus



**David Yeddeau**  
Stage Manager, Technical Assistant, Publicity & Company Manager

# Message from Board Chair

In a year largely dictated by the ongoing instability of the global pandemic, Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet displayed a determined yet compassionate brand of leadership, as well as strategic core strengths that created promise and value for our stakeholders.



In a year largely dictated by the ongoing instability of the global pandemic, Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet displayed its tenacity and determination to overcome challenges unlike anything else in its first eight decades. Leadership, our stellar reputation, perseverance, and community support

carried us through to present an outstanding season. In the end our acclaimed artistry shone through.

For the year ended June 30, 2022, the RWB again achieved an operating surplus. We started the new season still under severe constraints. Government supports, wage subsidies, federal and provincial emergency funding, community programs and grants enabled us to ride out the ongoing pandemic. Increases in ticket sales connected to LIVE Company and School performances helped set the pace for incremental progress in a lopsided year. Without these forces in play, our leadership team would not have been able to steer the course, and we would be reporting a deficit. The new year will bring more challenges, but we will continue to target a balanced budget.

We have more financial good news. We were able to successfully conclude our efforts to meet the offer from an anonymous donor to provide a one-time \$1,000,000 donation – IF we were able to raise matching funds. We completed the task with the contribution being applied to reduce the accumulated deficit.

In May, Canadian philanthropist and Manitoba born, Donald K. Johnson made a \$3 million gift investing in the lives and futures of young artists in memory of his late wife. In recognition of this generous gift, the RWB renamed our post-secondary program 'The Anna McCowan-Johnson Aspirant Program.' The endowed fund, administered by The Winnipeg Foundation, will continue to grow, and support the program indefinitely, while benefitting countless dancers beyond measure. We cannot thank Don Johnson enough for his kind and incredible gesture.

It is important to report that in February 2022 our insurers and their legal team negotiated a \$10 million settlement in a class action lawsuit brought against the RWB because of the actions

of a former teacher and photographer. We offered a heartfelt apology to all those who were impacted by his actions. We are committed to fostering safe and welcoming environments as we teach and train, and our students and staff practice and work. Every person should feel valued and supported.

The board will continue to carefully balance strategic priorities provide ongoing oversight and governance.

Our state-of-the-art student living centre launched in January with our students moving into their new home. The new centre is the cornerstone for our vision to modernize our downtown campus.

Equity, diversity, and inclusion count. We strive to reflect our community with diverse representation in our staff and on our board.

Congratulations are extended to André Lewis, our Artistic Director and to Jim Eldridge, a former board member and current member of the School Committee. In May both received the Order of Manitoba from Lieutenant-Governor Janice Filmon in a ceremony at the Legislative Building. The RWB shares in the pride of your achievements.

In addition to thanking André, Tara Birtwhistle, the Associate Artistic Director and Stéphane Léonard, our School Director, and the entire staff for their determined leadership, I thank our donors, patrons, corporate and government partners, sponsors, volunteers, alumni and staff, whose commitment, generosity, and support allow us to teach and to entertain our audiences decade after decade.

I also want to thank my board colleagues for their ongoing contributions and unwavering commitment.

The RWB reignited the stage in 2021-22 and now we look forward to illuminating your world during our 83rd season, where we will "teach, create and perform, enriching lives through the power of exceptional dance."

**Don Leitch**

## Vision

To be the heart of dance in Canada and the world.

## Mission

We teach, create and perform, enriching lives through the power of exceptional dance.

## Values

We are committed to the **enrichment** of our community, and others world-wide.

We are inclusive, **embracing diversity** and developing engaging programming.

We approach everything we do with **creative excellence** and innovation.

We pursue **collaborative efforts** to inspire through the artistry of dance.



## Our Commitment to Reconciliation, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet is a global leader reputed for artistic brilliance and innovation, as well as style and versatility on stage and in all the spaces where we work.

We are inspired by our co-founders, Gweneth Lloyd and Betty Farrally, who envisioned an authentically Canadian expression of ballet that reflects the rich diversity of this country. As such, we seek to attract, develop, retain, and nurture the most talented and diverse artists, students, choreographers, musicians, designers, stage technicians, and arts administrators.

Our approach to the art and business of dance is strengthened when we focus on the dignity and full participation of all

those who live, work, and learn within the campus, including respect for and action toward truth and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

Our diverse community of employees and volunteers is supported and encouraged to contribute to the mission of the RWB. We live by our core values, seek challenge for growth, and hold ourselves accountable to create an organizational culture that is deeply committed to reconciliation, equity, diversity, inclusion, human rights, accessibility and belonging.

# Message from Artistic Director & CEO

Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet planned the 2021-22 season with great anticipation, while being mindful that progress against COVID-19 and its variants would not likely follow a predictable or linear course.



After many more months of public health orders, the RWB and countless organizations in every corner of the planet were fatigued, as well as impacted financially and mentally by the uncertainty. Several key events, including the heart-breaking discovery of more unmarked Indigenous children's

graves at prior residential school sites in Canada, only added to the urgency of healing, bringing people together and managing these challenging times.

## Reignite the Stage

With careful deliberation, and in an effort to help reconnect people while focusing on our return to LIVE performances, the RWB forged ahead to reignite the stage. We started the Company season by welcoming patrons to the Centennial Concert Hall with *Perpetual Motion* in October, a mixed repertoire of the exquisite *Seventh Symphony* and fun-loving *Rodeo*. It was a glorious return to the stage for our team – especially our artists, after a 17-month absence. While adhering to a reduced capacity cap, physically distanced seating, proof of vaccination and masking, we were met with overwhelming audience appreciation.

The RWB went on tour in December with sold-out performances of *Nutcracker* in Ottawa, followed by a run in Winnipeg where the last two *Nutcracker* shows were cancelled due to COVID-19. We intended to go LIVE in February with *The Sleeping Beauty*, however the pandemic decided to wreak more havoc, so we pivoted to a digital performance recorded at the Concert Hall with full sets and costumes.

Fast Forward, a collection of classical and contemporary works, went LIVE in the smaller setting of our Founders' studio in March. 100% of the proceeds from Fast Forward tickets were donated to the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. In May, we performed the fabulous season finale, Val Caniparoli's *A Cinderella Story*, without a pandemic interruption and with ovations every night. And in between, we celebrated the successful return of the Ballet Ball at the RWB in April.

The RWB School's Professional and Recreational Divisions also demonstrated remarkable agility through digital and LIVE performances despite the persistent pandemic – from Concert

Ballet Hour, First Steps, Steppin' Out and Festival Preview, to Spotlight, On the Edge including the tour and Dance Spectrum. What an extravaganza of talent for audiences to watch! When anyone poses the often-asked question, how many students move on to the Company, I am proud to say that alumni make up 81% of the RWB Company and over half of the RWB School's artistic faculty.

The year was filled with key Company and School community engagement initiatives that advanced reconciliation, equality, diversity, and inclusion, as we reached out to various stakeholders in the spirit of partnership. We continue to make inroads through our relationships with the Indigenous Advisory Circle, the Cultural Competency and Equity Coalition and other organizations.

In March 2022, the Manitoba government announced a \$7.5 million investment to support the RWB's \$32 million campus expansion and modernization. This project will benefit thousands of dancers, students and community members who access the RWB's programming each year and add to the vibrancy of our downtown. The new Student Living Centre is the cornerstone of the multi-year plan. Extensive improvements and enhancements will make the campus more energy efficient, inclusive, safe, and accessible. We thank our provincial and private sector partners for helping to ensure the RWB continues to rank among the best ballet companies and schools in the world.

Thank you to our outstanding leadership team and all of our staff for reigniting our mission, vision, and values throughout another extraordinary year. Thank you to the board, our supporters, sponsors, donors, stakeholders, families, volunteers, and friends. Thank you to our incredible audience – our patrons. And a huge thank you to our Company artists and all of our students. We are stronger, bolder, and energized for an illuminating season back on the stage and in the studios, we call home.

**André Lewis, O.M.**

# Royal Winnipeg Ballet at a Glance

In 1939, when a fledgling ballet company was founded on the Canadian prairies by Gweneth Lloyd and Betty Farrally, who could have imagined it would become one of the country's preeminent cultural institutions and one of the world's most toured and beloved companies.

The RWB's superlative standards keep the Company in demand across North America and beyond. In addition, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet is home to the RWB School, consisting of the Professional Division, our internationally renowned dance education and training centre for aspiring professional dancers and dance teachers, and the Recreational Division, one of Winnipeg's largest dance schools for all ages, levels and interests.

Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet has defined brilliance on stage and in the studio for 82 years. The Company and School continue to seize opportunities and face challenges with a

creative fusion of artistry and determination. Our repertoire is diverse, ranging from the classics to innovative contemporary ballets. Our artists and students can do it all and always with energy, grace, and beauty.

Throughout our history, the RWB has sought to create magic at home and around the globe...here are some highlights by the numbers...

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**290** Ballets

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**136** World  
Premieres

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**595** Cities

---

**44** Countries

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**81%** of the Company artists  
are graduates from the School.

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**708** Donors  
in 2021-22

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**15,006** have subscribed to  
our EnPointe newsletter.

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**50,644** viewed the  
21/22 Season Trailer

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**673,925**  
Website Views in 2021-22



## Living the Dream

André Lewis, O.M., has spent his entire professional life with the RWB. Midway through his career as an outstanding artist, he started supporting the administration side of the Company, and became the Associate Artistic Director from 1990 to 1995. When Arnold Spohr, who led the Company for many years, stepped down, he was followed by a succession of three Artistic Directors; Lewis was named Interim Artistic Director in between these appointments. He formally accepted the position in March 1996, becoming Artistic Director in his own right, a quarter century ago. Since then, Lewis has been living the dream as the driving force behind the new and innovative works that have dramatically rejuvenated the Company's repertoire.



In 2017, the Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada honoured Lewis with the Meritorious Award, in recognition of his outstanding Indigenous leadership for initiating *Going Home Star: Truth and Reconciliation*, alongside Tina Keeper and the late Elder Mary Richard.

We celebrate André Lewis's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as Artistic Director of the RWB, his more than 30 years of executive leadership within the organization and his recent distinguished appointment to the Order of Manitoba.

