CANADIAN DANCE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION



Newsletter











Welcome to CDTA's Newsletter #1, 2024-25 Season!

Dear CDTA Members,

Things to be Grateful for!

- 1. Health: Good health allows us to live life to the fullest and pursue our goals and aspirations.
- 2. Family and Friends: Loving and supportive relationships can bring joy, comfort, and companionship to our lives.
- 3. Shelter: A safe and comfortable home provides us with security and protection from the elements.
- 4. Food and Water: Access to nutritious food and clean water is essential for our well-being and survival.
- 5. Education: Knowledge and learning empower us to grow, develop new skills, and achieve our potential.
- 6. Nature: The beauty and abundance of nature offer us opportunities for relaxation, inspiration, and renewal.

I wanted to take a moment to extend my warmest wishes to each and every one of you. I hope the Thanksgiving Weekend brought you joy, gratitude, and precious moments with your loved ones.

I trust that your registration process went smoothly, and I am thrilled to see the excitement building around the upcoming season. Your dedication and passion as dance educators continue to inspire us all, and I have no doubt that this will be a successful and memorable time for you and our association..

On behalf of the entire CDTA team, I want to express our deepest gratitude for your continued support and participation. Your enthusiasm and commitment make our community truly special.

Hope your Thanksgiving holiday was filled with laughter, love, and delicious food shared with cherished friends and family. Here's to a fantastic season ahead, full of growth, achievements, and unforgettable dance experiences.

Wishing you all a happy wonderful start to the season!

Warm regards,

Julie Dionne

Honourary Member
CDTA Website/Media Director
Public Relations

























In Memorian



Remembering those who have left us.

Mary-Aida Hughesman

she passed away July 19,2024

she was predeceased by her husband Gary Hughesman in 1999 and is survived by her son and daughter.

Remembering Aida:

A group of young Moms was very lucky in the early 1980's to discover that a fully qualified ballet teacher was willing to teach a group of adults in Maple Ridge, BC., where she lived with her family. Aida taught us ballet classes in the Cecchetti method. Her early training was RAD, but through her relationship with Kay Armstrong, she had begun studying the Cecchetti method in her adult years as a teacher. Aida's interests in dance were wide - she also love Tap, Jazz, and of course Flamenco. She had connections through the Ballet community with Angel Monzon, who retired in to Vancouver, and Jose Molina, who, when touring through Vancouver, with Aida's persuasion, generously gave workshops to local Flamenco Enthusiasts.

Aida taught at my studio, Maple Ridge Dance Circle, for almost 20 years, teaching mainly adults, but also encouraging talented young students to pursue their dreams. Her influence has been lasting - there are a group of us still getting together every Friday night to practice Flamenco!

The favourite memories brought up by her original adults at MRDC, (now all retired) are re: preparing for pirouettes " You don't have time to sit and have a cup of tea!", and we always enjoyed her stories from when she "ran away to join the ballet" (with her mother's blessings, I believe) and toured with Royal Winnipeg Ballet as a teenager for a year.

Aida was a life force who will be missed!

Susan Mitchell, Life Member, Ballet Div.

I am writing this from my own memory and what Aida talked about and how much I know she did for CDTA. After returning home from being a ballet member for the Royal Winnipeg Ballet she took on many tasks regarding dance. I remember her adjudicating me at festival in Nanaimo when i was about 8.Her mother Mary Alberts was an Honorary member of CDTA and a teacher in Vancouver.

Aida began working and helping spread the word regarding the advantages of becoming a member of cdta. Aida mentored countless young teachers and encouraged and instructed them in Ballet technique and the foundation of ballet from the beginner stage through to advanced.

Aida was very much a part of the Maria Lewis Bursary which is set up for senior students who have received Highly Commended or Honours from grade four cdta and upward. This \$500.00 bursary is awarded yearly. She was on many committees who put on summer school with wonderful teachers from the Royal Academy. Aida single handily put all the facts onto paper to submit to the BC teachers federation to have credits given to students taking examinations in tap, jazz and ballet to receive credits towards school graduation.

Regards Alison Cowan

Memories of Aida,

Back in 1984 Alberta officially became part of CDTA, this happened with the help and cooperation of BC. Aida along with Mary Alberta and Marie Jones encouraged me to head Ballet and Stage in Alberta and often came to Alberta as examiners

.Aida was instrumental in my own examiner training. giving me the opportunity to examine in BC Alberta and Nova. Scotia.

