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Annual Report

Our Mission

The Royal Winnipeg Ballet enriches the human experience by **teaching, creating** and **performing** outstanding dance.



Message From The Board Chair



Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet entered the 2020-21 season with the board, the leadership team, staff, dancers and students, seized with the challenges of the pandemic. What faced the RWB was unlike anything encountered in its 81-year history. Performances in theatres and in studio were shut

down curtailing our ability to earn revenue. Costs rose due to pandemic restrictions, new health measures, and special arrangements for students.

The Company and the School prevailed finding new ways to present and teach enhancing the RWB's international reputation for artistry and creativity. Under the thoughtful leadership of André Lewis, Artistic Director and CEO, Tara Birtwhistle, Associate Artistic Director and Stéphane Léonard, our School Director, we proved with tremendous pride that even in an extraordinary year of lockdowns, mask-wearing and physical distancing, *"We teach, create and perform, enriching lives through the power of exceptional dance."*

Like other performing arts organizations across the country, the RWB continued to suffer major drops in revenue with huge impacts. Our leadership team rose to the challenge and is to be commended for pulling us through some tough times. Utilizing government support, especially wage subsidies, not to mention community programs and grants to full advantage, we kept our head above water financially.

The importance of improved board governance and financial oversight was never more evident. The Board of Directors remains confident about the future and authorized a capital campaign feasibility study to help us better develop and execute a comprehensive drive.

The study that will focus not only on bricks and mortar, but areas of endowment, annual funds, scholarships, support for touring, and live music, and upgrades to all our physical properties. Committed to equity, diversity, and inclusion the Board and School Committee participated in a special session, through the Manitoba Human Rights Commission, similar the one that leadership, management and some staff held.

Despite the pandemic, construction started on a bold modern state of the art school facility complete with boarding and related facilities. Construction is on track to meet the December 2021 move-in date for students. We remain confident that this joint project with True North will enhance our competitive ability to attract and retain the highest caliber of young dancers from around the world. The new school is a cornerstone for the vision to create a new modernized downtown campus.

The Royal Winnipeg Ballet profoundly thanks our donors, patrons, corporate and government partners, sponsors, volunteers, alumni and staff, whose commitment, generosity, and support allow us to entertain our audiences decade after decade. I want to acknowledge and thank my colleagues on the Board for their ongoing contributions and unswerving commitment.

Finally, I wish to officially welcome Dwight MacAulay, CVO who was appointed to our Board in 2020. As the former Chief of Protocol for the Government of Manitoba and now a consultant, Dwight's expertise in government relations is an asset to the RWB. I also want to acknowledge the much appreciated contributions of long-time Board member Jim Eldridge who is completing his term. His outstanding leadership and guidance has been added value to the work of the Board and the School Committee for over a decade.

The RWB Board and leadership team are moving with confidence into our 82nd season on stage at the Centennial Concert Hall this fall!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Leitch".

Don Leitch

Our Vision

To be Renowned

Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet will be renowned as an organization that teaches, creates and performs outstanding dance.

To be Embraced

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

To be Dynamic

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



Yosuke Mito and Liam Saito; Photo By David Cooper (2019)

Message From The Artistic Director & CEO



This was a year like no other! Although a good part of our 81st season was interrupted by COVID-19, who would have predicted in June 2020 that we - the world - would still be coping with the consequences of the pandemic for well over another year?

Our experience over the last 12 months

is a remarkable story of reflection, resilience and reinvigoration. As a result, we are stronger, bolder and energized for a spectacular season back on the stage that we call home.

Reflection

Never have our mission, vision and values been more important than in these unsettling times. As we continued to learn and adapt throughout the year without a pandemic playbook, it meant anticipating change that shifted priorities and focus; it meant being nimble and responsive when change came unexpectedly and it meant being ready for anything. It also meant reflecting on who we are, collaborating with our community and charting our own course.

Speaking of reflection...the RWB lost a dear friend in May – someone who was integral in educating our Company artists and staff about his personal experience as a residential school survivor; someone who joined us for rehearsals of the 2014 exquisitely honest work of *Going Home Star – Truth and Reconciliation*; and someone who was instrumental in facilitating how our artists told the story. His influence helped to transform our organization – from cultural awareness training, sweat lodges and smudging, to pipe ceremonies, traditional feasting and the formation of our Indigenous Advisory Circle, we thank and miss the elder, author, storyteller and pillar of Manitoba's First Nations community who will always remain in our hearts – none other than Ted Fontaine.

Resilience

More than ever before, we learned the critical importance of resetting in light of obstacles – of creating and sharing our work in new and different ways. Our season of *Fast Forward*, *The Nutcracker Suite* and *The Ballet Ball – Home Edition*, *Visions of Swan Lake* and *The Magic Flute*, became a totally digital experience. The Professional Division celebrated its 50th anniversary in a way that no one would have seen coming and presented *First Steps*, *Spotlight*, *On the Edge* and even exams digitally. Although we all struggled with constant change, it was our Recreational Division students, families and staff that truly shined throughout the pandemic, as they demonstrated true resilience when teaching strictly online, in-person or a combination of both as the public health orders were particularly challenging. The fact that our Company and School jumped on the bandwagon to create and perform and that our patrons rallied around us, was resilience at its best manifestation!

Reinvigoration

Part of our ongoing success and reinvigoration will revolve around presenting innovative shows, engaging in key initiatives with the community that promote inclusion and diversity and reaching out to various stakeholders in the spirit of partnership.

My most important message is one of appreciation. Thank you to our stellar leadership team and all of our staff for unwavering patience, kindness, creativity, dedication and support throughout this extraordinary year. Thank you to the Board, our partners, donors, stakeholders, families, alumni, 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 – this year has taken a huge toll and we deeply appreciate all the sacrifices you have made in the spirit of reflection, resilience and reinvigoration.

See you back on stage and in the studios, where we belong!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "André Lewis". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

André Lewis

Company Season Highlights

As Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet leadership continued building capacity and identifying new partnerships to keep operating during the worldwide pandemic, we also focused on presenting dance using a digital platform. Under the public health guidelines, large-scale gatherings for a live performance, as well as touring, were rendered impossible.

Fast Forward

Innovative Dance Inspired by Dancers – Fast Forward - was originally planned to be viewed by a live audience in a black box theatre in November 2020. It was the culmination of many weeks of choreographic work and rehearsals from our Company artists. The footage was captured mere days before public health restrictions sent dancers home, unable to rehearse or perform. For the first time in our history, Fast Forward took the audience behind the scenes and shared the art of dance in its rawest form, inside the rehearsal studio – no lights, no costumes. The rehearsal excerpts were brimming with creative passion – each one a love letter to the art of dance, written with an unwavering commitment and dedication while reflecting the uncertainty of the tumultuous year. RWB also offered live Q&A opportunities with the choreographers, hosted by Artistic Director and CEO André Lewis and Associate Artistic Director Tara Birtwhistle.

The Nutcracker Suite

After previously announcing that *Nutcracker* would be put on ice due to the pandemic, the RWB began flexing its resilience muscles by offering a livestreamed adaptation of the full-length story ballet choreographed in 1999 by Galina Yordanova and Nina Menon - a reinvented *The Nutcracker Suite*. The 75-minute broadcast launched on December 23, 2020, with each of the three shows followed by an insightful Q&A with Artistic Director and CEO André Lewis, Associate Artistic Director Tara Birtwhistle and the Company dancers. “Presenting the work in this way gives viewers a very different perspective where they can focus much more closely on the dancers, because they’re right there in front of you on your screen”, said Lewis.

Visions of Swan Lake

After the success of *The Nutcracker Suite*, the RWB explored ways to deliver an even better digital experience to its audience. The RWB connected with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Arts Partner, to provide a live rendition of the incredible *Swan Lake* Tchaikovsky score. On March 5, 2021, the famous classical ballet ascended onto the RWB digital stage, filmed and produced by the video production team at FRANK Digital. Audiences could see the intricate details in the hand-crafted costumes, as well as the mesmerizing movements. This ballet was made possible through the generosity and patronage of the RWB audience, funders, sponsors, donors, students and families. The RWB dedicated its digital performances of *Visions of Swan Lake* to Galina Yordanova, in recognition of the enormous impact Galina had on the Company.

Ballet Ball - Home Edition

During this challenging year, the RWB evolved and adapted by bringing more dance magic right into homes. And the Ballet Ball was no different. As a result, RWB announced the premier performance of *Phi* by Guillaume Côté, Principal Dancer and Choreographic Associate at the National Ballet of Canada. Throughout the evening on March 20, 2021, RWB Company artists virtually popped up into home spaces with special greetings, as although they could not perform live and on stage, the artists of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet are creators who must continue to dance.