# RWB Company Artists



**Chenxin Liu**  
Principal



**Alanna McAdie**  
Principal



**Yue Shi**  
Principal



**Yayoi Ban**  
Soloist



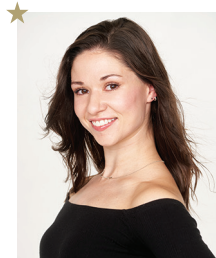
**Elizabeth Lamont**  
Soloist



**Yosuke Mino**  
Soloist



**Katie Bonnell** Second  
Soloist



**Jaimi Deleau**  
Second Soloist



**Stephan Azulay**  
Second Soloist



**Liam Caines**  
Second Soloist



**Peter Lancksweerd**  
Second Soloist



**Jenna Burns**  
Corps de Ballet



**Elena Dobrowna**  
Corps de Ballet



**Emilie Lewis**  
Corps de Ballet



**Katie Simpson**  
Corps de Ballet



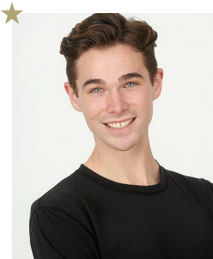
**Amanda Solheim**  
Corps de Ballet



**Brooke Thomas**  
Corps de Ballet



**Joshua Hidson**  
Corps de Ballet



**Tymin Keown**  
Corps de Ballet



**Michel Lavoie**  
Corps de Ballet



**Parker Long**  
Corps de Ballet



**Liam Saito**  
Corps de Ballet



**Kyra Soo**  
Apprentice



**Logan Savard**  
Apprentice

# Company Artists

## Promotions, Welcomes, Farewell

### Promotions

#### Chenxin Liu | Principal

CHENZHOU, HUNAN, CHINA

*"The ballerina's stunningly gorgeous, lyrical lines including her fluttering port de bras... possessing undeniable star power..."*

— Holly Harris, Winnipeg Free Press

#### Alanna McAdie | Principal

EDMONTON, ALBERTA

*"...simply mesmerising; she has a unique presence on stage..."*

— Jessica Storoschuk,  
An Historian About Town

#### Yue Shi | Principal

HEBEI, CHINA

*"His regal bearing, enthralling athleticism and innate ability to fill a stage with his charismatic presence pops."*

— Holly Harris, Winnipeg Free Press

#### Jaimi Deleau | Second Soloist

WINNIPEG, CANADA

*"I would love to dance the role of Juliet in Romeo & Juliet one day."*

#### Peter Lancksweerd | Second Soloist

GENT, BELGIUM

*"Albrecht, in Giselle, seems like a role I would love to dance one day."*

#### Emilie Lewis | Corps de Ballet

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

*"My dream role is Juliet in Romeo & Juliet."*

#### Brooke Thomas | Corps de Ballet

ABBOTSFORD, BRITISH COLUMBIA

*"My dream role has always been to perform the duel role of Odette/Odile in Swan Lake."*

#### Tymin Keown | Corps de Ballet

VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA

*"I would like to play Prince Desire in The Sleeping Beauty."*

### Welcome

#### Kyra Soo | Apprentice

SUMMERLAND, BRITISH COLUMBIA

*"My dream role would be Giselle!"*

#### Logan Savard | Apprentice

COMOX, BRITISH COLUMBIA

*"I would love to play Albrecht in Giselle."*

### Farewell Yosuke Mino

#### Soloist

KANAZAWA, JAPAN

Over his 20-year career with Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Mino danced "princes and paupers, white rabbits and wolves. He has also spread his wings as a bluebird and soared through the air as Peter Pan." Val Caniparoli's *A Cinderella Story* marked Mino's farewell performance with the RWB. He dazzled in the role of Dog and especially shone leaping around the stage as Nancy's only friend. Tara Birtwhistle, the RWB's Associate Artistic Director summed it up best: "Yosuke's strong athletic performances and versatility are distinguishing traits of this smart, creative and beautiful artist. He will always be part of the RWB family and greatly missed on stage and in the studios. Yosuke, thank you for sharing your enormous talent with us – there is much more for you to explore and achieve."



# Royal Winnipeg Ballet Company



This 2021-22 season deepened our sense of belonging in the Company and reaffirmed our love for dance that no pandemic can change. We assembled a repertoire of ballets – *Perpetual Motion (Seventh Symphony, Rodeo)*, *Nutcracker*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Fast Forward* and Val Caniparoli's *A Cinderella Story* which became a beautiful instrument of dance for 24 distinctive, versatile, and dedicated artists.



# Perpetual Motion

October 14-17, 2021  
CENTENNIAL CONCERT HALL

## Seventh Symphony


From grace to stoicism to lightheartedness and ending with an explosion of energy, Toer van Schayk's powerful choreography adds nuance to Beethoven's eponymous symphonic masterpiece. This ballet is a potent reminder that dance has the power to transcend and represents the light at the end of a dark tunnel, hopeful and convinced of a radiant new future.

**Choreographer** Toer van Schayk **Staged by** Caroline Gruber **Assisted by** Jaime Vargas  
**Guest Repetiteur** Lindsay Fischer **Music** Ludwig Van Beethoven 'Symphony No. 7 In A Major, Op. 92'  
**Costume Design** Toer van Schayk **Scenic Design** Toer van Schayk **Lighting Design** Jan Hofstra  
**Run Time** 40 Minutes **World Premiere** Mar. 15, 1986 (Dutch National Ballet) **RWB Premiere** Oct. 6, 1989

## Rodeo

Theatrical ballet at its finest, Agnes de Mille's exuberant and amusing *Rodeo* portrays our universal desire to be loved – and our fear of rejection from those we love. The awkward, tomboyish Cowgirl vies for the attention of the Head Wrangler at The Burnt Ranch and discovers love where she least expects it.

**Choreographer** Agnes de Mille **Staged by** André Lewis **Artistic Consultants** Paul Sutherland and Diana Gonzalez **Music** Aaron Copland **Costume Design** Frances Dafoe **Scenic Design** Oliver Smith  
**Lighting Design Adapted by** Rob Mravnik **Run Time** 30 Minutes **World Premiere** Oct. 16, 1942  
**RWB Premiere** Nov. 21, 1973

ARTS PARTNER  WINNIPEG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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**22.28%**  
of venue sold

**1,922**  
attendees

**\$102,856.05**  
in sales

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**106,276**  
social media views

**2,067** webpage visits

“

*First curtain call in a year and a half. Thank you to the @rwballet for an incredible performance- what a return to the stage! #RWBMotion #WorldBalletDay*

— JESSICA STOROSCHUK VIA AN HISTORIAN ABOUT TOWN, TWITTER



# Nutcracker

DECEMBER 18 - 28, 2021  
CENTENNIAL CONCERT HALL

Our homegrown *Nutcracker* is destined to delight audiences of all ages this holiday season. Follow young Clara and her Prince as they are ambushed by the mischievous Mouse King, walk through a winter wonderland filled with shimmering snowflakes, and arrive in the court of the dazzling Sugar Plum Fairy. Our festive classic remains a testament to imagination with Tchaikovsky's beloved score, timeless choreography, eye-catching costumes, and of course, the dessert-stealing bear! Recreational Division students performed in *Nutcracker* with the RWB Company.

Cancelled on December 27, 28, 2021 due to pandemic considerations.

**Choreography** Galina Yordanova & Nina Menon **Lighting Design** Michael J. Whitfield  
**Music** Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky **Costume Design** Paul Daigle **Scenic Design** Brian Perchaluk  
**Run Time** 2 Hrs, 4 Mins **RWB World Premiere** Dec. 17, 1999

PREMIER SPONSOR



ARTS PARTNER



## Nutcracker on Tour (Ottawa)

DECEMBER 3 - 5, 2021  
NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE (NAC)

Featuring the NAC Orchestra.

After almost two years, tradition continued as NAC Dance proudly brought back a family favourite for the holiday season! *Nutcracker* was the first performance for NAC Dance in 2021 where it was able to open up to full capacity.

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**47.43%**  
of venue sold

**7,161**  
attendees

**\$454,287.85**  
in sales

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**28,592**  
website views

“

*Nutcracker proved this ballet company is back in business for creating magic... the beaming, unmasked dancers were given a thunderous ovation by the mixed generation audience.*

—HOLLY HARRIS  
WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

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**Sold out  
in Ottawa!**  
2,065 seats per show



# The Sleeping Beauty

February 25 - March 20, 2022

DIGITAL & ON DEMAND

The pandemic prevented us from presenting this beloved quintessential ballet, however this turn of events did not deter the RWB...there was a guest appearance by alumna Catherine Wreford Ledlow, as the Queen, and currently of The Amazing Race Canada fame. In addition, we offered a LIVE Q/A with Company artists Alanna McAdie and Stephan Azulay following the show. 18 Professional Division students from the Ballet Academic Program performed with the RWB Company in *The Sleeping Beauty*, as Young Aurora, pages, courtiers, and in the waltz. Aspirants also performed in various roles.

Your sense of wonder was reawakened with this bewitching take on the popular fairy tale. When the maleficent Carabosse lays a curse on the newborn Princess Aurora that casts her into a century-long slumber, only the power of love can compel her back home. Tchaikovsky's iconic composition is brought to life in spellbinding classical ballet after the choreography of Marius Petipa. Luxurious sets, elaborate period costumes, and an eclectic cast of storybook characters captivate both the young in years and the young at heart in *The Sleeping Beauty*.

**Choreographer** Marius Petipa **Music** Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

**Costume Design** Shannon Lovelace and Anne Armit **Set & Properties Design** Michael Egan

**Lighting Design** Michael J. Whitfield **Run Time** 2 Hrs, 25 Mins **World Premiere** Jan. 16, 1890

**RWB Premiere** Oct. 28, 1993

PRODUCTION SUPPORTER



PRODUCTION BENEFACTORS

Richard Bonncastle, Mark and the late Ann Curry,  
The late Agnes and the late Gordon Hall,  
Gerald Schwartz, Rod and Jeannie Senft and Family.

**1,492**  
Virtual Attendees

**\$84,320.39**  
in sales

**7052** reach  
(Catherine Wreford Ledlow returns to RWB)

**5391** views  
(Film teaser)

**10,790**  
webpage views

“

*This return to its usual stomping grounds helps instill the ballet with epic grandeur and even gravitas, while paradoxically providing a greater sense of intimacy with effective camera close-ups...*

— HOLLY HARRIS  
WINNIPEG FREE PRESS



# Fast Forward

March 25-27, 2022

RWB FOUNDERS' STUDIO

A collection of contemporary works created by incredible artists, Fast Forward is an opportunity for everyone to expand how they experience the art of dance by pushing the boundaries of what you expect on stage and from the artists themselves.

100% of the proceeds from Fast Forward tickets were donated to the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal established by the Canada-Ukraine Foundation and The Ukrainian Canadian Congress to aid people impacted by the devastation in Ukraine. Each show featured a special performance of "Verbovaya Doshechka" in solidarity with international musicians.

Physical distancing maintained with masks required.

Run Time 90 Mins

## Phi

### Choreographer

Guillaume Côté, C.Q.