Her enthusiasm for all dance forms was contagious, and she gave freely of her time and expertise. I am grateful to have had her as a mentor and friend.

Joyce Reddy Sarvi

I remember the first National Board meeting where I had met Aida. She was a walking library who had all the history of CDTA with her in her suitcases (minutes of past meetings, Bylaws, etc.); she could determine when any past Board decision had been made. I was in awe of her!

That meeting was in Vancouver during the summer of Expo '86. Aida was studying Flamenco with a wonderful dancer there and had arranged for a harbour cruise for all of us with her instructor joining us. We had a blast.

She truly was an icon in the CDTA BC Branch and contributed time and energy to the National as well. I served with her on various committees, but ballet was definitely her first love.

Always smiling and happy to help wherever she could, she was a lovely person.

Melody

HELLO

from our CDTA



My time as the CDTA national ambassador has been such an incredible experience. I remember when my dance teacher mentioned the opportunity, and I applied, with little hope of success. It was an overwhelming joy to be selected by an organization so widely known in my dance community. Through CDTA, I have had the chance to travel, participate in dance photoshoots, and work with incredible choreographers from around Canada. I'm enjoying the ride while I can, and I'm so thankful to CDTA for giving me this chance to push my dance career further!

Announcing our 2025 Candidates later this week!



Send in a recipe and receive a PDF copy of our 2nd Edition.

Forward to marketing@cdtanational.ca by December 1st



From the Desk of our Exam Registrar...

Welcome again to "Exam News" - I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and are back into the swing of things! We had a great summer and those in attendance thoroughly enjoyed our 75th Anniversary celebration in Edmonton.

As it is still 2024, we will keep using the exam report sheets that have our 75th anniversary ribbon on them.

Today - October 15 - is the deadline for all exams to be held before Christmas - from November 15 to December 30 - our last exam session for 2024. Exam entries for student and professional exams have started to come in. As before, sessions can be held in-person, by video submission, or over zoom. We are excited to be able to meet the needs of all teachers by continuing to offer these three options!

Just a few reminders...

- * Teachers, please send in your exam entries (both Parts A and B forms), with e-transfer payment, by end of today if you want to hold exams before Christmas.
- * The next exam deadline is Sunday, December 1 for exams Jan. 15 Mar. 14, 2025. * For student exams, please remember to download the newly updated CDTA Student Examination Handbook and updated Part B entry forms (some entry fees were revised). Part B forms are dated "Aug 2024" at the bottom
 - * For Professional exams, please remember to download the newly updated CDTA Professional Examination Handbook and Manual you need.
- * Make sure you are using the most recent syllabus, or have downloaded any syllabus revisions from the website. If you aren't sure, please send me an email.

FYI...Up until now candidates receiving the National Achievement Award have received a certificate and pin. Beginning January 2025, recipients will receive the certificate only (it is in blue tones with a silver seal, embossed with official CDTA logo).

Why encourage exams in your studio? Last year I asked several teachers to answer that question. Here were a few responses:

- "They give students motivation to work towards a goal which helps enforce goal-setting throughout their lives."
- "They provide students with a way to measure their achievements while reminding them what they still need to work on."
- "They give students feedback as to what they do well and what aspects they can continue to strengthen."

Whatever your reason, we encourage you to keep promoting exams in your studio! And remember to send us photos during your exams so we can promote your studio!

Wishing all of you a fabulous year ahead! Until next time..."Keep on Dancing!"

Melody-Lynn Drewitz-Van Veen, CDTA-HM, B.ED, RAD RTS
CDTA National Past President and Exam Registrar

<u>exams@cdtanational.ca</u>



Ontario Annual Regional Informal Meeting Oct. 20

Navigating The Teen Talk Nov. 13

Intro to Chinese Dance Nov. 17

Growth Plate Webinar & Exam Deadline Dec. 1

Choreographic Workshop

ABC's of Hip Hop Dance Jan. 22



The Executive Committee has been diligently working to provide our members with insurance options that suit your personal and/or studio needs. Carrying proper coverage is crucial for your teaching, competitions, workshops, and more. Our goal is to provide tools to assist you, our Members, in making an informed decision regarding insurance coverage.