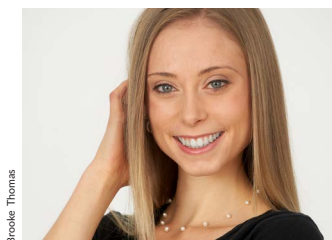
Film Training Manitoba and Royal Winnipeg Ballet Partner on joint COVID-19 Certification Training

In late March 2021, the workforce development organization for Manitoba's dynamic film industry, Film Training Manitoba (FTM) partnered with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet to provide a special training session on COVID-19 for the Company. FTM is a member of the Province of Manitoba's sector council program, funded through the Department of Economic Development and Training. It builds a highly skilled and adaptable film industry workforce to support the activities of Manitoba production companies. David Warburton, Managing Company Director of the RWB commented that "this has been a very rewarding partnership."

The Magic Flute

Montreal-based choreographer Mark Godden could never have envisioned that his fantasy ballet *The Magic Flute* would be equipped with pandemic friendly facial masks, film cameras and physical distancing; the classic tale of good versus evil and the enduring power of love was brought to life by three limited sized cohorts of dancers. The show was filmed at the RWB Founders' Studio by local Indigenous-owned production company, Strongfront.tv, opened on May 3 and was available on demand through May 16, 2021.

Company Artists



Welcomes

2018 Ballet Academic Program graduates and Aspirant Program alumni, Emilie Lewis and Tymin Keown, are welcomed as RWB Company Apprentices.

2019 Ballet Academic Program graduate and Aspirant Program alumnus, Brooke Thomas, is welcomed as a RWB Company Apprentice.

Promotions

Apprentice Parker Long was promoted to Corps de Ballet.

Aspirant Program alumni and RWB Company Apprentices Jenna Burns and Amanda Solheim were promoted to the Corps de Ballet.

Farewells

Principal Dancer Sophia Lee, Soloist Tristan Dobrowney, Second Soloist Ryan Vetter, Corps de Ballet Sarah Joan Smith all departed the RWB Company. Tara Birtwhistle, the RWB's Associate Artistic Director summed it up best:

"We are grateful to have had Sophia dance with us for as long as she has and wish her the absolute best in all her future adventures. Tristan's career as an artist has been a tremendous gift to the Company, Winnipeg, and the larger dance community.

Ryan has emerged as a superb artist over the years with well-earned promotions along the way and Sarah Joan is a wonderful bright light and talent – both of whom will have amazing careers no matter where their life journey takes them. Sophia, Tristan, Ryan and Sarah Joan will always be part of the RWB family and greatly missed on the stage and in the studio."

School Professional Division

At a Glance

The Professional Division is RWB's internationally renowned training institute for aspiring professional dancers and dance teachers. Today, the Professional Division is well-known across Canada and around the world for delivering excellence in dance education.

Highlights

50th Anniversary Celebrations

Although in-person performances were not possible due to COVID-19, the School delivered all scheduled performances of Concert Hour Ballet, First Steps, Spotlight, On the Edge and the On the Edge Tour during our golden anniversary year, using digital delivery formats which combined live and pre-recorded content.

First Steps

This annual competition and performance of new choreography by senior RWB School Professional Division students is designed to increase students' artistic sensitivity, awareness, and respect for the creative process; it is also an opportunity for students to discover if they have a talent for choreography and to give them the tools to explore their potential. The First Steps Choreographic Competition debuted a new online streaming format. It was presented on March 22-25 2021, showcasing the work of 11 student choreographers – nine of whom were female – with a Final Performance and Awards Evening on March 27.

The performances were made possible through a Safe at Home grant, in partnership with the Government of Manitoba. Audiences and alumni were able to view each performance from anywhere in the world and could participate in the broadcast by voting online for their favourite performance as part of the Safe at Home Manitoba Award. Special thanks to Philippe Larouche, our First Steps Coordinator.

Complimentary choreographic workshops led by former First Steps Coordinators were also offered for public viewing for the first time and streamed online.



RWB School Professional Division Students. Photo by JP Media Works

Spotlight

Enchanting to both lovers of classical ballet and other dance forms, Spotlight is one of the much-loved events of the School year featuring all the students of the Ballet Academic Program.

On June 4 and 5, students from the Ballet Academic Program performed digitally for friends, family, alumni, and all those around the world who joined in the fun for highlights from the iconic *Don Quixote*. The 50th anniversary version was staged by members of the School Artistic Faculty, and dedicated to Galina Yordanova, former Resident Guest Artist and Ballet Master, who staged her own version for the Professional Division's 25th anniversary in 1996. Thank you to the Artistic Faculty for never wavering in your dedication and support to our students.

On the Edge

Our audience experienced all the emotion and storytelling of dance when the RWB Aspirants took the stage in *On the Edge*, performing sublime and powerful works, from old favourites to new creations by some of Canada's talented, emerging choreographers. The digital performance was delivered on June 11 and featured new works by Aspirants Genevieve Galea, Maggie Weatherdon and Logan Savard, as well as School graduate and Aspirant Program alumnus Cameron Fraser-Monroe, and Artistic Faculty members Gabriela Rehak, Maritel Centurion and Philippe Larouche. Special thanks to Vanessa Léonard, who as teacher and Ballet Master was a huge support to the Aspirants.



Summer Session

Although scheduled to run in-person in Winnipeg from July 5-31, 2020, the decision was made to deliver this program online rather than in-person due to health and safety restrictions related to the pandemic. 187 students were in attendance for Summer Session, 125 of which were new students auditioning for the 2020-21 regular session. 152 of participating students were Canadian, and 35 were international. The School was pleased to welcome students from the Youth America Grand Prix finals in New York City, YAGP Mexico, the Universal Ballet Competition, the Kyushu International Dance Competition, as well as those invited by our Artistic Faculty's Sabine Chaland, who was a guest teacher in Tinton, New Jersey the summer before.

RWB Summer Dance Collective

The RWB collaborated with School graduate and Indigenous choreographer Cameron Fraser-Monroe with an application to the Canada Summer Jobs program to support the RWB Summer Dance Collective (SDC), a group of six dancers presenting small "pop-up" style performances around downtown Winnipeg to make dance more accessible. Originally scheduled for June and July 2020, funding delays pushed the project into September while COVID-19 dictated rigorous rehearsal and performance protocols shifted plans and traditional ways of working. The SDC performed multiple times to the delight of their audiences, embracing unconventional spaces such as a 5x5 piece of flooring on the sidewalk or the sweeping stairways and long wooden benches that are part of True North Square.

Young Creation Award - Prix de Lausanne

In November, Aspirant Genevieve Galea (choreographer) and Ballet Academic Program students Lauren Voros and Myles Mackesy (performers) submitted a new work digital video for the Award, which aims to discover new talent among young up and coming choreographers.

Audition Tour

During the 2020-21 virtual Audition Tour, the School offered audition classes across Canada and the U.S., with some classes taught by Company dancers. Auditions ran from October 2020 to March 2021.



Scholarship Presentation Evening

The School's annual Scholarship Presentation Evening was pre-recorded and distributed to families and donors in December. A short performance was followed by the presentation of the scholarships.

Several donors were contacted prior to the recording and sent good wishes to the scholarship recipients, which were read during the evening of the recording. Donors included: Ruth Suderman, for the University Women's Club Performing Arts Bursary; Hank and Bella Goin for the Rose and Berel Sholom Memorial Scholarship; Marilyn Marshall, former RWB Company dancer and RWB Alumni & Archive member, for the RWB Alumni Scholarship; Dr. Douglas MacEwan for the Douglas and Elizabeth MacEwan Scholarship Fund; Jean Giguère, RWB Board Chair Emeritus for the Arlene Minkhorst Scholarship and Hazel Patterson for the Hazel Smart Patterson Award.

Please see page 23 for Concert Hour Ballet and On the Edge Tour highlights.

Artistic Faculty & Guest Teachers

School Director Stéphane Léonard was invited to sit as a jury member for the Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP) finals in New York City in April and at the Japan Grand Prix in Tokyo in August. Due to travel restrictions and health and safety measures related to COVID-19, he was unable to attend.

School graduates and RWB Company Soloists Yayoi Ban, Alanna McAdie, and Yosuke Mino, Second soloists Liam Caines and Katie Bonnell, and Corps de ballet dancer Jaimi Deleau, were guest teachers for Summer Session 2020 in July, delivering classes to returning students.

School graduate, Aspirant Program alumnus, Atlantic Ballet of Canada dancer and Indigenous choreographer Cameron Fraser-Monroe guest taught remotely in February. He restaged his work, *Pine Needle in the River*, for the Aspirants in preparation for the On the Edge Tour.

On June 13, School graduate, former RWB Company Soloist, and Ballet Victoria Artistic Director Paul Destrooper was the guest speaker for the Graduation Performance and Convocation for the Ballet Academic and Teacher Training Programs.

Following a restructuring of boarding staff, the new role of Student Boarding Director was created to replace the Head Boarding Advisor. The successful candidate will report to the Professional Division Principal and will be responsible for student life and programming. Together, they will give direction to Boarding Advisor and Activity Worker teams, ensure student boarding policies and procedures are followed, and manage student boarder supervision and discipline.