Music Antoine Bédard

## Adieu

### Choreographer

Gabriela Rehak

## Excerpt from Pas D'action

### Choreographer & Libretto

Brian Macdonald, C.C.  
Music Franz Von Suppé

## ʔajemət Formerly

*Pine Needle*

*[Ah-Jem-Muht]*

### Choreographer

Cameron Fraser-  
Monroe

Music "Pomok Naka

Poktoinskwes" by

Jeremy Dutcher

## Bolero

### Choreographer

Stephan Azulay

Music Maurice Ravel

---

**50%**

of venue sold

**284**

attendees

**\$11,115**

in sales

---

**3,605** views

(YouTube 15 second ad)

**1,428**

webpage visits

“

*Dizzying, dazzling dance...the program of contemporary works sees RWB springing forward.*

—HOLLY HARRIS  
WINNIPEG FREE PRESS





# Val Caniparoli's A Cinderella Story

May 11-15, 2022

CENTENNIAL CONCERT HALL

Ballet meets Broadway in this inventive reinterpretation of the fairy tale favourite. Inspired by the 1957 television musical, Val Caniparoli's *A Cinderella Story* fuses classical ballet with jazz and tap to themes from Richard Rodgers' songbook, arranged for a live jazz orchestra by Winnipeg's own renowned bandleader Ron Paley. A delightfully retro 1950's setting and high fashion costumes create the perfect backdrop for the season's final mainstage performance.

**Based on Themes by** Richard Rodgers **Choreographer** Val Caniparoli  
**Music Arrangements & Orchestrations** Ron Paley **Scenic & Costume Design** Sandra Woodall  
**Libretto** Val Caniparoli & Sheryl Flatow **Lighting & Sound Design** Alexander V. Nichols  
**Assistant to the Scenic Designer** Tom Richardson **Run Time** 2 Hrs, 15 Mins  
**RWB World Premiere** Oct. 20, 2004

PRESENTING SPONSOR  LIVE MUSIC BENEFACTOR 

#### PRODUCTION BENEFACTORS

The Asper Foundation, The Winnipeg Foundation, The Cipryk Family, Gerry Grey, James Morden, and Martin Weinberg & Family

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**37.77%**  
of venue sold

**4,073**  
attendees

**\$226,234.24**  
in sale

---

**12,709**  
webpage visits

“

*The RWB got its groove on Wednesday night as it closed its 2021-22 season with A Cinderella Story, throwing off more flash than a ballroom mirror-ball while showing the opening night crowd a ring-a-ding-ding of a good time. As expected, the mixed generation crowd lept to its feet at the end with a rousing standing ovation, even dancing in the aisles as the final curtain fell and the band played on.*

—HOLLY HARRIS  
WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

# Royal Winnipeg Ballet School

For over 80 years, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School has been inspiring young artists and supporting them in the pursuit of their goals. It is well-known across Canada and around the world for providing the highest caliber of dance education. The School is home to an average of 1,500 students annually who make up the Professional and Recreational Divisions of the School. The connection to the RWB Company and the subsequent visibility of students and exposure to the Artistic Director & CEO André Lewis are among the School's many strengths.

## Child Protection

The RWB School is committed to fostering training, working, and living environments that are positive, healthy, inclusive, respectful, and reflective of contemporary best practices. We work to create safe spaces where individual abilities are celebrated, nurtured and protected, and every person feels valued and supported. Adults working with children and in various areas of our students' lives, are in a unique position to provide both preventative and intervention services. This role is particularly critical in the area of child protection. Knowledge of indicators that a child needs protection, including child abuse, reporting guidelines, as well as methods for the provision of support, are needed by staff working at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet and associates who access the RWB properties.

The RWB had been involved in a serious legal matter relating to child protection for several years. In February 2022, the RWB reached a \$10 million settlement in this former students'-led class action lawsuit against the RWB and a past teacher and photographer in our employ in 2015. *"We offered a heartfelt apology to all of the victims and those that have been impacted,"* said Artistic Director & CEO of the RWB, André Lewis. *We are grateful to the individuals who came forward and applaud their commitment to protecting future generations of dancers."*

Over the years,, the RWB has made significant changes to the way we operate. We established a School Crisis Management Team and restructured the School Advisory Committee. We also re-developed a Child Protection Policy and Procedures Manual with input from the Canadian Centre for Child Protection, as well as other related materials such

as Background Checks and Respectful Workplace. These new policies – which include rigorous guidelines specific to photography and videography sessions – are communicated broadly and repeatedly to all members of the RWB community. We also conduct regular staff and dancer training on the policies, with an emphasis on protecting the physical and psychological well-being of everyone in the organization. A complete set of the policies, as well as our apology can be found at [rwb.org/news/category/legal](https://rwb.org/news/category/legal).

## Leadership in Action

The RWB is committed to continue improving communication and supporting the empowerment of our student body. Students are strongly encouraged to ask questions and voice concerns . Efforts on this front include restructuring student orientations and expanding the School's student care program. In addition to these ongoing initiatives, the RWB constantly looks for innovative ways to support the health and wellbeing of all students. The RWB is dedicated to demonstrating leadership in action within the arts community and will be vigilant in efforts to prevent future abuses of trust and nurture a safe and supportive environment for all students.



## Royal Winnipeg Ballet School Professional Division

Our internationally renowned dance education and training centre is designed to attract, nurture and develop highly trained and versatile classical ballet dancers and dance teachers for the RWB Company and School, as well as professional companies and schools around the world through our three programs:

**Ballet Academic Program** for grade 6 and up, a full-time, seven-level program for young artists pursuing their dream of dancing professionally.

**Anna McCowan-Johnson Aspirant Program**, a full-time, two-year, post-secondary training program for advanced-level classical ballet dancers who are making the transition from student to professional artist.

**Teacher Training Program**, our full-time, three-year, post-secondary program that provides aspiring dance teachers with the skills and knowledge required for a career in dance education in both recreational and professional environments.

Our campus, located in the heart of historic downtown Winnipeg, is home to between 90 and 110 students enrolled annually in our full-time programs and 180 students in the summer. We provide classical ballet training based on the Russian system and supported with a full program of study in complementary dance forms and health, wellness, and life skills. Our approach produces artists who have the flexibility to perform and teach a wide variety of dance styles and can enjoy long and fulfilling careers; it also produces responsible young adults who are well-rounded and creative, and who possess strong work ethics and leadership skills.

# Professional Division Highlights



## Anna McCowan-Johnson Aspirant Program

In June 2021, Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet received a \$3 million gift to invest in the lives and futures of young artists. This gift was made by Canadian philanthropist and Manitoba born, Donald K. Johnson in memory of his late wife; in recognition of this generous gift, the RWB now refers to one of our post-secondary programs as the Anna McCowan-Johnson Aspirant Program.

Anna McCowan-Johnson's passion for ballet and dedication to teaching were inspirational. During her long career as a dance educator, including as founder and Artistic Director of Interplay School of Dance in Toronto, she influenced many lives and introduced generations of young people to the joy of dance, both as eager participants and budding audience members. She was taught and mentored by one of the RWB's co-founders Gweneth Lloyd, enjoyed an enduring friendship with the RWB's Artistic Director Emeritus Arnold Spohr and was a fan of the RWB, often encouraging and supporting young dancers to attend the RWB School.



Donald Johnson, who visited the RWB this summer and met some Aspirants said: *"The Anna McCowan-Johnson Aspirant Program Fund is designed to help raise the bar and reach for this invaluable program and help the RWB enhance and accelerate its ambitious goals and results. Anna believed it was crucial to equip young artists with the necessary tools and resources to advance their professional dance careers, and this specific investment honours her vision and memory."*

*"This program has been training and supporting pre-professional dancers for almost 25 years and as we head into this momentous anniversary year, we are so grateful for the generous gift the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School has received to enhance this essential program",* says Vanessa Léonard, Director of the Anna McCowan-Johnson Aspirant Program.

This gift creates an endowed fund at The Winnipeg Foundation, that will continue to grow and support the program indefinitely, while impacting countless dancers beyond measure. This fund will become an additional source of revenue to allow the RWB to enhance the program, attract renowned guest choreographers to help enrich the educational experience and better prepare young dancers to perform on stages around the world.

Myles Mackesy, a RWB Aspirant from Ontario, shared his sentiments: *"It's great this donation is specific to the post-secondary program for the Aspirants, not just the School in general - it is key to help build up the program - and to honour Anna McCowan-Johnson with the name change."*

Thank you, Mr. Johnson, for your extraordinary generosity and for the confidence you have shown in the RWB and the emerging dancers we train. We are proud and grateful to forever honour Anna's legacy and memorialize her lifelong dedication to the art of ballet.

# Professional Division Highlights

436  
views

## First Steps Choreographic Competition

March 25-April 4, 2022

DIGITAL PERFORMANCE

First Steps was presented through Digital On Demand with JP Media Works and led by Gabriela Rehak, School Resident Choreographer and First Steps Artistic Coordinator. For over 30 years, the First Steps competition has provided an intimate look into the creative process of the next generation of dancers and choreographers.

### First Steps Award Winners

**1<sup>st</sup> Place** *Her World* by Sophie Robinson  
Penticton, BC, Level 5

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place** *As The World Caves In* by Paige Irwin  
Thunder Bay, ON, Level 5

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place** *Time Delation* by Akira Thornton Ottawa,  
ON, Level 7

**Honourable Mentions** *Time and Time Again* by Niki  
Powell, Winnipeg, MB, Level 6

*Insanity* by Timothy Gaulke,  
Elkhorn, Wisconsin, Level 6

**Paddy Stone Scholarship** *Feelin the Swing* by Camilla  
Hood, Brandon, MB, Level 6

**Jacqueline Weber Award for Classical  
Choreography** *Madrid* by Bella Weatherby White,  
Forrest, MB, Level 6

**People's Choice Award** Lia Audirac Santibanez  
Zapopan, Jalisco, MX, Level 5

**RWB School Award** *Time Delation*  
by Akira Thornton, Ottawa, ON, Level 7

**Doreen Macdonald Scholarship** *Irresolute*  
by Evelyn Little, Winnipeg, MB, Level 5

650  
attendees

## Spotlight

May 19-22, 2022

MANITOBA THEATRE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

\$14,047  
in sales

Spotlight was a luminous collection of dances from the young artists that served as a culmination of their artistic growth. This year students danced highlights from the masterpiece ballet *Laurencia* - a rarely seen, demi-classical work with a distinct character style, staged by dance luminary Anna-Marie Holmes.

287  
attendees

## On the Edge

June 8-10, 2022

RWB FOUNDERS' STUDIO

\$4,102  
in sales

The season finale, *On The Edge*, featured the next generation of professional ballet dancers from the Royal Winnipeg Ballet's Anna McCowan-Johnson Aspirant Program, who performed diverse repertoire that captivated and inspired.

This year's repertoire was a wonderful variety of pieces that underscored the virtuosity of classical and contemporary work. The performances included a choreographic premiere from RWB Company Soloist Yosuke Mino, as well as a premiere piece by the RWB School Resident Choreographer Gabriela Rehak. *On The Edge* also presented a world premiere by the Artistic Director of Winnipeg's NAfro Dance Company, Casimiro Nhussi, and a new Spanish piece from Flamenco RWB School Professional Division teacher Maritel Centurion.