1. MKS Financial created a health/dental package exclusively for CDTA members. Obtaining coverage before illness is key, as insurance costs surge when pre-existing conditions exist.

The link for health/dental benefits is provided below. Please keep our email address on hand in case you encounter any issues. We are happy to provide support as needed during this early enrollment period.

Link to MKS Information

2. For our Members that are teachers but not studio owners, you might want to consider purchasing liability insurance. The Hub has a quick and easy online process that might work for you.

Link to Hub Information

3. For our Members that are studio owners, "The Shepherd Group" is recommended to explore options that could benefit your business and ensure you have appropriate insurance coverage.

toll free number: 1-866-565-6955 email: info@theshepherdgroup.ca

Health & Wellness

Mark your calendars! On Wednesday, November 13 at 1:00 PM ET, fellow CDTA member Lina Lewis will be hosting a complimentary webinar for CDTA members: Walking the Teen Tightrope: Balancing Tough Conversations with Confidence & Compassion. We're excited for Lina to share her insights on mental wellness—don't miss it!

Our Health & Wellness challenges on the BAND app are still going strong! It's not too late to jump into the October challenge, which focuses on the Practice of Gratitude. Join in and feel the positive vibes! <u>Join our BAND Group</u>.

Also, we're continuing to accept nominations for member spotlights! A big congratulations to our most recent honorees: Brenda Bennett and Elizabeth Erker. Know someone amazing? Nominate a fellow member here: Nominate a Friend Form. Remember, nominees must be members in good standing.

Professional Development

Have you checked out the latest professional development opportunities?

CDTA National recently shared a flyer on the important topic of safeguarding, along with links for additional training options. If you haven't yet, take a moment to explore these valuable resources on this important subject.

Coming soon! Sisi Li & Stanley Wong of Peach Plum Art Academy (you may remember their incredible performance at the CDTA Diamond Dance Summit) will be presenting a webinar on An Introduction to Chinese Dance on Sunday, November 17 at 12:00 PM ET. Stay tuned for more details on this exciting session.

We're also thrilled to announce that Dr. Stephen Gray from Made to Move will be back on Sunday, December 1 at 1:00 PM ET to present a webinar on Growth Plate Issues in Young Dancers. Thank you to everyone who joined his Taping Webinar in August—this is another "can't-miss" opportunity for valuable insights!







Upcoming Events

CDTA Ontario

Regional Informal Annual Meeting

October 20

A Year in Review

12:30PM - ON 1:30PM - ATL 11:30AM - MN 10:30AM - SK/AB 9:30AM - BC





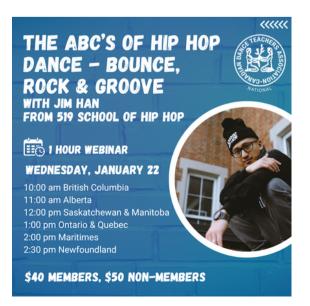


COMPLIMENTARY FOR CDTA MEMBERS



\$50 FOR NON-MEMBERS







Let's Connect on November 17th Sin conjunction with the Introduction to Chinese Dance Webinar.

No matter what region of Canada you currently live in or how active you've been; we're excited to reconnect, share stories, and celebrate our dance community.

More info to follow.

CDTA Event Coordinator Report October 2024



The summer and fall of 2024 have been bustling for CDTA, filled with incredible events for our members!

Diamond Dance Summit: July 19-21

We kicked off the season with the Diamond Dance Summit, celebrating our 75th Anniversary at the Fantasyland Hotel in Edmonton, AB. The event brought together 267 dancers and teachers from across Canada, along with 22 vendors and 11 Canadian Faculty. Highlights included stunning performances by the Peach Plum Art Academy and the presentation of the CDTA National Award to Joyce Reddy-Sarvi and Melody-Lynn Drewitz-Van Veen. A huge thank you to our partners from the Alberta Dance Educators Association (ADEA) for making this celebration so memorable!

Taping 101 Webinar: August 22

On August 22, we hosted a well-attended 'Taping 101' webinar with Dr. Stephen Gray. Participants explored various conditions and injuries related to dancing and learned effective taping techniques for protection and prevention. Don't miss our next webinar with Dr. Gray on 'Growth Plate Issues in Young Dancers' on December 1 (\$40 for members, \$50 for non-members).