Graduates, Awards & Highlights

Ballet Academic Program Graduates

Emma Curtis, Brampton, ON

Priscilla Gubiotti, Abbotsford, BC

Julia Hockey, Victoria, BC

Olivia Kowalchuk, Penhold, AB

Lauren Voros, Kelowna, BC

Cleighden Butler-Racine, Ottawa, ON

Jakobe Geddes, Nanaimo, BC

William Hrivnak, Bowmanville, ON

Corson Kolyanko, Brooklin, ON

Myles Mackesy, Toronto, ON

Certificate of Study

Connor Grant-Canseco, Winnipeg, MB

Scholarships

In 2020, the Professional Division School awarded \$112,499.39 in scholarships to support 35 students.

Doreen Macdonald Scholarship

William Hrivnak, Level 7, Bowmanville, ON

Millicent Rockwell Donnelly Bursary

Ben Despains, Level 4, Winnipeg, MB

Paddy Stone Scholarship

Myles Mackesy, Level 7, Toronto, ON

Shelley Shapiro Blum Scholarship

Paige Irwin, Level 4, Thunder Bay, ON

Victor Duret Memorial Fund

Logan Shaw, Level 4, Orleans, ON

RWB Professional Division School Scholarships

Hannah Wiedle (UBC), Aspirant, Florida, USA

Delfina Mamone (YAGP), Illinois, USA

Ririka Nagata (Kyushu Int. Dance Competition), Kagushima City, Japan

Victoria Noisette performed in OZ with RWB in Ottawa), Orleans, ON

Alec Patricio Reyes Manzo (YAGP Mexico), Merida Yucata, Mexico

Mauricio Pinacho Velasquez (YAGP Mexico), Mexico City, Mexico

Eden Paulsgrove (UBC), Florida, USA

Ariadna Ramirez Ruiz (YAGP Mexico), Queretaro, Mexico

Marissa Ramirez Ruiz (YAGP Mexico), Queretaro, Mexico

Dafne Torres Olvera (YAGP Mexico), Queretaro, Mexico

Tsubaki Wada (Kyushu Int. Dance Competition), Kagoshima, Japan

Leon & Lorraine Rubin Scholarship

Elisha Woo, Level 6, Winnipeg, MB

David Peregrine Memorial Scholarship

Saneatsu Abe, Level 4, Hyogo, Japan

University Women's Club Performing Arts Bursary

Nya Chapman, Level 1, Winnipeg, MB

Daimler-Chrysler Scholarship

Corson Kolyanko, Level 7, Brooklin, ON

Rene Highway Scholarship

Logan Shaw, Level 4, Orleans, ON

Jane McEvoy O'Donnell Scholarship

Cleighden Butler-Racine, Level 7, Ottawa, ON

Dr. Alice Cheatley Scholarship

Aidan Vaudreuil-Wakeham, Level 5, Lower Sackville, NS

Kally Kennedy Scholarship

Failya Bolgarova, TTP Year 1, Winnipeg, MB

Nijinski Dance Scholarship

Niki Powell, Level 5, Winnipeg, MB

Odette & Odile Scholarship

Emma Curtis, Level 7, Brampton, ON

Juanita Y. Alexander Scholarship for Artistic Excellence

Tess Pepetone, Level 6, Waterdown, ON

IG Wealth Management Professional Division Scholarship

Eva Solano, BC

Nathan McGillivray, AB

Annabel Bast, SK

Kate Fleming, MB

Findlay Davies, ON

Patrice Bertrand, QC

Scarlett Reynolds, NS

Madyson Cormier, NB

Gwendolyn Pritchett, PEI

Ava Hefferton, NL

IG Wealth Management Financial Confidence Scholarship

Ava Hefferton, Level 4, St. John's, NL

Katrina Ouellette, Level 5, Middle Sackville, NS

Gwendolyn Pritchett, Level 3, Charlottetown, PEI

Lauren Voros, Level 7, Kelowna, BC

Connor Grant-Canseco, Level 7, Winnipeg, MB

Craig Music & Entertainment Scholarship

William Hrivnak, Level 7, Bowmanville, ON

ESSO Kids Award of Excellence Scholarship

Jakobe Geddes, Level 7, Nanaimo, BC

RWB Endowment Award

Karen Hagiwara, Level 5, Kanagawa, Japan

Rose & Berel Sholom Memorial Scholarship

Olivia Kopyanyi, Level 5, Winnipeg, MB

Evelyn Little, Level 4, Winnipeg, MB

Julia Arkos Memorial Award

Julia Hockey, Level 7, Victoria, BC

Canadian Pacific Scholarship

Akira Thornton, Level 6, Ottawa, ON

RWB Alumni Scholarship

Camilla Hood, Level 5, Brandon, MB

Isabella Watkins, Level 2, Richmond, BC

Joyce Zhou, Level 1, Toronto, ON

Felix Jinga, Level 6, Windsor, ON

Myles Mackesy, Level 7, Toronto, ON

Rafe Perry, Level 5, Comox, BC

Founders' Scholarship

Emma Curtis, Level 7, Brampton, ON

RBC Award

Olivia Kowalchuk, Level 7, Penhold, AB

Kamryn Ross, Level 3, North Saanich, BC

Isabella Watkins, Level 2, Richmond, BC

Rafe Perry, Level 5, Comox, BC



RWB School Professional Division Aspirants: Photo by Kristen Sawatzky

Douglas & Elizabeth MacEwan Scholarship

Nathaniel Ritter-Magot, Level 6,
Regina, SK

Logan Savard, Aspirant,
Comox, BC

Evelyn Hart Scholarship

Taisi Tollasepp, Level 6,
Toronto, ON

Arlene Minkhorst Scholarship

Lileia Silvaggio, Level 5,
Winnipeg, MB

Hazel Smart Patterson Scholarship

Rhys Howes, Level 2,
Vancouver, BC

Harin Kim, Level 1,
Winnipeg, MB

Scarlett Reynolds, Level 2,
Prospect Bay, NS

Yinuo Wang, Level 2,
Beijing, China

Mia Zaborski, Level 4,
Brooklyn, NY

Arnold Spohr Scholarship

Olivia Kowalchuk, Level 7,
Penhold, AB

Felix Jinga, Level 6,
Windsor, ON

Prince Edward Award

Taisi Tollasepp, Level 6,
Toronto, ON

Myles Mackesy, Level 7,
Toronto, ON

Alumni & Career Highlights

- 2009 Ballet Academic Program (BAP) graduate and RWB Company Soloist Alanna McAdie was invited to participate in the Canada Day Together Festival, Canada's iconic annual celebration, in July 2020 in Montréal, Québec.
- 2010 BAP graduate and former dancer with Ballet BC Emily Chessa accepted a contract with the prestigious Nederlands Dans Theater for the 2020-21 season.
- 2010 BAP graduate Taylor Drury accepted a contract with the Tanz Theater Wuppertal Pina Bausch company in Wuppertal, Germany. Drury previously danced with Platz Theater in Munich, Germany.
- 2018 BAP graduate and Aspirant Program alumnus and Métis choreographer Cameron Fraser-Monroe accepted a contract with the Atlantic Ballet Theatre of Canada in Moncton, New Brunswick for the 2020-21 season. Cameron was also commissioned to create new work for Ballet Kelowna and the RWB School.
- 2018 BAP graduate and Aspirant Program alumna Laura Flydorf accepted a contract with the Atlantic Ballet Theatre of Canada in Moncton, New Brunswick for the 2020-21 season.
- 2010 BAP graduate, Aspirant Program alumnus and Métis performer/choreographer Jera Wolfe opened the 2020 Fall for Dance North, Toronto's premier international dance festival with his new work, FLOW, with Red Sky Performance.
- BAP alumnus Ethan Rodrigues accepted a contract with the Miami City Ballet for the 2021-22 season.
- BAP graduate and Q Dance Artistic Director/choreographer Peter Quanz premiered *Ode to Joy* with Harbin Ballet in China in April.

Financial Assistance

As Summer Session 2020 was delivered in an online format and ran for two weeks instead of the usual four, tuition costs were greatly reduced and student boarding and travel costs were no longer in play. As a result, the School allocated less financial assistance than in previous years:

- \$15,760 in financial assistance was allocated to new students towards Summer Session 2020, benefitting 29 students.
- \$87,447 in financial assistance was allocated to new and returning students towards the 2020-21 regular session, which took place in person, benefitting 34 students.
- \$210,862 in scholarships was awarded for the 2020-21 School year in support of 46 students.

Exciting Project Developments

Student Boarding Life



Background

The emergence of the transformative True North Square and Wawanese's trailblazer plan to set up shop there in 2023, resulted in a new housing opportunity within the heart of the city's downtown for Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet Professional Division students.

The idea of leading-edge student boarding was originally proposed by True North in 2019, as it was very interested in presenting an option that would pave the way for the RWB boarding building and land to change hands for its development purposes; as a result, initial discussions progressed to collaboration on building a student boarding facility at a nearby location. The Royal Winnipeg Ballet was not impacted financially by this project. Rather, it was a positive move for the RWB – a move to strengthen the quality of School boarding by erecting a state of the art facility.

June 2019

The RWB's Board of Directors approved the signing of a Letter of Intent with True North, to consider options for a new home to house Professional Division students.