PRESENTING SPONSOR





## Dance luminary Anna-Marie Holmes

To add to the excitement of Spotlight, Stéphane Léonard, School Director, asked the artistic director, choreographer, producer, teacher, celebrated ballerina and internationally acclaimed dance luminary Anna-Marie Holmes to visit Winnipeg for three weeks in March and stage excerpts from *Laurencia*. Holmes last staged this ballet here in 2009.

Holmes' interpretations of the Russian classics have been staged in more than 30 countries on five continents. She has also garnered a reputation as a leading champion for new and innovative choreography. Holmes is a fixture in the ballet world – an incredibly respected artist – and this comes from a lifetime of outstanding work. A huge thank you to the amazing Anna-Marie Holmes!

## First ever School Resident Choreographer Gabriela Rehak

The Royal Winnipeg Ballet welcomed Gabriela Rehak to the new position of RWB School Resident Choreographer this year. Gabriela has been creating works for the RWB School for the past two decades and her contribution and talent as a choreographer is much appreciated.

Beyond her artistic ingenuity, Gabriela is also a skilled leader with 20 years of experience as Artistic Director of Rozmai Dance Company. Gabriela creates new works yearly and oversees the Modern curriculum delivery in the School as well as helps to coordinate projects and events such as the First Steps Choreographic Competition. We look forward to many more years of her fine creations.

## Professional Division Students in *The Sleeping Beauty*

18 Ballet Academic Program students performed with the RWB Company in *The Sleeping Beauty*, the digitally filmed production, as Young Aurora, pages, courtiers, and in the waltz. Aspirants also performed in various roles.

### Teachers' Summer Workshop

OCT. 17, 2021; JAN. 16, 2022;  
MAY 10, 2022

### Summer Session

JULY 6-31, 2021

### Audition Tour

OCT. 19, 2021 – APR. 2022

PRESENTING SPONSOR



# Professional Division Graduates & Scholarship Recipients

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## Scholarships

We awarded \$168, 839.50 in scholarships during the 2021-22 School year in support of 42 students.

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## Financial Assistance

We provided \$119, 673 in financial assistance during the 2021-22 School year in support of 62 students.



## Graduates

**Ballet Academic Program**

**Felix Jinga**  
London, ON

**Destiny Malloy**  
Toronto, ON

**Tess Pepetone**  
Waterdown, ON

**Nathaniel Ritter-Magot**  
Regina, SK

**Akira Thornton**  
Ottawa, ON

**Dakotah Tolchard**  
Edmonton, AB

**Taisi Tollasepp**  
Toronto, ON

**Elisha Woo**  
Winnipeg, MB

**Teacher Training Program**

**Failya Bolgarova**  
Azerbaijan, Baku

**Olesya Egorov**  
Krasnoyarsk,  
Russia

**Valquiria Lacerda**  
Dourados, Brazil

**Danielle Platford**  
Thompson, MB

**Kendra Woo**  
Winnipeg, MB

## Scholarship Recipients

### Professional Division Scholarship

**Bethany Mary**  
Level 2  
Winnipeg, MB

### Doreen Macdonald Scholarship

**Niki Powell**  
Level 6  
Winnipeg, MB  
(Awarded at  
First Steps 2021)

### Millicent Rockwell Donnelly Bursary

**Nya Chapman**  
Level 1  
Winnipeg, MB

### Paddy Stone Scholarship

**Dakotah Tolchard**  
Level 7  
Edmonton, AB

### Shelley Shapiro Blum Scholarship

**Paige Irwin**, Level 5  
Thunder Bay, ON

### Victor Duret Memorial Fund

**Joshua Sinclair**  
Level 6  
Winnipeg, MB

### RWB School Professional Division Scholarships

**Sofia Cuevas**  
(YAGP Mexico),  
Level 5, Guadalajara,  
Jalisco, Mexico

**Mauricio Pinacho Velasquez**

(YAGP Mexico),  
Coacalco, Mexico

### Leon & Lorraine Rubin Scholarship

**Elisha Woo**  
Level 7  
Winnipeg, MB

### David Peregrine Memorial Scholarship

**Nathaniel Williams**  
Level 3  
Salmon Arm, BC

### University Women's Club Performing Arts Bursary

**Avery Carter**  
Level 1  
Winnipeg, MB

### Daimler-Chrysler Scholarship

**Andrew Welsh**  
Level 4, Ottawa, ON

### Rene Highway Scholarship

**Rafe Perry**  
Level 6, Comox, BC

### Jane McEvoy O'Donnell Scholarship

**Sofia Cuevas**,  
Level 5,  
Guadalajara,  
Jalisco, Mexico

### Dr. Alice Cheatley Scholarship

**Logan Shaw**, Level 5  
Orleans, ON

### Kally Kennedy Scholarship

**Failya Bolgarova**  
Year 2  
Winnipeg, MB

**Valquiria Lacerda**  
Year 2  
Dourados, Brazil

### Nijinski Dance Scholarship

**Niki Powell**  
Level 6  
Winnipeg, MB

### Odette & Odile Scholarship

**Sofia Cuevas**, Level 5  
Guadalajara, Jalisco,  
Mexico

### Juanita Y. Alexander Scholarship for Artistic Excellence

**Camilla Hood**  
Level 6, Brandon, MB

### IG Wealth Management Professional Division Scholarship

**Nicholas Mihlar** (BC)  
**Ava Gibson** (AB)  
**Landon Miller** (SK)  
**Madeleine Brown** (MB)  
**Kathleen Worthington** (ON)  
**Katrina Ouellette** (NS)  
**Sarah Weaver** (NB)  
**Juliet Pritchett** (PE)  
**Clara Sullivan** (NL)

### Dr. P.H. Brooke Professional Division Scholarship

**Yinuo Wang**  
Level 3, Beijing, China

### IG Wealth Management Financial Confidence Scholarship

**Miranda Bevan**  
Level 4, Nanaimo, BC

**Camille Yunha Decq**  
Level 1  
Vancouver, BC

**Tatyana Meijer**  
Level 4,  
London, ON

**Logan Shaw**  
Level 5  
Orleans, ON

**Taisi Tollasepp**  
Level 7  
Toronto, ON

**Ava Wease**  
Level 4  
Fishersville, VI, USA

**Mia Zaborski**  
Level 5  
Brooklyn, NY, USA

### Craig Music & Entertainment Scholarship

**Isabella Watkins**  
Level 3  
Richmond, BC

### ESSO Kids Award of Excellence Scholarship

**Aidan Vaudreuil-Wakeham**  
Level 6  
Lower Sackville, NS

### Endowment Award

**Yinuo Wang**  
Level 3  
Beijing, China

**Saneatsu Abe**  
Level 5  
Hyogo, Japan

### Rose & Berel Sholom Memorial Scholarship

**Olivia Koppanyi**  
Level 6  
Winnipeg, MB

**Evelyn Little**  
Level 5  
Winnipeg, MB

### Julia Arkos Memorial Award

**Katrina Ouellette**  
Level 6  
Middle Sackville, NS

### Canadian Pacific Scholarship

**Rafe Perry**  
Level 6, Comox, BC

### RWB Alumni Scholarship

**Oliver Bastin**  
Level 6  
Winnipeg, MB

**Chu Hsuan Chen**  
Level 1  
Taoyuan City, Taiwan

**Aylin Contreras Diaz**  
Level 6  
Tlajomulco de Zuniga,  
Jalisco, Mexico

**Sofia Cuevas**, Level 5  
Guadalajara, Jalisco,  
Mexico

**Ava Devlin**  
Level 4  
Edmonton, AB

**Lileia Silveggio**  
Level 6  
Winnipeg, MB

### Founders' Scholarship

**Sophie Robinson**  
Level 5  
Penticton, BC

### Royal Bank of Canada Award

**Hannah Hunter**  
Level 4  
Penticton, BC

**Viola Li**  
Level 2  
Markham, ON

**Tiernen O'Keefe**  
Level 6, Vernon, BC

**Sophie Robinson**  
Level 5  
Penticton, BC

**Isabella Watkins**  
Level 3  
Richmond, BC

**Mia Zaborski**  
Level 5  
Brooklyn, NY, USA

### Douglas & Elizabeth MacEwan Scholarship

**Olivia Kowalchuk**  
Aspirant Year 1,  
Penhold, AB

**Nathaniel Ritter-Magot**  
Level 7, Regina, SK

### Evelyn Hart Scholarship

**Taisi Tollasepp**  
Level 7, Toronto, ON

### Arlene Minkhorst Scholarship

**Olivia Koppanyi**  
Level 6  
Winnipeg, MB

### Arnold Spohr Scholarship

**Tess Pepton**,  
Level 7  
Waterdown, ON

**Aidan Vaudreuil-Wakeham**, Level 6,  
Lower Sackville, NS

### Prince Edward Award

**Taisi Tollasepp**  
Level 7  
Toronto, ON

**Felix Jinga**  
Level 7  
London, ON



# Professional Division Faculty Promotions, Welcomes & Farewells

## Promotions:



**Kelly Bale**  
Professional Division  
Vice-Principal



**Vanessa Léonard**  
Director of the Anna  
McCowan-Johnson  
Aspirant Program



**Gabriela Rehak**  
School Resident  
Choreographer



**Failya Bolgarova**



**Danielle Platford**



**Kendra Woo**

## Farewell and Thank You for your Support:



**Sabine Chaland**



**Gael Lambiotte**



**Radostina Panova**



**Marijka Stanowych**

## Thank you to our Guest Teachers:

Ana Jojic-Begovic, Eldiyar Danyarov,  
Kira Hofmann, Anna-Marie Holmes,  
Philippe-Alexander Jacques,  
Nina Menon, Casimiro Nhussi,  
Florian Rouiller, Shanley Spence

# Student Living Centre

The cornerstone of our monumental RWB Campus Expansion and Modernization Plan is the new and stunning RWB Student Living Centre. This signature building is the result of a joint effort between the RWB and True North Real Estate Development; it was designed by Architecture49 and built by PCL Construction.

The RWB School Student Living Centre opened in January 2022 and offers a safe, supportive environment for young artists as they pursue their goals in dance. It was designed with safety and security as top priorities and provides students with independence while maintaining a healthy routine. It creates a home-away-from-home atmosphere with a variety of spaces for students to connect, study or relax.

*“The opportunity to provide aspiring dancers with a brand-new place to learn and grow that was specifically designed for them is incredible, said RWB School Director Stéphane Léonard. Today’s best practices with respect to child safety and child development were the driving forces in the design exercise, which I know will be a comfort to student families making the sometimes-difficult decision to send their children away from home to pursue their dreams. It is a beautiful place where young people from around the world will develop their artistry and their characters and cultivate friendships that will last a lifetime.”*

On March 25, the School held staff opening ceremonies for the new Student Living Centre. Student opening ceremonies happened on April 29 and included a smudging ceremony. Later on, students took part in a hoop dancing workshop led by Indigenous dancer Shanley Spence and an art project directed by Student Care Counselor Carol Hoydalo. The RWB is extremely grateful to our many supporters for helping to make our vision a reality.