Pre-Season 'What's Up' Chat & Music Sharing Session: August 28

Our pre-season 'What's Up' chat on August 28 gathered members to share their preparations for the new dance season. Attendees exchanged favorite songs for classes and routines and received a fresh list of music to kick off the 2024-25 dance year. Stay tuned for our next Music Sharing session in August 2025!

Respectfully Teaching the Culture of Hip Hop in Dance Classes: September 26

September wrapped up with a thought-provoking webinar on 'Respectfully Teaching the Culture of Hip Hop in Dance Classes' led by Jim Han from the 519 School of Hip Hop. Attendees gained valuable insights into Hip Hop's history and effective teaching approaches. We're thrilled to announce Jim will return for 'The ABC's of Hip Hop' on January 22, 2025!

SK Region Events: October 5-6

Excitement filled the SK Region during the weekend of October 5-6!

We kicked things off with the 'Beyond Ballet' workshop led by Hannah-Mae Cruddas of Ballet Jorgen, attended by 15 teachers (both inperson and via Zoom) at Dance Elements in Saskatoon.

The highlight of the weekend was the annual Dance Jam convention on October 6, attended by 586 dancers and teachers from over 34 studios! Faculty members included Hannah-Mae Cruddas, Matthew Armet, Tyrell Witherspoon, Elise Melo, and Greer Whillans. The energy was electric at the Saskatoon Inn & Conference Centre!

Upcoming Events in November

In November, we have two exciting webinars lined up:

- FREE-to-Members Webinar: 'Walking the Teen Talk Tightrope: Balancing Tough Conversations with Confidence & Compassion' with Lina Lewis of Elevate Dance Centre & Elle Squared Consulting. Check your email for the Zoom link to register!
- Introduction to Chinese Dance' Webinar with Sisi Li and Stanley Vong of the Peach Plum Art Academy on November 17
 (\$40 for members, \$50 for non-members).

Join Us!

We're thrilled to see so many new and returning members participating in our events, both in-person and online. We're committed to offering a diverse range of courses for you! If you have suggestions for future courses or webinars, please reach out to us at events@cdtanational.ca.

Stay connected! Follow us on **Facebook** and **Instagram** for the latest updates, and don't forget to check your email for news and events from CDTA!

Yours in dance,

Melissa Wallace, CDTA-L, ARAD, RAD RTS

CDTA Event Coordinator, CDTA Regional Director (SK)



Student Choreographic Workshop

Sanctuary Arts Centre, Dartmouth NS

January

111

Date- Jan 11, 2025
Time 11:30 am- 8:00 pm
Location The Sanctuary Arts Centre, 100
Ochterloney St. Dartmouth,
Fee \$50 members & \$60non-members.
Deadline for Registration Dec.1 2024







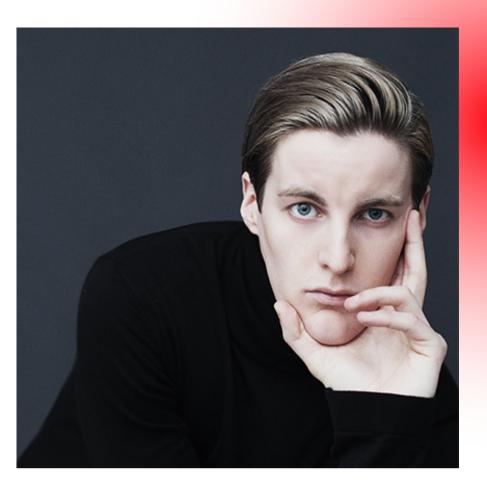
New Exciting Event!

The Canadian Dance Teachers' Association is offering Choreographic Workshops for dancers and teachers! This is a creative opportunity led by workshop hosts Iain Rowe (Ballet) & Darryl Tracy (Contemporary). Students and teachers will learn choreographic concepts and ideas to help them in their artistic development. After a fun filled day of exploration we will also have a Student Choreographic Showcase. Young aspiring choreographers will have a safe space to showcase their own choreographic ideas, perform and receive feedback from workshops hosts.

The workshops are open to students aged 13 –18yrs as well as dance teachers. All are welcome! For members in other parts of Canada, zoom participation is available. Due to limited time, participation in the showcase will be for students of CDTA teachers of good standing only. The teachers will submit pieces created by their students. It is up to the teacher/school to decide who from their school is put forward. If necessary, the CDTA Regional committee will limit the number of pieces entered per school to accommodate the length of the showcase. Those students who have submitted pieces will receive personalfeedback on their work from the workshop leaders!

