



BULLETIN

Canadian Conference of the Arts ~ Conférence canadienne des arts

CANADIANS CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL DANCE DAY

In this bulletin:

- Canadians Celebrate International Dance Day
- Clarification Regarding CCA Bulletin 20/05
- Good News for Canadian Non-Profit Organizations

Ottawa, April 29, 2005 - Communities across the world will host a variety of events in celebration of International Dance Day today, April 29th, 2005. This occasion will mark 23 years since the International Dance Committee of UNESCO's International Theatre Institute established the date in commemoration of the birthday of ballet pioneer Jean-Georges Noverre.

Each year, in honour of this day, UNESCO distributes throughout the world a message from a renowned dance personality. This year's message was composed by Miyako Yoshida, a prominent Japanese ballet dancer and UNESCO's 2004 'Artist for Peace'. In her message, Yoshida writes:

**Dance is exclusive to no one.
It grants joy and elation to all that partake or spectate.**

**The language of dance knows no boundaries.
It reaches beyond class, education, country and belief.**

**Its vocabulary is infinite, as human emotion resonates through movement.
Dance enriches the soul and uplifts the spirit.**

**Dance lives within all that live.
Let all the children dance and peace shall surely follow.**

The International Dance Committee instituted International Dance Day to acknowledge all forms of dance under one umbrella, in recognition of the universal language of this art form and its power to reach across political, ethnic and cultural gulfs in order to unite people.

Canadians are celebrating this day across the nation, from *Dance Nova Scotia* challenging all Nova Scotia students to dance for 15 minutes on Friday; to two days of dance presentations in Montreal organized by the *Regroupement québécois de la danse*; to a variety of demonstrations held throughout the week in Vancouver by *The Dance Centre*.

The Canada dance scene is vibrant with ethnic and cultural influences from the world over. From April 28-May 10, a salute to this diversity will take place at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa when Alberta Scene takes the stage. This event is a celebration of outstanding Alberta artists, of which one component will be dance productions from a variety of cultural traditions, including Aboriginal, Spanish, French, and Ukrainian dance.

Canadian Conference of the Arts National Director Jean Malavoy notes "The influence of Canadian dance is prevalent throughout our society, and CCA pays special tribute to this influence every year on April 29th ". For more information on International Dance Day, please visit the website of the International Theatre Institute at <http://iti.unesco.org>.

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CLARIFICATION REGARDING CCA BULLETIN 20/05

The Canadian Conference of the Arts (CCA) referred to the Canadian Stage Company (CanStage) in its members' bulletin dated Thursday April 28, regarding Blue Man Group Productions. Approval from CanStage for inclusion in the bulletin was not sought by the CCA and we regret this oversight.

CanStage and Mirvish Productions, also referred to in bulletin 20/05, are among the more than 100 members of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres (PACT), which is a member organization of CCA. Members of PACT engage members of Canadian Actors' Equity Association (CAEA), also a CCA member organization, under terms and conditions voluntarily negotiated by PACT and CAEA on behalf of their members. Lucy White, Executive Director of PACT, says "PACT member theatres – commercial and not-for-profit -- have voluntarily chosen to recognize and bargain with CAEA because that is in the best interests of their theatres."

GOOD NEWS FOR CANADIAN NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

On April 7, 2005, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) announced that it will invest \$1 million in a research project that will help Canadian non-profit and community organizations contribute more effectively to the economic and social development of their communities, as well as gain better recognition for their work and attract the financial support necessary to expand and improve it.

This research project will be conducted by a team of 58 Canadian and international researchers that will examine, among other issues: contributions, governance structures, and financing of social economy enterprises, as well as 'social accounting'. The goal is to produce "reliable, research-based knowledge about community development," that will provide recommendations for best practices and create tools to facilitate the development of Canada's non-for-profit sector.

This investment will "support the federal government's efforts to promote the growth of the social economy," and will be of interest to more than ten thousand Canadian organizations that will be able to implement the recommendations and use the developed tools to "fully contribute to the prosperity of their communities and their citizens' quality of life."

For more information visit: http://www.sshrc.ca/web/whatsnew/press_releases/2005/fontan_e.asp