## Campus

This five-level contemporary facility is built on top of the existing RWB parkade and connects to the RWB studios through an enclosed and secure passageway.

### Highlights include:

- Permanent housing during the school year for 60 students (120 in Summer as rooms are adapted for double occupancy). It includes 24-hour supervision and assistance as well as a range of security policies, procedures, and protocols to ensure the best care for the young artists.
- Dance and fitness studios, modern and welcoming classrooms, recreation and relaxation spaces, an outdoor greenspace, an expanded food service program, and more – this is all in the spirit of balancing professional training with livability and student comfort.

# Royal Winnipeg Ballet School Recreational Division

We are one of Winnipeg's largest dance schools for all skills and all ages. Since its founding in 1939, the Recreational Division of the RWB School has made a meaningful contribution in communities across Manitoba by providing quality dance instruction, in a variety of styles and disciplines, to dancers of all ages, levels, interests, and abilities who are pursuing a range of personal and professional goals. The School offers creative movement, ballet, pointe, jazz, lyrical, tap, modern, musical theatre, conditioning and hip hop, as well as specialized programs for boys and adults, combining the best in training, facilities and value in a positive and encouraging environment.





## Premiere of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland film

September 2021 on demand until December 31, 2021

Filmed over the course of 3 days at the RWB Founders' Studio by JP Media Works featuring the talented students from Dance Ensemble and Intensive Training Program

It was a plan years in the making, a full production that was to feature the entire Recreational Division on the Centennial Concert Hall stage, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. There were already costumes and choreography created and teachers were just about to start choreographing with their classes, when COVID-19 brought everything to a screeching halt. Then, one year later, there was hope that it could be performed on stage, but about halfway through this session, the decision was made to create an alternative recital for the entire division and the focus was placed on a film project instead!

Although the pandemic forced us to change course and film this work rather than perform on stage, the project turned out to be one of the largest productions ever choreographed at the RWB School. According to Nicole Kepp, Principal, RWB Recreational Division: *"Despite the fact that Alice's Adventures in Wonderland was an adventure unto itself because of pandemic considerations, this project was a silver lining throughout the challenging season – a celebration of creating and performing together – the show must go on! The opportunity to work with JP Media Works on a production like this was such a valuable lesson and experience for our Dance Ensemble and Intensive Training Program students, who worked long and hard on this one-of-a-kind project."*

Katie Welham, one of RWB's Recreational Division students and the lead in Alice's Adventures in Wonderland summed up her incredible experience: *"After 16 years as a student with the RWB and currently in the adult program, I was so excited to be chosen as the lead in Alice – it has been one of the highlights of my career so far. I am used to working in the studio and on stage but to be cast in a film production for the very first time was one of the coolest things I have ever done! And the fact that RWB still made this all happen when we could not perform LIVE on stage at the Concert Hall due to COVID-19, makes me very proud. I am grateful for the amazing opportunity to help make Alice's Adventures in Wonderland wonderfully real."*

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899 views

“

*This was the most ambitious project I've ever done with the RWB, but undoubtedly the one I'm most proud of. Many of the students had never worked on a film, so getting used to the repetition of shots, doing minor voice work, and acting was kind of a fun new undertaking for them. But they were all so committed and creative and gave a lot of passion to their performances and I think it leaves the film with a great deal of heart.*

—JORDAN POPOWICH  
OWNER, JP MEDIA WORKS

# Recreational Division Highlights

**894** people participated in Recreational Division programming during the 2021-22 School year.

**760** Recreational Division Regular Session Students



## Dialogues on the Edge

Select students participated in *Dialogues on the Edge*, a film presentation with Jaberi Dance Theatre, which was presented at Building Solidarity from the Margins, A Human Rights Forum with the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. Roshanak Jaberi is an Iranian-born Canadian artist, producer and Dora Mavor Moore Awards for the performing arts nominated choreographer.

## Nutcracker

Recreational Division students performed in *Nutcracker* with the RWB Company.

## Cecchetti Ballet

Cecchetti Ballet examinations, due to COVID-19, took place over Zoom with examiners Deborah Bowes and Jane Wooding.

## Connor Coughlin: Dance Ensemble Guest Choreographer

Connor Coughlin, born and raised in Winnipeg, is a professional actor, singer, and dancer who trained and graduated at the RWB School's Professional Division. He has studied under Roman Rykine (Principal Dancer with English National Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, and Boston Ballet), and Jordan Morris (Chief Ballet Master of Boston Ballet, choreographer of *Peter Pan* and *Moulin Rouge® – the Ballet*). Connor returned to Winnipeg this past year and delivered master classes in Luigi Jazz technique and choreography from the Radio City Musical Hall Rockette's Christmas Spectacular; he was also guest choreographer for two Dance Ensemble Musical Theatre solos, *Can't be bothered now* and *Morning Person*.

# Recreational Division Highlights

**81**  
views

**\$ 1,360**  
in sales

## Steppin' Out

March 13, 2022  
DIGITAL PERFORMANCE

Our annual RWB School year-end performance for Adult Recreational Division students, Steppin' Out, is a highly entertaining mixed program of ballet, jazz, lyrical, modern, hip hop, tap, and musical theatre that celebrates the many talents of the RWB's adult dancers. It is an opportunity for the performers to express themselves and to share their love of dance with family and friends. These performers want to develop their artistry, engage in fitness, build community, and experience the joy of movement. They may be continuing education, practicing for other stage performances, or searching for comradery – whatever it may be, it's all accomplished at Steppin' Out.

**338**  
attendees

## Festival Preview

March 19-20, 2022  
RWB FOUNDERS' STUDIO

All Dance Ensemble students participated in Festival Preview. *"Festival parents and guardians were invited to view all pieces that the RWB School created for the upcoming competitions. The talent was overflowing during this exciting weekend!"* Nicole Kepp, Principal of the Recreational Division

Subsequent competitions were held in the spring - many awards and placements were won by RWB Dance Ensemble pieces presented at the RBC Convention Centre. Of special note:

### MOVE Dance Competition

#### Highest Scoring Musical Theatre Solo

**Morning Person**  
by Connor Coughlin,  
performed by Anna  
Anderson-Epp

#### Best Costume Award

**Vernal Equinox**  
by Emilia Radawetz  
performed by Pre-  
Ballet Dance Ensemble

### View Dance Challenge

#### Nominated for Choreography of the Year

**Where The Light Goes**  
by Nicole Kepp,  
performed by  
Advanced Intensive  
Training Program

#### Invitation to 2022 Greece Intensive

**Zoe Gagnon** for piece  
*Where's My Love*  
choreographed by  
Nicole Kepp

### Terpsichore Dance Challenge

#### Most Entertaining 12 & Under Group

**Team** by Cheyenne  
Schroeder, performed  
by Junior Musical  
Theatre Dance  
Ensemble

#### Most Entertaining 13 & Over Group

**Finland** by Matthew  
Armet, performed  
by Intermediate  
Musical Theatre Dance  
Ensemble

### Senior Regional Champions 13 & Over

**Spine** by Nicole Kepp,  
performed by Senior  
Jazz Dance Ensemble

#### Highest Score Grand Award Winner Tap

**Pachuko** by Darilyn  
Burdeniuk, performed  
by Senior Tap Dance  
Ensemble

### Highest Score Grand Award Winner Contemporary

**Spine** by Nicole Kepp,  
performed by Senior  
Jazz Dance Ensemble

#### Highest Score Grand Award Winner Musical Theatre

**Finland** by  
Matthew Armet,  
performed by  
Intermediate  
Musical Theatre Dance  
Ensemble



## Dance Spectrum

June 4-5, 2022

CENTENNIAL CONCERT HALL

Dance Spectrum is the RWB School's year-end showcase that celebrated the hard work of all Recreational Division students ages 4-18 years. Audiences enjoyed all genres of dance including ballet, tap, jazz & more!

The last time we gathered for a Dance Spectrum performance at the Centennial Concert Hall was in 2019 – three years ago! Our students and families were so resilient over the past two seasons; committed to their craft and training, whether in the studio or over Zoom, their dedication kept progress moving forward and they finally had the opportunity to share their hard work and joy of movement with audiences. Fueled by creativity, heart, and a passion for dance, everyone from students, families and teachers to volunteers and staff persevered to get this show on stage and in 2022, the pandemic did not deter us. The excitement from students back onstage and building up to their live performances was palpable!

Dance Spectrum would not be possible without the artistry, guidance, care, creativity and determination of our teachers. Teaching through a pandemic is no picnic. It is the hardest thing we've ever asked our teachers to do – and nothing stopped them from supporting the young artists of the RWB in the pursuit of their goals. Because of these teachers, our dancers were able to tell stories and express themselves through movement. They built more confidence and self-esteem. Our dancers are more than technicians or competitors – they are artists in their own right, and they became part of something beautiful. A huge thank to everyone involved in our dazzling Dance Spectrum!

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**1,926**  
attendees

**\$44,800**  
in sales

# Recreational Division Artistic Faculty & Awards

## Warm Welcome to:



Sophie Milord



Danielle Platford



Kersey Sarao

## Farewell and Thank You for your Support:



Matthew Armet



Kendra Woo

## We thank our Dance Intensive Guest Teachers:

Katie Bonnell, Connor Coughlin, Jaimi Deleau, Joshua Hidson,  
Alanna McAdie, Emilie Lewis, and Michel Lavoie

And we are grateful to Yosuke Mino for choreographing  
Burgeon for the Advanced Intensive Training Program.

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## Financial Assistance

We provided \$4,087 in financial assistance through the  
Recreational Division Opportunity Fund during the 2021-22  
School year in support of 5 students.

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## Achievement Awards

**Junior Achievement Award** Teia Silva  
**Senior Achievement Award** Stella Scott  
**Teaching Assistant Award** Caitlyn Fast  
**Jean McKenzie Scholarship** Katherine Robinson



# Community Engagement Highlights

The RWB collaborates with communities on the development and delivery of customized creative movement, dance programming and other important initiatives; we aim to provide opportunities for participants to experience the physical, emotional, and social benefits of dance, and offer pathways for those interested in exploring a deeper relationship with the art form. We also aim to support projects that benefit underserved communities.

## Creative Movement

### August 2021 pilot program

THE FORKS

The RWB Recreational Division hosted free weekly pop-up creative movement classes at the Forks in August, under the canopy of the CN Stage at 4:30pm. Jolene Bailie's daughter, Sophie, comes from a family that loves to dance, and who also takes classes with the pop-up's instructor, Magdaline "Maggie" McGregor. *"I didn't tell her until we parked, and I said, 'you know there is an outdoor dance class we can check out,' and her eyes lit up - she was so excited,"* Bailie said. McGregor led a small group of young children and their parents through a series of movements, including asking children to put on their imaginary spacesuit and to catch stars.