April 2020

The RWB entered into a Purchase, Sale and Development agreement with TNS Graham Inc. (TNS) to sell its existing land and student residence building in exchange for the development of a new boarding facility. In addition, an Interim Solutions agreement was also entered into with TNS to provide temporary space to the RWB on Carlton Street during construction.



December 2020

In December 2020, the land and building were sold for \$6.3 million and the additional agreements are valued at \$8.3 million, for a total of \$14.6 million. All of the proceeds from the sale and agreements will be used for the development of the new building, currently under construction adjacent to the RWB, on top of the parkade.

Students of the RWB Professional Division moved across the street and are currently residing in TNS apartments until completion of the student boarding facility.

January 2021

Existing buildings at 372 Graham Avenue and 236 Carlton Street, which included the Royal Winnipeg Ballet residence, were torn down.

Student Life & Construction

Once the original residence was torn down construction began quickly on the new facility as the staff and students eagerly watched the progress. While the construction continued, countless hours were spent confirming the interior of the space and tours allowed staff and stakeholders to get a glimpse of the project.

The new student boarding facility is scheduled for completion in December 2021, so students will return from their holiday break and move into their new home away from home.

School Recreational Division

At a Glance

The Recreational Division is Winnipeg's largest dance school for all skills and all ages. Since its founding in 1939, this Division has made a meaningful contribution in communities across Manitoba by providing quality dance instruction to dancers of all ages, levels and interests. The School offers a range of classes in a variety of disciplines such as: 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.

Highlights

Adult Summer Dance

In July 2020, the Division offered Adult Summer Dance classes, a unique opportunity to focus on and strengthen one's body and mind, while expressing individual style, with reduced programming and in-person classes were an option.

Dance Intensive

This program, designed to give students the opportunity to express themselves artistically, improve their technique and deepen their understanding of ballet in a positive and supportive environment, ran in August 2020 (both in-person and online programming), with Professional School graduates and RWB Company Dancers as guest teachers – Alanna McAdie, Yayoi Ban, Elizabeth Lamont, Yosuke Mino, Katie Bonnell and Jaimi Deleau.

Intensive Training Program

In February 2021, Intermediate and Advanced Intensive Training Program students, those showing the ability and dedication for a specialized curriculum in classical ballet, were brought in on a rotational basis to participate in weekly Zoom classes from individual studios. The Division's Intensive Program Intermediate Cecchetti Ballet Examinations were filmed in April. The School also recorded Advanced 2 Cecchetti Majors Examinations in May. There were 10 Intermediate Examination students in April and two Advanced 2 Examination students in June.

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

At the virtual Ballet Ball in March, the Division presented an excerpt from the upcoming *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, a dance film that breathes new life into its familiar characters through powerful performances from our Intensive Training Program and Dance Ensemble students. Four students were filmed individually and edited together for a final product. In June, the Division registered the *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* production and received permission to film under Manitoba Film COVID protocols. Filmed by JP Media Works at the RWB and locations around Winnipeg, 113 Dance Ensemble students participated. The film was released in September 2021.

Learning Back in the Classroom

After four months of dancing on Zoom, students were able to return to the classroom in March, however studios were only able to host students at 25% capacity. Larger student classes had to be grouped into smaller segments – learning took place in the studio and at home through webcam. Every student in the Recreational Division received some in-studio time that for several months had been sorely missed. It was a pivotal moment for the students, as well as the artistic faculty, because it represented a significant return to a typical learning environment. *"The students were very happy,"* said Katrin Benedictson, Vice-Principal of the RWB School Recreational Division. *"Their demeanor during class was much more positive. I think that being with your classmates when learning is a huge part of the experience. The camaraderie they feel being with their dance friends, even if it's only half the class, has been one of the more positive aspects for us."*

Steppin' Out

Our annual performance for adults taking classes in the Division is a not-to-be-missed event. Steppin' Out is an entertaining and engaging mixed program of ballet, jazz, modern, hip hop, lyrical and tap and designed to celebrate the performer in each of our dancers. On March 13, 2021, the Recreational Division presented virtual Steppin' Out, our adult student recital. All adult students learned choreography over Zoom and they recorded themselves in their homes and submitted video for editing. 66 students were edited together for a final video presentation.



RWB School Dance Ensemble Student - Photo by David Cooper

Dance Ensemble

The Dance Ensemble class provides opportunities for students to experience new choreography, develop their performance skills, and learn more about the world of professional dance. In April, Dance Ensemble students filmed competition pieces for spring virtual events. Dance Ensemble competition recordings were sent to MOVE Dance Competition, Canadian National Dance Championships and Maximum Impact Dance Challenge. 113 Dance Ensemble students recorded competition work for submission.

Dance Spectrum

The School recorded Dance Spectrum recital pieces over Zoom (May 30 - June 5). Costumes were provided by RWB Wardrobe department for students to pick up and wear at home. A stage manager attended every class to record students' final class performance.

Artistic Faculty & Guest Teachers

New Division Teachers for the 2020-21 season were Greg McGlenning, Elizabeth Hendricks and Jessica Jamieson.

Departing Division Teachers at the end of season were Eugene Baffoe, and Tracy Tomchuk.

Graduates, Awards & Highlights

The School reached over 975 people with quality dance instruction and community programming in this year of the pandemic.

- 69 students participated in Adult Summer Dance.
- 49 students participated in Dance Intensive - 38 students in person and 11 students online from across Canada (Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia) and the United States (South Dakota, Minnesota and California).
- 791 students registered for Regular Session.
- 24 students participated in ExplorAbility. The RWB offered a new and free Zoom only ExplorAbility for Parkinson's class in December, 2020 and 24 students attended this class.

RWB also offered new three 8-week online classes (Creative Movement, Introduction to Jazz and Introduction to Ballet) with 15 students participating from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Ontario and Virginia.

Financial Assistance

\$2,180.00 was issued through the Recreational Division Opportunity Fund.

Achievement Awards

Junior Achievement Award

Violet Bell, Junior Ballet, Jazz & Hip Hop Dance Ensembles

Senior Achievement Award

Esme Frank, Advanced 1 Intensive Training Program

Jean McKenzie Scholarship

Sarah Froese, Junior 2 Intensive Training Program

Teaching Assistant Award

Gabriella Janus, Intermediate Intensive Training Program, Senior Jazz, Tap & Musical Theatre Dance Ensembles

Our Response to COVID-19

Background

In March, 2020, COVID-19 made its presence known across North America, leading to widespread closures of schools and businesses. The RWB moved quickly to ensure the safety of its students, staff and patrons in an effort, with the rest of the world, to flatten the curve of the pandemic. We announced the cancellation of 80 Years – A Retrospective, effectively bringing an early end to the season of mainstage shows for 2019-20, however, work continued behind the scenes. The RWB School Professional Division suspended all in-studio classes and programs. Our School Residence was also shutdown. The RWB School Recreational Division suspended all in-studio classes and programs. The RWB Company suspended all classes and rehearsals. The Aspirants' Manitoba 150 On The Edge Tour, the Company's United States Oz Tour, and the RWB's 80th Anniversary Ballet Ball – Pretty in Pink were all cancelled. Non-essential staff transitioned to work from home. Video classes were made available online for RWB School students. In June 2020, the RWB building reopened for staff thanks to new safety protocols and preparations.



Jami Dubeau, Yosuke Mino, and Strongfront TV Crew; Photo by Daniel Crump

July 2020 to June 2021

July

Physical distancing measures were created in studios to allow for in-person programming for Manitoba students (anyone outside of Manitoba new or returning was not permitted to attend in person due to extreme quarantining and travelling restrictions), including 2 meter boxes on the floors, designated spacing at the barre and a path and arrows implemented on the floors for travelling.

AV carts in each studio allowed Professional Division students (auditioning and returning) to participate in classes virtually. Teaching assistants were added to each studio as the teacher simultaneously taught students in-person and virtually with the assistant giving corrections by watching students on the screen. In some cases, just virtual classes were taught as well.

The RWB Residence officially closed for the first summer in 30 years.

Adult Summer Dance was able to return to in-studio programming with physical distancing in place and reduced capacities.

Ballet in the Park was cancelled.

August

Dance Intensive was delivered to Manitoba students only and offered virtually to students across the country and beyond Canadian borders

Quarantine began for returning Professional Division students.

September

Students in both the Professional and Recreational Divisions returned to dance classes with new physical distancing protocols in place, divided into cohorts and masks were required. The RWB residence also reopened.

The RWB announced cancellation of *Nutcracker*.

October

The RWB Company planned an in-person audience in RWB Founders' Studio with pieces choreographed by dancers, resurrecting Fast Forward. Unable to perform in-person, RWB presented digital rehearsal footage instead.

The Professional Division's virtual audition tours got underway.

The Recreational Division was required to continue operating at 50% capacity.

November

Digital presentation of Fast Forward – RWB created a method to digitally deliver performances to subscribers.

The Recreational Division students were mandated to virtual classes.

The Professional Division was required to operate at 50% capacity.

