

Mandate

teach and inspire people about contact dance improvisation and dance/theatre through the creation and production of classes, workshops, dance jams, performances and festivals.

work with a range of junior, mid-career and senior dance artists to explore generational themes and storytelling. This provides learning experiences for youth, as well as creative opportunities for senior dance artists.

ensure the accessibility of the dance arts to the public through inclusive programming and scholarship programs.

explore current themes in workshops, events and performances in a manner that enables the public to benefit from the enlivening powers of expression through movement.

encourage and support the every day person in becoming artists

What is Contact Dance?

Contact dance is a social dance involving touch, in which momentum between two or more people inspires movements. It shares a common physical language with martial arts by harnessing the power of momentum. Techniques include rolling point of contact, balancing over a partner's centre of gravity, following momentum, and "listening" with one's skin. It originated 40 years ago in the US through dancers Steve Paxton and Nancy Stark Smith. Contact dance is now a worldwide phenomenon. The dance form is practiced and is accessible to people with no previous dance training and to people with physical disabilities. It offers social connection and enlivening physical expression to all. Professional dancers often use it as a choreographic language or training methodology.

www.reasondetre.com

What people are saying

"I dance as a hobby. The idea of performing was something that I never considered... The opportunity to collaborate with fellow dancers and perform for the community left me feeling capable, joyous and free."

"I am incredibly thankful to RDDP for connecting me regularly with other artists in a welcoming community."

"The training scholarship from RDDP was instrumental in helping me transition from being a student to being an emerging modern dance performer."

Artistic Director



Kathleen Rea is a graduate of the National Ballet School and has a master's degree in Expressive Arts. She danced with Ballet Jorgen, National Ballet of Canada and Tiroler Landestheater (Austria). In 2000, she founded RDDP. Her work stems from her varied

background, which includes ballet, contact dance, dance theatre and the multidisciplinary community building practices of Expressive Arts. She has choreographed over 40 original works. She has taught dance at York University, George Brown College, Niagara College and Toronto Dance Theatre. Through RDDP, Kathleen founded the Wednesday Dance Jam and the Contact Dance International Film Festival. Her award-winning film *Lapinthrope* screened at international festivals. Her work *Long Live* was nominated for three DORA awards and she is a winner of the K. M. Hunter Award. Kathleen's book *The Healing Dance* was published by Charles C. Thomas. She is a registered psychotherapist, certified Brain Advancement Coach and a teacher candidate of the Axis Syllabus.

Contact

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Fostering humanity through dance

History

REASON d'etre dance productions (RDDP) is a charitable dance company founded in 2000 by Kathleen Rea. Since inception, the company has produced 5 main stage productions, over 40 dance workshops and has co-produced with the Chimera Project, Kaeja d'Dance and princess productions. RDDP ensures accessibility by offering scholarships to those in need. The company also mentors emerging artists.

RDDP won a gold prize at the Festival Der Nationen (Austria) for the 2005 co-production of *Lapinthrope*, a dance film that screened at 14 international film festivals and Bravo TV.

In 2007 RDDP created *Close Knit* for Scotiabank Nuit Blanche. *Close Knit* was a site specific dance installation that combined knitting and dance on the streets of Parkdale, in Toronto.

RDDP's *Long Live* was nominated for three 2010 Dora Mavor Moore awards, including outstanding choreography, dance performance and sound design.

RDDP founded and produces the Wednesday Dance Jam, a dance class/jam with live music that has run every week since 1999. Each year the event services up to 200 participants of all ages and skill levels, employs 15 teachers and 25 musicians and offers 20 dance training scholarships. The Wednesday Dance Jam has fostered numerous creative relationships, and has enabled hundreds of people from all walks of life to discover their love of dance.

RDDP produces the Contact Dance International Film Festival, an event showcasing contact dance films, running every two years. The third CDIFF is scheduled for June 2017. Eighty percent of the festival programming is now in accessible spaces, and inclusive jams and classes are offered.



Press

Art & Culture Maven, 2011
"A fascinating tableau of dance theatre"

Paula Citron, 2008 - The Globe and Mail
"a poignancy that demands respect"

Paula Citron, 2006 - Classical 96.3 FM
"beautifully rich, poignant and lyrical"

Sarah Snowdon, 2006 - Contemporary Dance
"Intense, athletic-style movement"

Glenn Sumi, 2002 - NOW Magazine top ten dance
"A clown inspired whimsy. A delight"

Susan Walker, 2002 - The Toronto Star
"Its images will prove permanent"



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2017 Activities

- Wednesday Dance Class and Jam
- Contact Dance International Film Festival
- Contact Dance and Filmmaking Workshops
- Accessible Training Scholarship
- Diversity Scholarship
- Contact Dance Performance Nights
- Artist in Residence
- Creation of a New Dance Work
- Mentoring of Emerging Artists
- Wheelchair Accessible, Inclusive Dance Classes



Support

RDDP is run by a volunteer board of directors

Funding

REASON d'etre dance productions has received project support from Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, Toronto Arts Council, BMO Financial Group and the Toronto Foundation.

Government funding alone does not cover all of RDDP's costs. We're always grateful for support from individuals and businesses that enable us to keep offering our services.

You can help by donating through www.canadahelps.org. All donations over \$20 will receive a charitable tax receipt

Charity registration number: 84203 4654 RR0001

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