## Winnipeg Summer Dance Collective

### Summer 2021

The Winnipeg Summer Dance Collective presented a purely digital season. Its film *Rail Against* previewed at Nuit Blanche before premiering as part of QDance 2021. It was rehearsed as part of the 2020 season at RWB and was an act of solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en Nation's attempt to assert their land rights. Several alumni contributed to its creation including choreographer and producer Cameron Fraser-Monroe, director Philippe Larouche, and dancers Emily Lewis, Liam Reid, and Bryce Taylor.



# Community Engagement Highlights Continued

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**1,711** people participated in RWB School Community Engagement programming during the 2021-22 School year.

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Our touring program reached an audience of 6,108 for a total of **7,819**.

## Concert Hour Ballet

**November 22-27, 2021**

LIVESTREAMED

**2,938** Participants

Our touring program sends students on the road to share the power of dance with new audiences in schools and community spaces across the Prairies. Tours reach an average audience of 5,000 people each year. This important program has the dual goal of introducing people to the art form – particularly those who might not otherwise have the opportunity to see a live ballet performance – and allowing professional dance students to experience the demands of performing and touring first-hand. The School's touring programs also provide important opportunities for artist commissions and workshops that promote reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and foster women, two-spirit and/or genderqueer choreographic voices. Participating schools in 2021 included: Sargent Park School, William Whyte School, Clifton School, Grosvenor School, École Lansdowne School, Luxton School, General Wolfe School and Sisler High School.

## ExplorAbility

**36** Participants

With the Recreational Division's ExplorAbility for Adults and ExplorAbility for Parkinson's programs, we offer customized movement classes once a week in ten-week sessions throughout the year for adults with physical and cognitive disabilities – with three sessions per year in both streams of ExplorAbility. Classes were delivered by Jacqui Ladwig, School faculty member with special training and qualifications, and focused on developing body awareness, self-expression, posture, and alignment, all in a creative and supportive environment.

## LEAD

**February 20-21, 2022**

**25** Participants

LEAD (Leadership, Empowerment, Action, Dance) is a new program at the RWB School, in partnership with the National Ballet School (NBS), designed to empower young women to make a positive impact in their communities through dance. The RWB offered the pilot LEAD workshop – a free two-day event for ages 16 to-25, led by artists and community mentors.

### Dance Workshop Leaders

- Sofia Costantini, Master Teacher, choreographer, educator, author, motivator, and a Program Lead for the Winnipeg School Division, overseeing all arts programming
- Maribeth Tabanera (aka Kilusan, a Filipinx Tagalog Visayan queer femme interdisciplinary educator, artist, dancer, choreographer, DJ, and community organizer)
- Ashleigh Powell, Teacher, Professional Ballet Academic Program and Head of Community Dance Programs, Canada's National Ballet School

### Panelists

- Kimberley Rampersad, Canadian theatre artist, choreographer, and contributor to the work of the Philip Akin – Black Shoulders Legacy Award, Gina's Prize, and Associate Artistic Director of the Shaw Festival
- Sonya Ballantyne, Swampy Cree writer, filmmaker, and speaker from Winnipeg whose work focuses on contemporary and futuristic portrayals of Indigenous women and girls
- Ellen Peterson, playwright, dramaturg, actor, artist, one-time improv comic, author, and teacher

According to Cheyenne Schroeder, there were many empowering LEAD moments: She described one of the dance workshops led by Sofia Costantini, as awe-inspiring – she choreographed a contemporary piece using chairs with the group that included themes of loss and healing. Ashleigh Powell taught outstanding Sharing Dance choreography and Maribeth Tabanera choreographed a fabulous hip hop/house dance piece. LEAD participants engaged in storytelling, dining together, and discussing leadership in small groups. The first day culminated with an inspirational professional artist speaker panel discussion featuring Kimberley Rampersad, Sonya Ballantyne and Ellen Peterson.

## On the Edge Tour

April 29, 2022

WILLIAM GLESBY THEATRE, LIVESTREAM & TWO LIVE PERFORMANCES IN PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE

1,170 Participants

The RWB School Aspirants (from the Anna McCowan-Johnson Aspirant Program), staff and crew packed up and headed out to Portage La Prairie for the first LIVE On the Edge tour in over two years, where the next generation of dancers showcased a sublime and powerful repertoire for audiences of all ages.

The School's touring program has sent dancers on the road to share the power of ballet and other dance forms with new audiences in schools and community spaces for almost 50 years. The School featured a large ensemble of 10-18 dancers front and centre, creating a spectacular performance experience. With the exception of the Portage la Prairie LIVE performance, the RWB conducted the tour virtually for various Manitoba schools.

PRESENTING SPONSOR



## Sharing Dance

January- May 2022

Sharing Dance is the RWB School's leading community engagement initiative. Sharing Dance founder Canada's National Ballet School (NBS) and national partners the RWB School and Physical Health & Education Canada join forces to offer a range of free Sharing Dance programming between January and May each year for all Canadians to get healthy, active, and artistically engaged.

Since the launch of Sharing Dance in 2015, the RWB School has:

- Delivered free multi-week Sharing Dance programming to 1,500 children and youth annually in underserved schools and communities across Winnipeg;
- Delivered free Sharing Dance workshops throughout Manitoba;
- Produced and hosted our own annual free Sharing Dance Day event in Winnipeg;
- Participated in Sharing Dance program and curriculum development;
- Provided pathway scholarships to children and youth with passion or talent in dance to enable continued dance education and training.

Former RWB former artistic faculty and School graduates Eugene Baffoe, Philippe-Alexandre Jacques, and Jera Wolfe have all been engaged as Sharing Dance choreographers and, to date, we have taught the choreography to over 7,500 participants across Manitoba.

## Sharing Dance Day

May 25, 2022

RWB FOUNDERS' STUDIO/ZOOM EVENT

1,615 Participants

Zoomed event due to COVID-19

Hosted by Anthony Ferens of the RWB School Office, performances and workshops were led by RWB Recreational and Professional Division, Gregory McGlenning, the Sopilka Ukrainian Dance School Sopilka and Manohar Performing Arts of Canada. We engaged Indigenous artists Shanley Spence and Drayton Perreault to perform and lead workshops. Drayton, a former Sharing Dance participant, and his family performed a Pow Wow dance with the Thunderbird Drumming Group.

WINNIPEG'S SHARING DANCE DAY PRESENTING SPONSOR



## Deaf Arts Manitoba and Dance Manitoba: New Rhythm

June 2022

Deaf Arts Manitoba and Dance Manitoba announced the launch of the New Rhythm Dance Teacher Certificate Program; it is designed for non-deaf dance teachers to help learn strategies for teaching Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) students by watching and reading on-line films and documents and by attending "Breaking The Sound Barrier" workshops on Deaf Culture. Since New Rhythm is a series of training videos, the latter is used to instruct dance teachers on how to teach DHH students, with full consideration for the students' physical, linguistic, and cultural expectations.

The RWB School is proud to have supported this initiative; special thanks to Recreational Division Principal Nicole Kepp for facilitating this unique program.

# Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Initiatives

In support of promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion as an integral part of the public consciousness, the RWB is committed to creating a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive workplace and advancing EDI in the dance sector, as well as in the Canadian arts and culture community.

## Leadership in Action Highlights

- Officially joined the Cultural Competency and Equity Coalition (C<sup>2</sup>EC), under the direction of Theresa Ruth Howard. C<sup>2</sup>EC is a membership-based organization that supports the embodiment of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Anti-Racism and Cultural Competence and works to transform cultural norms within the classical arts. Since joining C<sup>2</sup>EC, RWB staff have participated in monthly educational modules and “Apprentice” level cohort meetings with other ballet companies and schools from around the world.
- Continued our ongoing collaboration with School faculty member Jacqui Ladwig (PhD candidate) and the University of Manitoba to investigate motor learning and control as well as social inclusion in relation to dance and disability in our ExplorAbility programs.
- Commissioned Casimiro Nhussi, an accomplished professional African dancer, choreographer, dance instructor, and musician based in Winnipeg, to create a new work for the Aspirants. The piece is entitled “TUVINE” which means “Let’s dance” in the Makonde language.
- Held our first Black History Month Film Festival, screening several films including: Hidden Figures, If Beale Street Could Talk, BlackKkKlansman, Two Distant Strangers, and the National Film Board documentary Journey to Justice, all of which were followed by a group discussion. Arielle McCaffrey conducted a workshop with the Level 1-3 Wellness Class on the history of Black hair. Students learned about the evolution of Black hairstyles and the ways in which hair can shape identity.
- Partnered with Canada’s National Ballet School to co-present an online panel discussion exploring best practices for culturally responsive dance teaching and equitable learning design for dance classes.

## RWB staff, artists, and senior students also participated in shared learning opportunities through our 2021-22 EDI Guest Speaker Series:

**February 8, 2022 via Zoom** Jacqui Ladwig, a valued member of the RWB School artistic faculty for many years, presented on the topic: “Setting the Stage for Inclusion: First Steps Toward an Inclusive Dance Culture.”

**April 12, 2022 via Zoom** Kevin Lamoureux, who is a dedicated teacher at the University of Winnipeg and sits on the RWB Indigenous Advisory Circle, presented on the topic of: “Truth and Reconciliation through the Arts: Following the Path of the Calls to Action.”

**May 2, 2022 via Zoom** Dr. Jerome Cranston, the Dean of Faculty of Education at the University of Regina and an accomplished critical race scholar, presented on the topic: “Understanding Systemic Racism and Designing Racial Justice at the Intersections of History, Art, and a Future.”

# Truth & Reconciliation Initiatives

“It has been an honour to have been able to become closer with the Indigenous community through the Ballet’s efforts towards reconciliation. I hope more organizations take this important step as well.”

– JAIMI DELEAU, COMPANY ARTIST

Artistic collaboration remains at the heart of the RWB’s efforts towards reconciliation. Staff and students were inspired by the RWB Company’s *Going Home Star – Truth and Reconciliation*, a collaboration between Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists that addresses the violent and tragic impact of residential schools, which led to the RWB signing the Winnipeg Indigenous Accord and forming an Indigenous Advisory Circle. We have also been blessed by the wisdom, guidance, support, and inspiration of Elders Barbara Bruce and Charlotte Nolin for two seasons now and are eternally grateful to them for their kindness and generosity.

## Leadership in Action Highlights

- Elders Barbara and Charlotte led smudging ceremonies with the RWB Company at the beginning and end of the season, which has become an annual tradition. They also led the School’s first smudging ceremonies: one for staff at the beginning of the School year, and one for students at the opening of the new Student Living Centre.
- RWB Company dancers and staff attended an all-day sweat lodge ceremony in Broken Arrow hosted by Elders Barbara and Charlotte and Elder Jocelyne Bourbonnais.
- School staff and students participated in a full day of programming in conjunction with the first annual National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day, honouring the lost children and survivors of residential schools, their families, and communities. Activities included Indigenous film screenings, catered snacks from Indigenous-owned restaurants, learning and reflection activities led by our student care team, and attendance at a local Pow Wow and memorial ceremony.
- Commissioned Cameron Fraser-Monroe, a status member of Tla’amin Nation on the West Coast, to develop and set his original choreography *ʔajemət* on the Company.