December

The Province of Manitoba green-lighted filming projects – RWB immediately jumped into creation and filming to present a digital *Nutcracker*.

The RWB created a brand new digital delivery system (production, box office, etc.).

The RWB successfully delivered first digital performance – *The Nutcracker Suite*.

Student boarding moved to 225 Carlton.

January

The RWB officially announced a full digital season for both Company & School performances.

The Professional Division offered 2 weeks of online distance learning when returning from holidays and resumed in-person learning, including Saturdays and First Steps rehearsals.

February

The Recreational School Division was permitted to open to provide individual instruction.

Intermediate and Advanced Intensive Training Program students were brought in on a rotational basis to participate in their weekly Zoom classes from individual studios.

March

The RWB presented *Visions of Swan Lake* filmed with Frank Digital.

The RWB recorded WSO music with reduced symphony – score possible due to touring symphony score created and saved by Archives.

First Steps presented digitally and was made available for free, thanks to Safe at Home Manitoba grants.

The Professional Division examinations live streaming was offered to families of students.

April

The Professional Division classes forced online due to designated learning institutions (academic schools across Manitoba) moving to virtual delivery.

On the Edge tour performed for 13 schools in 9 communities in rural and Northern Manitoba.

May

The RWB presented *The Magic Flute* digitally working with Indigenous Filming Company, Strongfront.tv.

June

Spotlight: 50th Anniversary was presented digitally and filmed by JP Media Works.

On the Edge was presented digitally by JP Media Works.

The Recreational Division sent costumes homes with students to allow them to dance in costume with their peers over Zoom.

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, filming with Intensive Training Program & Dance Ensemble students was supported by JP Media Works.

Community Engagement & Highlights



Mask Project

When the uncertainty of the pandemic forced Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet to cancel local and international performances including a tour for Manitoba 150, as well as suspend in-person dance training, the RWB started thinking about the reopening process and what would be needed; one of the first needs identified was masks.

Since the RWB would require potentially thousands of masks for staff, dancers, and students, research to design and make masks in-house began. With a high-quality final product, the RWB decided to increase the quantity of masks produced in order to donate a portion to the community. The RWB decided to work with an existing community partner – The Winnipeg Boldness Project - a local organization that provides community-driven solutions.

The first delivery of masks to Winnipeg Boldness included 510 masks, which were then distributed by the project to community partners, including: Wahbung Abinoonjiig, North Point Douglas Women's Centre, Andrews Street Family Centre and Blue Thunderbird Family Care. The RWB was on track to make more than 3,500 three-layer cotton masks in an array of colours and patterns.

"It made me really happy to know that we can help people," said Alena Zharska, RWB's Head of Wardrobe. "By donating these masks to people who wouldn't otherwise have a chance to get them, it made us feel part of our community. We are very proud to be a part of this project."

Collage Dance Redefines Ballet in Memphis with RWB

Founded in New York City in 2006, Collage Dance increases access to ballet training and promotes diversity on professional ballet stages, especially by people of colour. Now located in Memphis, Collage Dance Collective recorded and released a digital video performance of *Swan Lake* through its online subscription service in December 2020. For many, Collage Dance Collective's *Swan Lake* was the first time ever seeing the iconic ballet performed by dancers of colour, and it featured costumes loaned from the RWB. *"...It was huge, to get support from Canada,"* said Kevin Thomas, the Artistic Director at Collage Dance. Tara Birtwhistle, the Associate Artistic Director of the RWB, believes the partnership with Collage Dance is a key part of the Canadian ballet company's identity. *"We are thrilled to support Collage Dance. Community involvement has been a part of the RWB's tapestry since the early days and this contribution is just one more way that we can support the international dance community."*

Sharing Dance

In partnership with Canada's National Ballet School and Physical Health and Education Canada, Sharing Dance is rooted in our shared belief that all people, regardless of age, ability or location should have access to the physical, emotional, and social benefits of dance, even during a pandemic! The School had planned to run a variety of Sharing Dance programs in public schools in under-served communities and after-school community programs, as well as at the RWB studios, from February-May 23, 2021. Due to government restrictions around COVID-19, our Artistic Faculty was not able to deliver in-person programming but moved to weekly live virtual instruction and tutorials. During each session, students and teachers from 8 schools in Winnipeg worked with the RWB School Faculty members and Company artists, exploring creative movement concepts, musicality, personal expression, collaboration and physical literacy skills, building up to learning the entire 2021 Sharing Dance choreography, created by RWB School Alumnus Jera Wolfe together with Lua Shayenne. Schools that participated in the facilitated school program include: Faraday, Stevenson Britannia, Stanley Knowles, Kent Road, Niji Makhwa, Lord Selkirk, Pinkham, and William Whyte.

Unable to celebrate Sharing Dance Day in person, a virtual presentation was thoughtfully compiled that featured a variety of workshops and performances and was distributed to participating schools, as well as schools that enjoyed On the Edge Tour.

A special thank you to the RWB Teacher Training Program Director Johanne Gingras for driving the Sharing Dance Program, Artistic Faculty and Program Coordinator Marilee Schroeder and Artistic Faculty, Virtual Sharing Dance Day Coordinator, Chelsea Humble, along with a number of others who are dedicated to making dance more accessible to everyone. Congratulations!

Concert Hour Ballet

The RWB School Professional Division's popular ConcertHour Ballet tour sends senior students around Manitoba and across the Canadian prairies to share the power of dance with new audiences in schools and community venues. This dynamic program has the dual goal of sharing dance with those who might not otherwise have the opportunity to see a live performance by the RWB Company – and allowing professional dance students to experience the demands of performing and touring firsthand. The School delivered virtual performances to nine schools and 70 classrooms in the Winnipeg School Division from November 23-27, 2020 for the Winnipeg Tour of Concert Hour Ballet. Despite the change in format, the performances were very successful and well-received.

Explorability for Parkinson's

A RWB School program that makes dance accessible for all ages and abilities and is focused on developing rhythm, body awareness, coordination, posture, alignment, and self-expression, all in a fun, creative and supportive setting describes ExplorAbility for Parkinson's. Current research has proven that dance encourages physical improvements in gait, posture, and balance along with social engagement and quality of life in people living with Parkinson's disease. Wheelchairs, walkers and other devices are welcome. With advance notice, sign language assistance may be arranged for hearing impaired. Online Zoom classes began in June with RWB's Jacqui Ladwig, a leading bright light in the field of dance understanding and accessibility with participants from across the country.

On the Edge Tour

The 2021 On the Edge Tour, a Manitoba 150 project, was streamed online this year as travel was not possible due to COVID-19 restrictions. From April 14 to 23, Aspirants performed for 13 schools in 9 communities in rural and Northern Manitoba. The Tour wrapped up with a performance at St-Jean Brebeuf School the RWB School's academic partner for grades 6-8. 1716 students participated in the program.

As part of the virtual On the Edge Tour in April, Sharing Dance Workshops were delivered to students at four schools in Brandon, Cranberry Portage, Landmark and Riverton, Manitoba and led by Teacher Training Program graduates and School Artistic Faculty members Marilee Schroeder and Chelsea Humble.

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Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet is most grateful to the outstanding corporate champions who stood alongside us and demonstrated steadfast support. It has continued to be a long journey of the "not knowing" and constant pivoting, as public health orders dictated and affected how the RWB brought dance to the community.

BMO made the incredible difference to present Fast Forward, while Canada Life and The Winnipeg Foundation were instrumental in providing the necessary resources to enhance technology, enabling the delivery of filmed performances and teaching in both digital and in-person class formats to students across Canada and around the globe. The upgrade in our digital infrastructure was a crucial requirement that allowed us to offer online programming and performances all year.

In addition, and due to the tremendous sponsor support from the Richardson Foundation, The Winnipeg Foundation, The Asper Foundation and the TD Bank Group, the RWB also invested in professional filming and production services for *Visions of Swan Lake*, *The Magic Flute* and the Ballet Ball - Home edition. The RWB also went digital with *The Nutcracker Suite* and all RWB School performances. As a result, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet continued to fulfill the mission of enriching the human experience by teaching, creating and performing outstanding dance throughout these extraordinary times.

Special thanks to Manitoba Hydro and Peter & Maureen Macdonald for providing support of the Aspirant showcase tour, *On the Edge*, which was live streamed to schools across Northern Manitoba and included a Q&A with the artists following their performances. And a big shout-out to the Johnston Group for making Sharing Dance Day a reality and to IG Wealth Management for stepping up to the plate for the RWB School Audition Tour.

The RWB also wants to single out Rae & Jerrys, Mottola Grocery and Baked Expectations for hitting it out of the park with snacks, dinner and dessert at the Ballet Ball - Home Edition, as guests watched newly choreographed performances by our Company and School intertwined with the story of how our artists have been impacted by the pandemic.

Corporate Circle funding grew despite the most unusual year - from those who continued to give to the RWB, to new supporters including, A-1 Environmental and Triple E Recreational Vehicles. Thanks very much for making arts and culture in the community a strategic priority in your organization.