Immediately following the Showcase CDTA will host a reception and open 'Town Hall' meeting to discuss shared issues for dance teachers and students. We will also host the annual Atlantic ARM Meeting for all CDTA members in good standing. (6pm-8pm)

Let the inspiration flow! We know there are students bursting with exciting ideas in their minds and hearts!



Iain Rowe Biography: Iain Rowe was born in <u>Canada</u> and trained at <u>Canada's National Ballet School</u>. Upon graduation he went on to join The <u>Royal Danish Ballet</u> and has had the great fortune to perform in a wide range of work including the seminal masterworks of choreographers <u>August Bournonville</u>, <u>Marius Petipa</u>, and <u>George Balanchine</u>. He has also had the enormous pleasure to dance in creations made by current choreographers of today such as Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, <u>Jacopo Godani</u>, <u>Jiri Kylian</u>, <u>Ohad Naharin</u>, and <u>Jorma Uotinen</u>. Rowe's own interest in choreography began while studying at Canada's National Ballet School and his work has been presented by The Royal Danish Ballet and The Tivoli Pantomime Theatre in Copenhagen, as well as The DanceNOW Festival, The FAB! Festival, and The 92nd Street Y in New York City.



Darryl Tracy Biography: Darryl Tracy is a Toronto-based artist who loves human movement and expression. He is involved in dance, choreography, movement facilitation, conditioning and teaching. He has performed with many Canadian and European choreographers over the last 25 years and has also created 42 works through commissions and self-productions. He was on faculty at School of Toronto Dance Theatre (now named Dance Arts Institute) for over 18 years under the artistic direction of Pat Fraser. Currently, Darryl teaches at the National Ballet School (Teachers Training Program) in Anatomy and Contemporary/Modern Dance. He is a neurological rehabilitation physiotherapist in Toronto in the private and public sector. Darryl Tracy Biography: Darryl Tracy is a Toronto-based artist who loves human movement and expression. He is involved in dance, choreography, movement facilitation, conditioning and teaching. He has performed with many Canadian and European choreographers over the last 25 years and has also created 42 works through commissions and self-productions. He was on faculty at School of Toronto Dance Theatre (now named Dance Arts Institute) for over 18 years under the artistic direction of Pat Fraser. Currently, Darryl teaches at the National Ballet School (Teachers Training Program) in Anatomy and Contemporary/Modern Dance. He is a neurological rehabilitation physiotherapist in Toronto in the private and public sector.

Saturday Jan. 11th Schedule (Atlantic Time Zone)

11:30am-1:00pm - Workshop #1 1:00pm-1:30pm - Lunch 1:30pm-3:00pm - Workshop #2

3:00pm-4:00pm - Preparation for Showcase 4:00pm-5:30pm - Student Choreographic Showcase 6:00pm-8:00pm - Reception/Town Hall & Atlantic ARM

PDF Registration Form will be available online from October 27 until December 15.

Teachers must register their students.

CDTA Member and their dancers \$50.00 Non Members and their dancers \$60.00

T-Shirt Purchase: \$25.00 (Black T-shirt with CDTA Logo front centre)

Support our **CDTA** Business **Affiliates**



If you wish to have your business join the association, contact us today!

cdta@cdtanational.ca

\$115.00 yearly

4 ads per year that reaches dance teachers and dancers from coast to coast.



CDTA GROUP HEALTH PLAN

A plan created specifically for the dance community. Your plan can cover:

- Health
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- Dental
- Hospital accommodations
- Vision
- Emergency travel medical care

Scan here for more info!



Registering is as easy as 5, 6, 7, 8!



Scan here to join your program now!



Learn about the program, how you can save, the funds you can invest in, set goals, and track your progress all in one spot!

To register:

- 1. Set up your Manulife ID
- 2. Sign up for your plan(s)
 - a. Enter your access code so you can select your plans, beneficiaries, and funds. Click "submit" to save your information
 - b. Your plan administrator may need to approve your enrollment before you can access your online account
- 3. Explore your account

Before you start, know:

- Your plan's access code: **4K12hAFG**
- Your plan's policy number: 55506982
- Your social insurance number
- Who your beneficiaries will be

Use today's date as the date of eligibility



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