- Company artists Jaimi Deleau and Stephan Azulay performed a pas de deux from *Going Home Star – Truth & Reconciliation* for the Canadian Human Rights Museum Gala: Raising Our Voices (filmed at the Canadian Human Rights Museum).
- Commissioned Anishinaabe artist Blake Angecneb to create pieces of visual art that will be featured prominently throughout the campus. Blake Angecneb is an Anishinaabe woodlands artist who hails from Treaty 3 territory.



# COVID-19 Response

“Although our return to the stage this calendar year continued to look a little different, the RWB was built by Winnipeggers who believe in us. We are a creation of the prairies; we must dance. The art of ballet has always been a way for society to cope with the toughest of times and this is no exception.”

—TARA BIRTHWISTLE, RWB ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR.

The pandemic continued to deliver a significant blow to the performing arts industry, including the RWB over the past year. Once again, the RWB pivoted throughout 2021-22 in order to offer programs and performances that showcased how we teach, create and perform exceptional dance.

## From Shutdown to Rebound

The resilience, adaptability, and relevance of dance became even more apparent from shutdown to rebound.

We made difficult decisions about cancellations and operations in order to weather the pandemic. The majority of our subscribed audiences were supportive, with many offering to donate their ticket values back to the RWB. Supporters and donors that were able, came forward in unprecedented ways to support us by sustaining or increasing their giving. The highest priorities were the health and safety of staff, artists and students, and managing the revenue losses to stay afloat in the face of pandemic-related decisions.

On a day-to-day basis, dancers, students, and staff displaying COVID-19 symptoms or who did not pass the self-assessment and testing, remained home and participated in their classes/workplace activities virtually. Those entering the building were provided with a list of precautions in effect. These protocols were constantly reviewed and changed as our community worked together to reduce the spread of the pandemic.

## From LIVE to Digital Dance

All of our artists and students continued to embrace dancing digitally to keep it alive to share with those who enjoy and support the art form. At the same time, digital dance brought the art form in all its varieties and genres to audiences who may not have otherwise attended a live dance performance.

As we moved toward the light at the end of the long pandemic tunnel, we returned to the stage and studio last fall with enhanced safety measures. We mobilized in extraordinary and creative ways, by executing a phased-in approach to coordinate the safe return of students and artists to classes and studios, as well as staff to the workplace; and by developing and implementing detailed and rigorous procedures and protocols. Our reopening was done gradually and with caution, ensuring we were mindful of public health orders, as well as the lifting of these orders and restrictions effective March 15, 2022.

The RWB went from proof of vaccination, mask-wearing, capacity limits and physical-distancing in the first half of the season for artists, students, staff, and patrons in the building and in theatres, to performance mask protocol for the Company and students – where they could perform without masks/physical distancing – and more relaxed options for patrons in the theatres. Mask-wearing remained intact on the premises, in rehearsals and as required.

# Things Supporting the RWB

## Things Executive

### President

Duties shared by Past President/Recording Secretary Linda Chernenkoff, Carolyn Shead, Jane Fudge and Joan Erichsen as the pro tem Leadership Team

**Vice-President** Vacant for fiscal year

### Past President and Recording Secretary

Linda Chernenkoff

### Treasurer

Carolyn Shead CPA with assistance from members of the Executive

### Membership Recruitment & Records

Sue Hendricks

### Volunteer Coordination & Scheduling

Sue Hendricks/Debra Schadek/Patricia Salam

### Newsletter

Sue Hendricks & Linda Chernenkoff

### Social Events/AGM

Ilana Warner with assistance from Debra Schadek and Members-at-Large

### Donations Chair

Elizabeth Morrison

### Consignment

Co-chairs Evelyn Mitchell & Al Friesen

### Publicity & Marketing

Joan Erichsen

### Performance Sales

Ilana Warner

### Archives & Research

Jane Fudge

### Technology

Service contracted to Solvera Solutions

### Members-at-Large

Christine Beatty, Holly Beard, Diane Prescott, Patricia Salam, Debra Schadek (they focus on shop management in collaboration with the Leadership Team)

### Communications L.

Chernenkoff (including liaison with the RWB), S. Hendricks (internal); J. Erichsen (publicity-related initiatives)

*The Executive is*

*grateful to Judy Fields (former President) for her leadership of the display process in both premises, and Imy Friesen who supports the Consignment Team by guiding the Contract Clearing process.*

*Circumstances required President Ruth Gregory to discontinue in the role in the fall of 2021.*

For more than fifty years, Things has brought a certain vintage style to the Winnipeg community and, since 2008, to 913 Corydon Avenue. Operated by the Volunteer Committee for the Royal Winnipeg Ballet since 1967, the specialty boutique, purposely rebranded in 2018 as “Things Supporting the RWB”, sells consigned and donated items. It offers a large collection of gently used affordable antiques, vintage, and contemporary collectibles, including furniture, jewelry, china, crystal, silver, artwork, linens and more. Staffed entirely by volunteers, the boutique has contributed more than one million dollars to Canada’s oldest ballet company over its more-than-five-decade lifespan and is the longest-running continuous fundraiser for the arts in Canada. Things is all about supporting the RWB to continue delivering world-class ballet to Winnipeg and beyond.

A significant new initiative over the past year – the expansion of sales space next door at 911 Corydon Avenue – is a pilot project with much potential. Things utilizes this space for safer storage of delicate furniture, larger donated items, private consignment appointments, and estate collections.

Things is always ready for donations of quality pieces from moves, downsizing, or clearing of estates. Anyone interested in volunteering at Things or donating items to the shop can visit [thingsforrwb.com](http://thingsforrwb.com). A visit to Things Supporting the RWB is also an opportunity to take in the finer “Things” in life!

**77 members** contribute to the Volunteer Committee’s initiatives

Gift of **\$35,000** in 2021-22



# Philanthropy

This year, the RWB received a generous gift from a retired Company artist by the name of Jackson McKiee. Each year, Jackson donates to the annual fund, but this past year, he made a larger gift and when asked why, he told the RWB:

*"... perhaps my motivation to give back is worth mentioning in some way. Because for me, it felt like something of a duty to give something back to the very people and sector that were both so critical to our collective survival and yet so directly and adversely impacted by COVID and all it brought upon us."*

Jackson's gift was thoughtful and generous, there is no doubt about that, but his gift was not unusual. Throughout the RWB's 82-year history, our donors and sponsors have generously responded to our asks for support and since the pandemic's start in March, 2020, they have responded with incredible kindness and support. Especially in this past year, their gifts have helped the artists, students, faculty and staff of the RWB survive the pandemic and support our return to the stage and the studio.

We are grateful for the tremendous support of all our donors and sponsors and we acknowledge and appreciate messages like Jackson's. His note reminds us of the important work the Royal Winnipeg Ballet does and the crucial role the arts, and the RWB, play in our community.





# where were you in '82

The RWB Ballet Ball is our largest and most important fundraising event of the year. After two years, we celebrated the Ballet Ball's return in the RWB's home studios at 380 Graham and in the new RWB Student Living Centre.

The RWB asked guests, Where were you in '82?, to celebrate the RWB's 82nd anniversary at the 2022 Ballet Ball. Held in our main studio building in downtown Winnipeg, guests were wowed by unforgettable performances from the RWB Company and RWB School, presented in the Founders' Studio, so named by the RWB's founders, Gweneth Lloyd and Betty Farrally. Following the performance, Company artists joined guests at their tables for an exquisite meal, prepared by Chef Ben Kramer and delicious dessert, generously sponsored by Baked Expectations. There was also a successful online auction.

Funds raised at the 2022 Ballet Ball will help refurbish our Founders' Studio, ensuring it remains a state-of-the-art performance space for the artists and students of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet.

Thank you to all sponsors, guests, and a very sincere thank you to Presenting Sponsor, TD Bank Group, for their commitment to the art of dance and support of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet. Thank you to Ballet Ball Co-Chairs, Monique Lavoie and Jim Galbraith, and to the talented Ballet Ball Committee for their hard work and expertise.

## **Ballet Ball Committee**

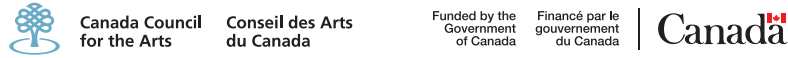
Monique Lavoie (Co-Chair), Jim Galbraith (Co-Chair), Judith Chambers, Jen Goreski, Barbara Kaufman, Evan Maydaniuk, Norah Myers, Rebecca Parkinson, Rochelle Zimberg

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Carolynne McLure	<i>The RWB gratefully acknowledges the many Subscribers and Patrons who generously donated the value of their 21/22 subscriptions and/or tickets between July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022 to the RWB, following continued COVID-19 cancellations and closures.</i>	Karin Klassen	Lorne Sunley	<b>RD Opportunity Fund</b>	Henriette Ricou & Jure Manfreda
Nicole Michaud-Oystryk		Julie Ann Kniskern	Jim H. Taylor	<i>The Recreational Division Opportunity Fund was created to ensure that as many young people as possible have access to quality dance programming at the RWB School.</i>	Donna Plant
Donna Miller		Mr. Dean Kriellaars	Ms. Rosalie Tennison		John Pluhar
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Tatjana Sabados	Coralee Branconnier	Mrs. Dianne Marshall			Barbara Kaufman
Heather Sandilands	Mr. Cameron Buchanan	Mr. Michael Menzel	<b>Friends of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School</b>	<b>In Honour of Barbara Filuk</b>	Peter+ & Maureen Macdonald
Mr. Harald Schulz	Mr. Glenn Buchko	Lori Natuik	<b>\$1,500+</b>	Anonymous	Ms. Carol Maccoomb
Ms. Pat Sirski	Aiden Carter	Leonard Paul Offrowich	Jane Emslie+ & Brad Wladyka	<b>In Honour of Dr. Macewan's 97<sup>th</sup> Birthday</b>	Elizabeth Maccoomb
Mr. L. J. Stechesen	Maria Carota	Georgine Palmquist	Carolynne Presser	Vicki Moore	Marilyn Marshall
Sam Steinfeld	Ms. Tsz Ning Chan	Ms. Cindy Pepetone	Dr. Lorraine Yau+ & Dr. Nobby Woo		
Jean Stoneham Orr	Christine Bancroft Conway	Mrs. Blair Philipott	<b>\$500 - \$1,499</b>		

\*Indicates an RWB Staff Member

+Indicates an RWB Past or Present Board Member

•Passed Away



Linda Meckling

Fran Pollard

Donna Plant

Nancy & Roy Vincent

**In Memory of Amy Cummine**

Patricia Biglow

**In Memory of Jonathan Delorme**

Sally & Paul Corby

Dr. William Pope & Dr. Elizabeth Tippet Pope

Rosemary & Mitch Vodrey

**In Memory of Kathleen (Kay) Harvey**

Volunteer Committee for the RWB

**In Memory of Kerry Hawkins**

Ms. Carole Abbott

**In Memory of Mary Offrowich**

Leonard Paul Offrowich

**In Memory of Art Pearson with donations going to Friends of School**

Alan Borger

Ms. Debbie Grenier

Jim Hudson

K. Eleanor Wiebe, Q.C.

**In Memory of Charlene Petrash**

Christine Mazur

**In Memory of Eleanor Pruder**

Kristi & Derek Cumming and Family

**In Memory of Patricia Richtik**

Joan Braun

Janet Griffin

Peter+ & Maureen Macdonald

Marilyn Marshall

**In Memory of Richard Rutherford**

Mary Aida Alberts (Hughesman)

Gail Asper, O.C., O.M., LL.D.