Thank you to all our corporate supporters! We look forward to working with you again during the upcoming season. We appreciate your commitment and help in bringing communities together and making dance come alive for our artists and audiences as we Reignite the Stage in the RWB's 82nd season!

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Income generated from the Creations Endowment Fund is directed exclusively towards the creation of new ballets and the revitalization and refurbishment of current repertoire, leaving a lasting legacy in dance for generations to come.

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The David Moroni School Endowment Fund supports initiatives that ensure the highest quality of dance education for young artists and dance teachers for decades to come.

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The Royal Winnipeg Ballet gratefully recognizes donors who have contributed to the many scholarships that are awarded annually to students of the RWB Professional Division.

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Every year we rely on our Patrons' Circle, Friends of the RWB, and Friends of the RWB School donors to provide pivotal funds that allow us to continue the tradition of world class dance for which the RWB is so renowned.

\$7,500+

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 Christeen Lipps
 Diane Littman and Alanna Hall
 Dr. Lisa Lix
 Cindy Leszczynski
 Rachel M. Long
 Henry Macdonald
 Ms. Sharon Macdonald
 Dr. Douglas MacEwan+
 Shannon MacFarlane
 Carol A. Maccoomb
 Ms. Jo Magnifico
 Tana Mallory
 Mrs. Judith Manning
 Ms. Emma Mannisto-Lister
 Linda March
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 Isla D. Marsh
 Ms. Laurie McDougall
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 Barbara McLaughlan
 Cheryl McLean
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 David McPherson
 Nicole Michaud-Oustryk
 Kim Moore
 Mr. James and Mrs. Krista Morden
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 Elke Niblock
 Mr. Dana Nicolay
 Rochelle Nozick
 Dr. J.A. and Mrs. Alexa Okrainec
 Truus Oliver
 Ms. Valerie Olsen
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 Georgine Palmquist
 James Parker
 Jeanne Pauls
 Julie Peake
 Mr. Joost Pelt
 Ms. Kristin Peterson
 Ms. Lesley Peterson
 Mr. Manfred Pflug and Ms. Ilse Hansch Plug

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 Mr. Justin Waito
 and Ms. Sagan Morrow
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 Susan E. Wepler
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 Dr. Eric and Ms. Susan Vickar
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 Dr. Lorraine Yau+
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 Anonymous

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 Annie M. Menon
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The RWB gratefully acknowledges our Professional Division students and families who generously donated the remainder of their tuition to the RWB School following COVID-19 cancellations and closures.

Ms. Irene Blanc-Zoco
 Miss Tayte Brown
 Ms. Fiona Davis Brown
 Miss Anne Forman
 Kent Forman
 Ms. Esther Gubiotti
 Miss Priscilla Gubiotti
 Miss Ava Hefferton
 Mrs. Rebecca Hefferton
 Ms. Cindy Pepetone
 Ms. Tess Pepetone
 Bill Stanford
 Mr. Joshua Stanford
 Miss Isabelle Weatherby-White
 Miss Crystal White
 Ms. Maria Zoco

RD Opportunity Fund

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.

\$500 - \$999

Jaime Vargas*

The RWB gratefully acknowledges our Recreational Division students and families who generously donated the remainder of their tuition to the RD Opportunity Fund following COVID-19 cancellations and closures.

Ms. Casey Anderson
 Terry Anderson
 Julia Brasileiro Lopes Garcia
 Miss Alexa Bresler
 Ms. Kim Bresler
 Miss Samira Carlyle-Hozaima
 Miss Margaret Carpenter
 Jennifer Chic
 Miss Persephone Chic
 Miss Remy Cloutier
 Miss Claire Crook
 Nanette Crook
 Ms. Kristelle Demata
 Leonila Demata
 Miss Kennedy Didkowski
 Mrs. Lara Didkowski
 Mrs. Marie Eely
 Miss Anne Elvebo
 Ms. Nichole Elvebo
 Amanda Evenson
 Ms. Gillian Fan-Grassing
 Miss Mikaela Foerster
 Miss Claire Foster
 Mrs. Michele Frykas
 Miss Anneliese Gasmen
 Mrs. Kelly Gasmen
 Ms. Isha Khan
 Miss Stella Krawec
 Jane Langes
 Ms. Jennifer L. Lim
 Ms. Jennifer Lim
 Ms. Fan Li-Wen
 Miss Amelia Lim
 Miss Seraphina Lim
 Miss Samantha Mabon
 Miss Robyn Mallory
 Mr. Shaun Mallory
 Ms. Candray D. Mehkary
 Ms. Susan Merrick
 Miss Lucy Mialkowski
 Anya Moodie-Foster
 Miss Angelea Nguyen
 Miss Ava Nguyen
 Miss Lina Ratana
 Miss Maeve Reedman Parker
 Jody Reynolds
 Miss Bridget Richters
 Michael Richters
 Ms. Sarah Richters
 Miss Brynn Reynolds
 Laura Rousseau
 Ms. Roslyn Rousseau
 Mr. Alfredo Santa
 Miss Lucia Santa
 Jodie Simeonidis
 Ms. Clementine Thielmann
 Miss Catherine Tocher
 Ms. Sandy Tolman
 Miss Elliot (Ellie) Trickett
 Mrs. Gina Veloso
 Miss Sarah Veloso
 Miss Harriet Webster
 Miss Margaret Yole
 Miss Jema Zeren

Tribute Gifts

In Memory of Els Kavanagh

Dorothy McFeetors

In Memory of Kevin Kavanagh

Kristi Cumming

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

Els Kavanagh+•

Peter+ and Maureen Macdonald

Kenneth Ransby

Bryce Douglas

Mr. Doug Harvey and Ms. Jan Shute

Ms. Barbara McCandles

Richard and Justine Giuliani

Dorothy McFeetors

In Memory of Sandra Toews

Liz and Scott Miller

Mr. Donald Sobkow and Ms. Linda Swiderski

Mr. James Unger

Shelley Karpa

In Memory of Mary Livingstre

Marilyn Flynn

In Memory of Mary Enns

Christine Mazur

In Honour of Ruth Matas

Gail Asper, O.C., O.M., LL.D & Dr. Michael Paterson

The Asper Foundation, on behalf of Leonard Asper

Paula Hurwitz

Sheila Malkin

Marilyn Marshall

In Memory of Betty Puloski

Pamela McKechnie

In Memory of Amy Cummine

Patricia Biglow

In Honour of Mary Offrowich

Leonard Offrowich

In Memory of Ellen Spencer

Ann Hodges

Judy Manning

Marilyn Marshall

Gina Morham

In Memory of Carol Ann Mcbride

Bette Anderson

In Memory of Katherine Barber

Glenn and Anne Rusnak

In Memory of Margaret Faber

John and Wendy Botkin

In Honour of Jane Helbrecht (Honouree)

Honour 150 Program

In Honour of Dr. Douglas Macwan's Walking Challenge

Flintstone Foundation

Anonymous

Rita Burgess

Rick Walker

James Bedford

Dennis Giguere

Heather Graham

Jessica Cranmer

Alun Carter

Diana Harwood-Jones

Marg Clarke

Gordon Flett

Tracey Novak

Martha Konantz

Linda Laugesen

Lorne Hammond

Sharon Mooney

Corey Quintaine

Jean A Paterson

William Quinn

Judy Mathieson

Silvia Glesby

Cameron Airlie

Catherine Ritchie

Robert Shiu

Dean McDonald

Raymond Sokalski

Joanna Knowlton

Jacqueline Field

Debbie Baty

Angela Tessier

Irene Hamilton

Colleen McKenty

Lisa Fainstein

Els Kavanagh+•

Francois Lentz

Carol Campbell

Maria Lamont

Ronald Bailey

Ken Rosenberg

Louise Pujo

Edward Kolomaya

Lynn Dupuis

Brian Crow

Lori Gilfix

Leonard French

Larry Fishman

Nancy Krueger

Janet Thomson

Michael Leipsic

Rose Kuzina

John Smith

Nicola Spasoff

Gisele Poirier

Dorothy French

Margaret Moroz

Vivian Hilder-Skwark

Eleanor MacDougall

Lois Macdonald

Andrew Beckerman

Elspeth MacEwan

Laurie Speers

Dorcas Windsor

Lois Tessier

Margaret Ellis

Alison Baldwin

Laura McQuarrie

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

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Michael and Lydia West

Richard Howell

Barbara Main

Mavis & Allan Whicker

Eleanora Wiebe

Christie Macdonald

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Ken & Lynn Cooper

Gerhard Bock

Ingrid Peters-Fransen

Cecile Lafreniere

Pat MacRae

Deborah Thorlakson

Viola Hultin

Susan Glass, C.M.+

Heather Laser

J.H. Kaminsky

Estate Gifts

Estate of Paula Achtemichuk

Estate of Ms. Barbara Cook

Estate of Mrs. Els Kavanagh

Estate of Kevin Kavanagh

Estate of Ms Sonia Taverner

Estate of Gloria Kroeker



Alanna McArdle | Photo by David Cooper

Company Artists, Staff, and Board

Company Artists

Sophia Lee^o, Tristan Dobrowney^o, Yayoi Ban, Elizabeth Lamont, Chenxin Liu, Alanna McAdie, Yosuke Mino, Yue Shi, Katie Bonnell, Stephan Azulay, Liam Caines, Ryan Vetter, Jenna Burns, Jaimi Deleau, Elena Dobrowna, Katie Simpson, Sarah Joan Smith, Amanda Solheim, Joshua Hidson, Peter Lancksweerd, Michel Lavoie, Parker Long, Liam Saito, Emilie Lewis, Brooke Thomas, Tymin Keown

