

Theatre Museum Canada presents a new exhibition from Dance Collection Danse

Renegade Bodies: Canadian Dance in the 1970s

at the

Macdonald Heaslip Walkway of Theatre History

Hart House Theatre

November 1, 2011, Toronto: Dance Collection Danse displays its newest exhibit: *Renegade Bodies: Canadian Dance in the 1970s* at Toronto's Hart House Theatre from November 14, 2011 to September 14, 2012. Programs, posters, photographs and films offer a glimpse of the 1970s dance era.

From the Newfoundland Dance Theatre in St. John's to Anna Wyman Dance Theatre in Vancouver, dance across Canada flourished during the 1970s. Critic Max Wyman wrote in 1979, "History will record it as The Great Canadian Dance Explosion of the 1970s – the decade when a performing art-form finally came to outsell a professional sport." With additional government grants, new university dance programs, and support and advocacy organizations such as the Dance in Canada Association, the right elements combined to support dance as the fastest growing art form in Canada. The 1970s saw the rise of independent dance artists, many of whom pushed the definition of dance beyond its previous borders incorporating elements such as pedestrian movement or video art, or by using non-traditional performance spaces such as fields and street corners. And a broader range of dance practices appeared on the scene from contact improvisation to bharatanatyam. This exhibition's programs, posters and photographs offer a glimpse of this proliferation and the renegade spirit of the decade.

The exhibit is free of charge and is open two hours before performances at Hart House Theatre. Presented by Theatre Museum Canada, the exhibit is displayed in the Macdonald Heaslip Walkway of Theatre History. A book entitled *Renegade Bodies: Canadian Dance in the 1970s* will be published by Dance Collection Danse Press/Presse in 2012.

Theatre Museum Canada

Today, thanks to the many volunteers and donors who make Theatre Museum Canada's (TMC) work possible, students and theatre-goers learn about our country's theatre heritage at temporary exhibits at the Macdonald Heaslip Walkway of Theatre History and at other venues such as the CNE. TMC also works with universities and theatre companies, creating touring exhibits that have been to Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ottawa and Guelph. Theatre Museum Goes Backstage is the popular

series of panel discussions exploring topics such as the Roots of Native Theatre, The Role of the Stage Manager and the Canadian Players' tour of *King Lear*.

The Legend Library is the online video project with R.H. Thomson interviewing pioneers of Canadian Theatre, including William Hutt, Martha Henry, Douglas Campbell, Paul Thompson, Susan Rubes and many more. The videos are being used by teachers and students across the country now and you can find them at www.TheatreMuseumCanada.ca.

In 2010, theatre impresario David Mirvish announced a permanent home for TMC. Located in the heart of Toronto's theatre district, the museum will be a vital addition to Canada's vibrant theatrical heritage. Its 900 square metres (about 9600 square feet) will include space for dynamic exhibits, presentations and educational programming.

TMC is delighted to work with Dance Collection Danse to bring you *Renegade Bodies: Canadian Dance in the 1970s*.

Dance Collection Danse

Dance Collection Danse (DCD) is Canada's national dance archives and publisher dedicated to the preservation and dissemination of Canadian theatrical dance. When Lawrence and Miriam Adams founded Dance Collection Danse twenty-five years ago, they probably never thought it would become the de facto repository for Canada's dance history – they just knew that the record of this ephemeral art form had to be saved for present and future generations.

The stories of dance artists, companies and events related to theatrical dance dating back to the mid-nineteenth century are cared for through a comprehensive collection that includes costumes, backdrops, props, prints and paintings, photographs, journals, choreographic notes, programs, books and more. DCD has recorded over 1100 hours of oral history interviews with dancers and choreographers working as early as the 1920s, and it is home to an extensive video and film collection representing Canadian dances and dancers from across the country and across the decades. DCD's web site plays host to enticing and informative virtual exhibitions displaying stunning photography and graphic memorabilia. In addition to curating live exhibitions, DCD produces an annual magazine as well as books encompassing biography, memoir, cultural histories and educational resources such as the *Encyclopedia of Theatre Dance in Canada/Encyclopédie de la Danse Théâtrale au Canada*.

www.dcd.ca

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