

On Stage
Four Seasons Centre
for the Performing Arts

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The Walter Carsen
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The National Ballet
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Charitable
Business Number
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The National Ballet of Canada Salutes International Dance Day April 29, 2008

April 17, 2008... The National Ballet of Canada celebrates International Dance Day on April 29, 2008. Principal Dancer **Sonia Rodriguez** and husband Canadian figure skating icon **Kurt Browning** are this year's spokespersons.

"On this day, let us be reminded that dance is a right of nature and that where there is life there is dance. Let's come together and celebrate not just dance, but life itself," say Ms. Rodriguez and Mr. Browning.

In celebration of International Dance Day, members of the Canadian Dance Assembly (CDA) will host performances, workshops, activities and events across the country to promote the art of dance in Canada.

Initiated in 1982 by the International Dance Committee of the UNESCO International Theatre Institute (<http://iti.unesco.org>), International Dance Day falls on April 29 of every year, commemorating the birthday of French choreographer **Jean-Georges Noverre**.

To commemorate International Dance Day 2008, CDA members will host a vast array of events and celebrations in their respective regions. Highlights include:

British Columbia

Vancouver celebrates International Dance Day with a series of vibrant performances, events and displays, presented by The Dance Centre in Downtown Vancouver. Highlights will include a contact improvisation and music event at the Bangtown hair salon in Gastown; Pop Up Dances at various locations around Granville Island; Julie Lebel's Drift-Walks project; and events at the Vancouver Public Library and other locations. The celebrations culminate in Summer Dances on April 29, a South Pacific-themed fundraising event in support of The Dance Centre, at Scotiabank Dance Centre. The Dance Centre Events run April 25-29 at various venues. For more information, call 604 606 6400 or go to www.thedancecentre.ca.

Alberta

The Alberta Dance Alliance has invited dance teachers across Alberta to nominate a dance student to be Alberta's youth representative for International Dance Day. The youth representative will write a message that will be posted on the Alberta Dance

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Alliance website and distributed through their e-news bulletin. The Alberta Dance Alliance is also hosting the Get your school dancin' for International Dance Day initiative. At lunch or recess, schools are being challenged to read one of the International Dance Day messages and to get up and dance for five minutes. Schools will have a chance to 'win' the opportunity to have a professional dancer come and teach a workshop, or give a presentation about being a dancer. For more information, go to www.abdancealliance.ab.ca.

Saskatchewan

Dance Saskatchewan Inc. has named Natalie Krill as the International Dance Day spokesperson for Saskatchewan. Although Saskatchewan born and raised Ms. Krill has travelled the world pursuing her love of the arts and can be seen on the CBC television series *MVP-The Secret Lives of Hockey Wives*. On Sunday, April 27th Saskatoon's Free Flow Dance Theatre will host its 5th annual International Dance Day Celebration Performance at the Dance Saskatchewan Centre 205A Pacific Ave. The performance will feature a variety of styles ranging from Cultural Dance to Contemporary Dance. This is a family friendly event and is open to the public! www.dancesask.com

Manitoba

Mouvement/Winnipeg Dance Projects will host the annual Celebration of International Dance Day With LANDSCAPE DANCING, presented by Artistic Directors Stephanie Ballard and Gaile Petursson-Hiley at the Manitoba Legislative Grounds on April 29, 2008 at 1:00PM. www.dancemanitoba.org

Ontario

Dance Ontario's Youth Board has organized two dance events this year one at Pearson International Airport and the second at the Bloorview Children's Rehabilitation Centre. Dance Performances at the airport this year will be held on April 29th in Terminal 1, Canada Arrivals The hour long performance at the Bloorview Children's Rehab Centre will include a variety of groups presenting their work at the children's centre. www.danceontario.ca

The Dance Umbrella of Ontario is proud to present a day of free performance, classes and talkbacks in Yonge-Dundas Square to celebrate INTERNATIONAL DANCE DAY 2008. This one of a kind event will bring together Toronto-based dance artists of all styles on Sunday April 27th from 1 to 5pm. There will be stage performances, performances in the square with the audience, interactive dance presentations, dance classes, artist talkbacks and more. www.danceumbrella.net/idd.htm

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Quebec

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From April 22 to 27, 2008, the Regroupement québécois de la danse (RQD) will be offering all sorts of opportunities to discover the myriad pleasures of dance. Prima ballerina Anik Bissonnette, president of the RQD, is the spokesperson for this fourth edition of Pas de danse, pas de vie! which will be pulling out all the stops for six days of dancertainment. More than 50 free dance classes will be held from Thursday, April 24 to Saturday, April 26 in some twenty different venues. In light of last year's successful SquatDanse à la Place des Arts, the RQD will be featuring it once again on Sunday, April 27 from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with all sort of treats on the menu. Opportunities to step into the wings will be on hand on April 25 and 26 at a number of open houses, lectures and public rehearsals. Elsewhere in Quebec, activities initiated by artists, dance organizations and presenters under the Pas de danse, pas de vie ! banner are listed on the RQD website at www.quebecdanse.org.

Nova Scotia

Dance Nova Scotia is declaring the week of April 27 to May 03 to be Nova Scotia Dance Week! Many events are being planned for the week including the following: The Millennium Dance Festival Gala Dance Off at the Dartmouth Sportsplex (April 27th) featuring over 1400 dancers from all parts of Nova Scotia. From April 28th to May 2nd, Dance Nova Scotia will be challenging all of the schools in the province to "Dare to Dance" for 20 minutes to promote healthy living. On April 30th, the North Preston Community Centre will launch its Youth Ballet Program, a special initiative to bring ballet classes to this rural community. For information on these and other events, go to www.dancens.ca.

The National Ballet of Canada is a member of the CDA.

The Canadian Dance Assembly (CDA) is the voice of the professional dance sector in Canada and advocates for a healthy, sustainable environment in which professional dance practice can grow and thrive. CDA is a reputable source of information on the current state of dance in Canada and provides representation to policy-makers and the public. CDA enables its national membership of dance professionals and organizations to connect with their peers through regular communication, forums, conferences and workshops, and facilitates opportunities for networking, dialogue and exchange on topics relevant to the Canadian dance sector.

[More information about International Dance Day >](#)

The 2007/08 season is presented by CTV and The Globe and Mail.

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