Company Artistic

Artistic Director & CEO
André Lewis

Associate Artistic Director
Tara Birtwhistle

Senior Ballet Master
Johnny W. Chang

Ballet Masters
Caroline Gruber, Vanessa Léonard, Jaime Vargas

Assistant to the Artistic Staff
Judy Arnason

School Artistic

School Director
Stéphane Léonard

Professional Division Principal
Suzanne André

Teacher Training Program Director
Johanne Gingras

Recreational Division Principal
Nicole Kepp

Recreational Division Vice Principal
Katrin Benedictson

CSJ Project Coordinator
Clare Fleming^o

Principal Pianist
Donna Laube

Administration

Chief Operating Officer
Taralee Turner^o

Director of Finance and Administration
Edward Esguerra

Accounting Manager
Debbie Wallin

Payroll Administrator
Deneen Swartz

Accounts Payable
Alison Chaboyer

Archivist
Gayle DeGagne

Director of People Services
Kara Neilson

People Services Manager
Simon Gillingham

People Services Administrator
Meghan Thiessen

Database Administrator
Eric Lazaro^o, Parth Brahmhatt

Company Administration

Company Managing Director
David Warburton

Company Manager
Isabelle Ly^o

School Administration

School Managing Director
Kate Fennell

Professional Division
Program Support Manager
Lindsay McKnight

School Office Manager
Karin Krueger

Professional Division Registrar
Taylor Wickens

Recreational Division Registrar
Jessica Jamieson

School Receptionist
Melanie Saunders

School Office Assistants
Sydney Barber^o, Sydney Mangilit,
Rikke Mcfeeters, Anthony Ferens,
Melanie Saunders^o, Vanessa Vertz^o

School Production and Event Coordinator
Carolyn Schroeder

School Administrator
Sarah Davey

Marketing & Communications

Director of Marketing and Communications
Jocelyn Unrau

Communications & Public Relations
Coordinator
Dustin Rodgers^o

Multimedia Communications Coordinator
Ryan Rogocki

Online Marketing Coordinator
Diana Blumczynski^o

Graphic Designer
Nicole Regnier

Digital Content Coordinator
Brady Corps

Development

Director of Development
Kristine Betker

Corporate Sponsorship Manager
Patricia Guenther-Smith

Development Coordinator
Pattie Kirkikis

Donor Relations Officer
Madison Harding

Stewardship Officer
Evan Maydaniuk^o, Briar Boyko

Customer Service

Box Office and Customer Service Manager
Cort Schroder

Interim Box Office Supervisor
Jennifer Bahniuk^o

Customer Service Representatives
Kirsten Kruse, Margaret Kahler, Nicole Dupas,
Jessica Boucher-Cowie^o, Gee Yeng Sham^o,
Shanyn Thorarinson^o

Front Desk Attendants
Martina Jaterka, Meagan O'Donnell-Baschak

Front Desk Assistant
Christine Downey^o

Front Desk Support
Julianne Chartier, Emma Duncan

Project Coordinator
Michele Kern^o

Facilities

Facilities Manager
Marc Dela Torre

Maintenance Assistant
John Kaminski

Facility Staff
Cyril Carolino, Jade Manov, Roy Canlas,
Albert Caaya, Juan Paolo Octavo,
Ametehanes Ukubamarian, Ervin Lubo^o,
Helmar Vistal^o

Production

Director of Production
Justin Dowbiggin

Stage Manager
Candace Maxwell

Assistant Stage Manager
Ryan Bjornson^o

Technical Director
Jef Ward

Head Carpenter
Jacqueline Easton

Assistant Carpenter/Flyman^o
Paul McWhinney

Master Electrician
Marc Gagnon

Head of Properties
Ryan Spracklin

Head of Audio Visual Services
Bob Stewart

Assistant Carpenter
Paul McWhinney

Assistant Electrician
Jarret Borodenko

Head of Wardrobe
Olena Zharska

Wardrobe Administrative Coordinator
Heather Thorleifson

Wardrobe Assistant
Barry Malenko

Wardrobe Mistress
Brenda Belmonté

School Costume Coordinator
Laura Elliott

Shoe Assistant/Seamstress
Diana Miller

Head Seamstress
Angela Gaft

Seamster/Seamstress
Noel De Leon, Kristina Maitland,
Irina Voronchikhina, Lani Van Rooyen^o

Junior cutter
Emily Woodman

School Artistic Faculty

Sabine Chaland, Alexander Gamayunov,
Gael Lambiotte, Radostina Panova-Todorova,
Matthew Armet, Eugene Baffoe^o, Toshiyuki

Ban, Yayoi Ban, Rodrigo Beilfuss, Aimee
Brasko, Darilyn Burdeniuk, Liam Caines,
Maritel Centurion, Keri-lee Conly, Rachel

Cooper, Jacqueline Davidson, Martha De Ita
Gonzalez, Erika Delponte, Nicole Dufault,
Anthony Ferens, Karin Giesbrecht, Julie

Gregorchuk, Elizabeth Hendricks, Kira
Hofmann, Chelsea Humble, Kelly Jedlic,
Laura Kolisnyk, Lianne Kondziela, Philippe

Larouche, Karyn Maertens, Alenna Mark,
Claire Marshall, Gregory McGlenning,
Magdalena Mcgregor, Yosuke Nishi, Nicole

Owens, Danielle Platford, Emilia Radawetz,
Gabriela Rehak, Sharlyne Santos, Cheyenne
Schroeder, Marilee Schroeder, Cheryl Scott,
Marijka Stanowych, Debra Thiessen, Tracy

Tomchuck^o, Rachelle Vermette, Jacqueline
Weber, Kendra Woo

Accompanists

Arlene Baschak, Howard Yen Kuen Chan,
Timothy Church, Katier Erickson, Patricia

Franklin, Irena Gendelman, Alina Havrylyuk,
Ari Hooker, Jolanta Janiszewska, Haewook

Kim, Ian Mikita, Michelle Mourre, Dale
RogalskyNina Rudakova, David Schneider,
Jay Stoller, Miroslaw Szarkek^o, David Troya

Ospina, Viktoriya Yamchuk

Student Boarding

Head Boarding Advisor
Lana Richert^o

Boarding Manager
Tali Sitschkar

Student Care Counsellors
Carol Hoydalo, Brianne Baigrie

Boarding Advisors
Mary Elliott, Amber Neufeld, Robert Pleschke,
Sydney Barber^o, Alexandre Borger, Rory Ellis,
Madeleine Friesen^o, Jennifer Ashley Hall,
Jace Hodges, Emielia Jersak, Yoshikazu

Matsuo, Arielle McCaffrey, Kathryn Olson^o,
Megan Priebe, Liam Reid, Ellen Stothers^o,
Cassandra Taylor

Activity Workers
Cleighden Butler, Genevieve Galea^o,
Laura Flydorf^o

Food Services Manager
Georgia Louki^o

Cooks
Wayne Aastrom, Maciej Kaminski^o,
Kristine Schneider, Max Sitschkar^o

Kitchen Assistant
Fatemeh Asadi, Cho Sun But, Eric Zarecki,
Doris Bedard^o, Irene Blanc Zoco^o,
Cameron Priebe-Monroe^o, Hallee Holmlund^o,
Bryce Taylor^o

Student Kitchen Assistants
Marin Greenan^o, Julia Hockey,
William Hrivnak, Myles Mackesy, Logan Savard

Facility Staff
Susan Prystupa, Julie Prystupa,
Amela Nukic, John Samia^o

Medical Services Provided By
Pan Am Clinic

Physiotherapy service provided by
Lifemark Health

Medical Department Head
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MDCM FRCPCC Dip Sport Med

Physiotherapists
Kevin Dyck, B.M.R. (PT.), Lexie Flynn. (PT.)

Massage Therapist
Leanne Lawrie, R.M.T.

Sports & Wellness Nutrition Consultant
Marieke Breakay, B.Sc. (HNS), R.D.