Susan Glass, C.M., & Arni Thorsteinson, O.M.

Carolyn Hay

Mrs. Sylvia Hunter

Mrs. Judith Manning

Marilyn Marshall

Edward Pederson

Thelma Sures

Donna Webb

**In Memory of Margaret Sellers**

Volunteer Committee for the RWB

**In Memory of John Shopka**

Susan Glass, C.M., & Arni Thorsteinson, O.M.

**In Memory of Florence Whitmore**

Pierre Boucher

Dr. Lindsay Duval & Dr. Scott Sutherland

Friends of Engineering (Manitoba) Inc.

Mrs. Beverley Gatin

Elizabeth Higgins

Christine Anne Whitmore

Carolyn Wilkinson

David Wright

**Estate Gifts**

Estate of Mrs. Ruth Bellan

Estate of Helen Gyorgy

Estate of Mrs. Els Kavanagh

Estate of Frances Marion Reid

Estate of Mrs. Ellen Spencer

Estate of Doris Wainstock

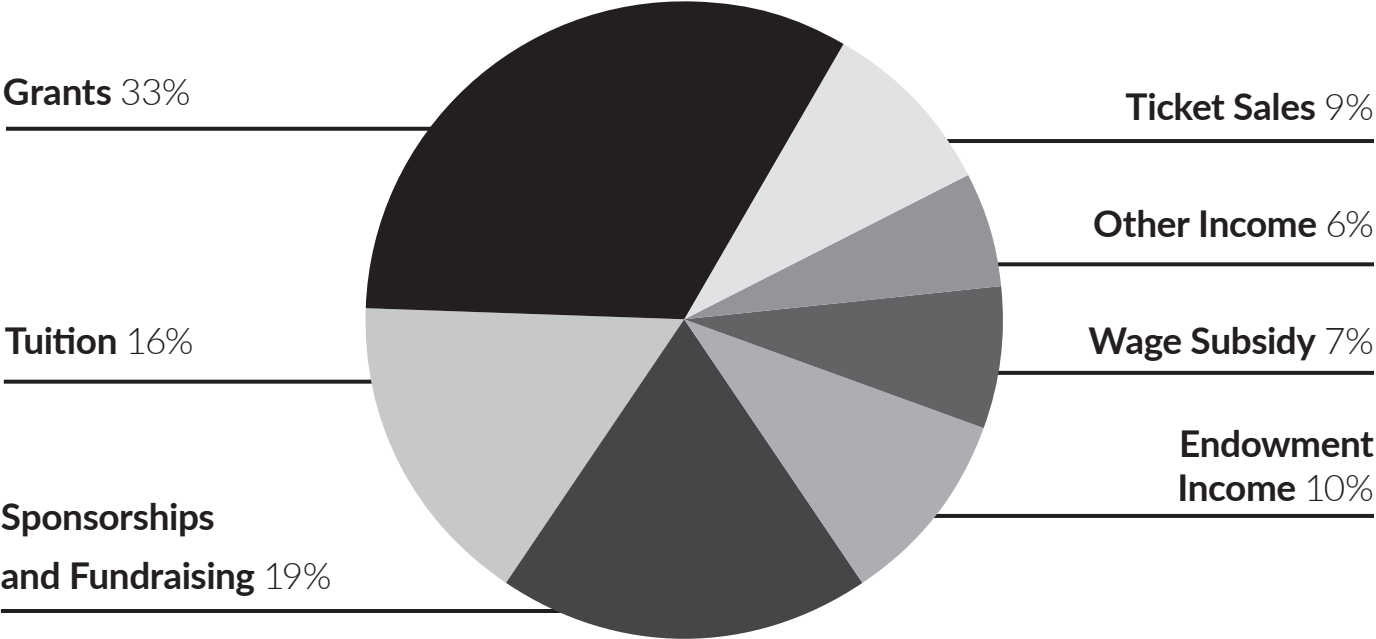


# Financial Report

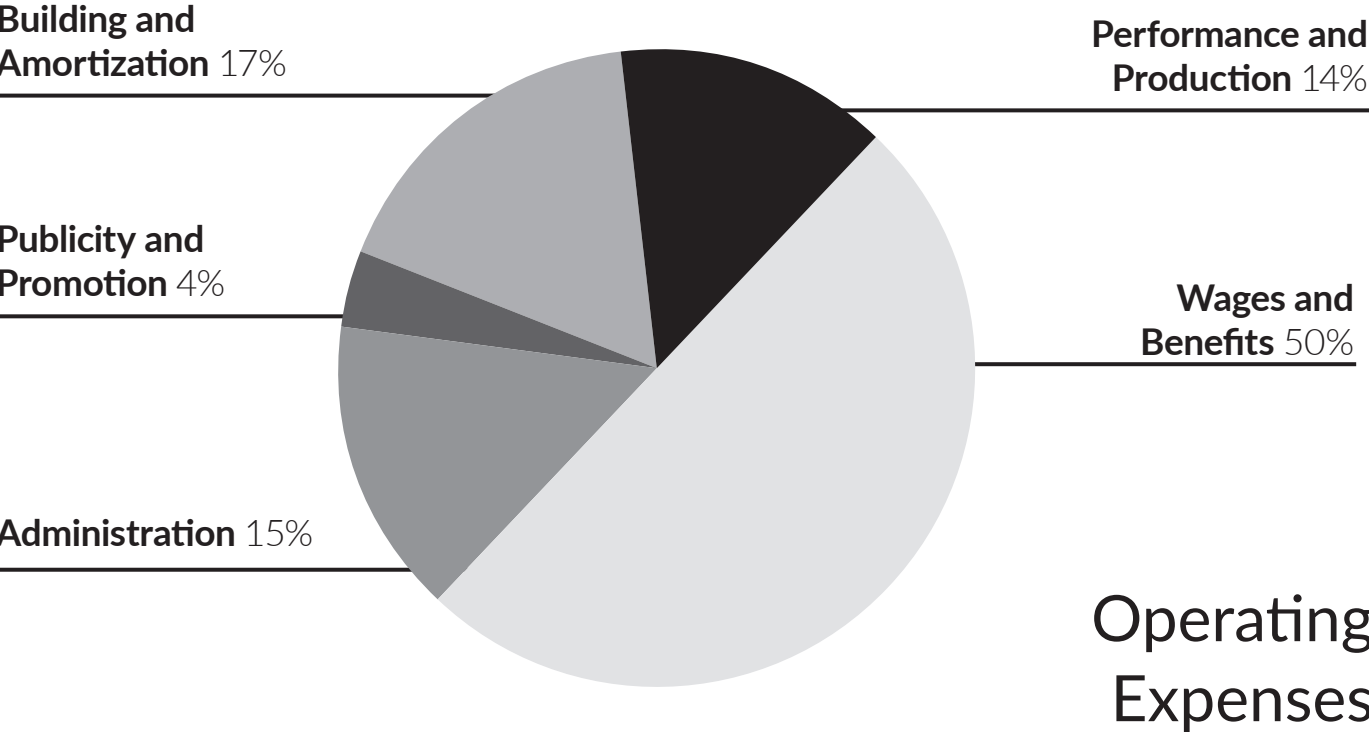
<b>Statement of Financial Position as of Assets</b>	<b>Operating Fund</b>	<b>Building Fund</b>	<b>Scholarship Fund</b>	<b>Capital Fund</b>	<b>June 30, 2022 Total</b>	<b>June 30, 2021 Total</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>						
Cash	2,772,255	189,951			2,962,206	1,887,111
Receivables	344,623				344,623	662,149
Prepaid expenses and other assets	39,237				39,237	8,174
Contribution receivable		127,738			127,738	6,563,369
Interfund receivable	394,463		226,912	2,929		
	<b>3,550,578</b>	<b>317,689</b>	<b>226,912</b>	<b>2,929</b>	<b>3,473,804</b>	<b>9,120,803</b>
<b>Capital Assets</b>						
Tangible assets	98,158	19,149,434			19,247,592	5,247,681
Construction-in-progress						8,061,966
	<b>3,648,736</b>	<b>19,467,123</b>	<b>226,912</b>	<b>2,929</b>	<b>22,721,396</b>	<b>22,430,450</b>
<b>Liabilities and Fund Balances</b>						
<b>Current Liabilities</b>						
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	853,004	99,987			952,991	1,313,632
Deferred revenue	1,973,292	90,000			2,063,292	2,450,856
Credit facilities		932,755			932,755	1,004,506
Interfund payable		624,304				
	<b>2,826,296</b>	<b>1,747,046</b>			<b>3,949,038</b>	<b>4,768,994</b>
<b>Deferred Contributions</b>		<b>10,185,421</b>			<b>10,185,421</b>	<b>10,655,300</b>
<b>Fund Balances</b>						
Net assets internally restricted			226,912	2,929	229,841	200,858
Net assets invested in capital assets		7,534,656			7,534,656	7,898,159
Unrestricted	822,440				822,440	(1,092,861)
	<b>822,440</b>	<b>7,534,656</b>	<b>226,912</b>	<b>2,929</b>	<b>8,586,937</b>	<b>7,006,156</b>
	<b>3,648,736</b>	<b>19,467,123</b>	<b>226,912</b>	<b>2,929</b>	<b>22,721,396</b>	<b>22,430,450</b>
<b>Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balances for the Year Ended</b>						
<b>Revenues</b>	12,102,437	302,505	251,360	4,528	12,660,830	9,578,005
<b>Expenses</b>	10,187,136	666,008	182,121		11,035,265	9,393,768
<b>Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenses</b>	1,915,301	(363,503)	69,239	4,528	1,625,565	184,237
Gain on Disposal of capital assets						2,360,152
Contribution to The Winnipeg Foundation			(40,502)	(4,282)	(44,784)	(45,962)
<b>Fund Balances - Beginning of Year</b>	(1,092,861)	7,898,159	198,175	2,683	7,006,156	4,507,729
<b>Fund Balances - End of Year</b>	822,440	7,534,656	226,912	2,929	8,586,937	7,006,156



# Operating Revenues



# Operating Expenses





**CANADA'S ROYAL WINNIPEG BALLET**

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