Board of Directors

Don Leitch
Chair

Jean Giguere C.M.
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Bev Davies, Jim Eldridge, Tara Snider,
Tara Letwiniuk, Dwight MacAulay, CVO,
John Osler, Rebecca Parkinson, Lorraine Yau

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Council Members

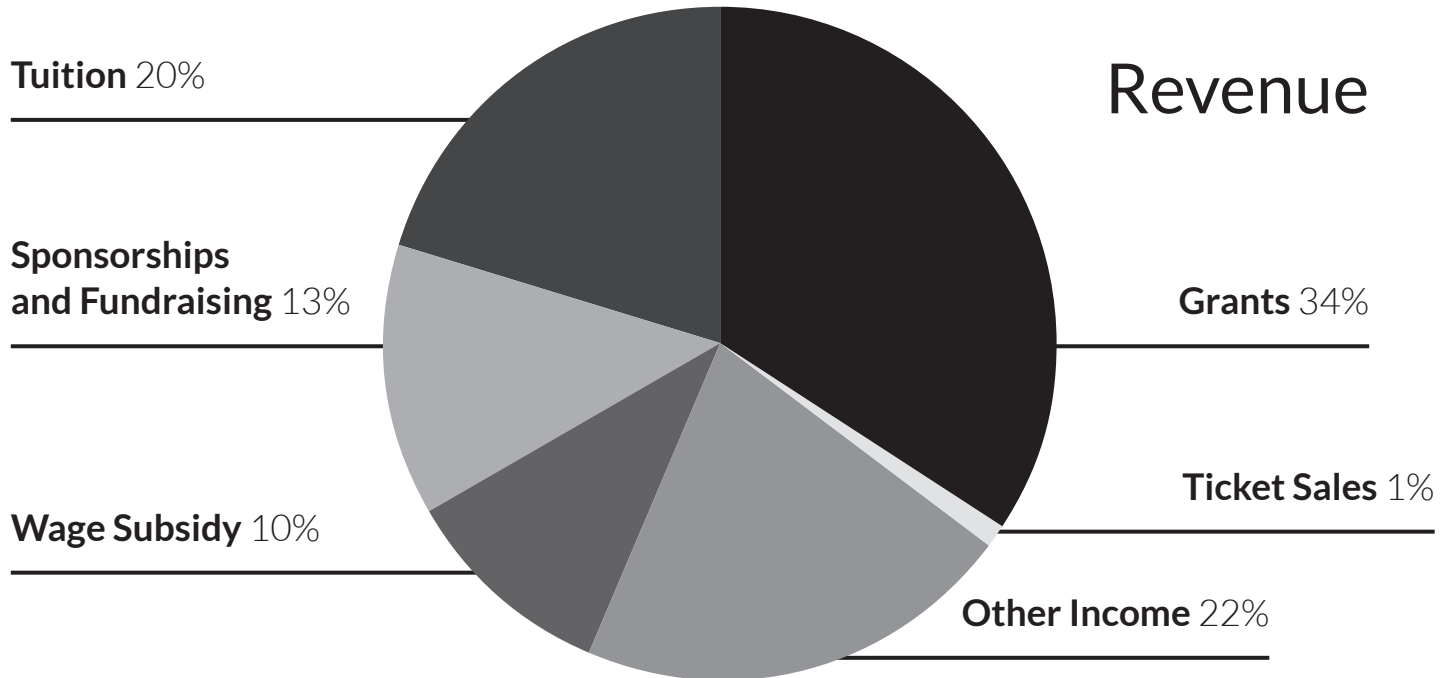
Sheldon Bowles, Dee Buchwald,
Irena Cohen, James Cohen,
Jim Eldridge, Jane Emslie,
Ashleigh Everett, John F. Fraser^o,
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Arni Thorsteinson, Terrence Wright, QC

Financial Statements

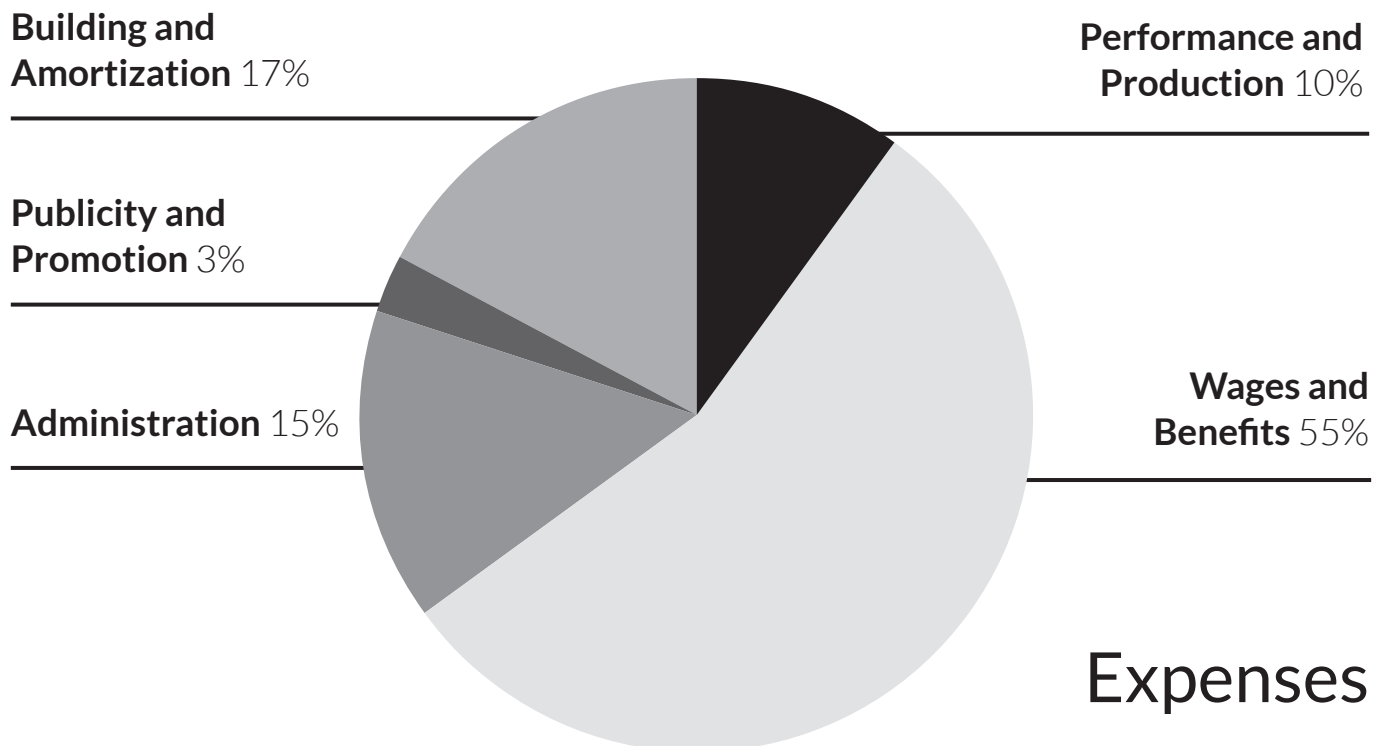
Statement of Financial Position as of	Operating Fund	Building Fund	Scholarship Fund	Capital Fund	June 30, 2021 Total	June 30, 2020 Total
Assets						
Current Assets						
Cash	1,661,071	226,040			1,887,111	2,125,365
Receivables	662,149				662,149	236,038
Prepaid expenses and other assets	8,174				8,174	13,610
Contribution receivable		6,563,369			6,563,369	
Interfund receivable			198,175	2,683		
	2,331,394	6,789,409	198,175	2,683	9,120,803	2,375,013
Capital Assets						
Tangible assets	140,756	5,106,925			5,247,681	6,860,528
Construction-in-progress		8,061,966			8,061,966	
	2,472,150	19,958,300	198,175	2,683	22,430,450	9,235,541
Liabilities and Fund Balances						
Current Liabilities						
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	1,137,592	176,040			1,313,632	659,177
Deferred revenue	2,400,856	50,000			2,450,856	2,992,379
Credit facility		1,004,506			1,004,506	1,076,256
Interfund payable	26,563	174,295				
	3,565,011	1,404,841			4,768,994	4,727,812
Deferred Contributions		10,655,300			10,655,300	
Fund Balances						
Net assets internally restricted			198,175	2,683	200,858	253,313
Net assets invested in capital assets		7,898,159			7,898,159	5,782,782
Unrestricted	(1,092,861)				(1,092,861)	(1,528,366)
	(1,092,861)	7,898,159	198,175	2,683	7,006,156	4,507,729
	2,472,150	19,958,300	198,175	2,683	22,430,450	9,235,541
Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balances for the Year Ended						
Revenues	9,355,782		219,290	2,933	9,578,005	11,427,085
Expenses	8,920,277	244,775	228,716		9,393,768	11,565,810
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenses	435,505	(244,775)	(9,426)	2,933	184,237	(138,725)
Gain on Disposal of capital assets		2,360,152			2,360,152	
Contribution to The Winnipeg Foundation			(40,594)	(5,368)	(45,962)	(48,312)
Fund Balances - Beginning of Year	(1,528,366)	5,782,782	248,195	5,118	4,507,729	4,681,114
Fund Balances - End of Year	(1,092,861)	7,898,159	198,175	2,683	7,006,156	4,507,729

Revenue and Expenses

Revenue



Expenses





RWB Company Dancers and StrongFrontTV Crew: Photo by Daniel Grump



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Cover Photo Chenxin Liu Back Cover Photo RWB Company Dancers Photos by Daniel Crump