

The School of Dance
announces

Over 300 Children Dancing in the Street!

Friday July 16, 2010
For Immediate Release

OTTAWA – Over 300 children from all corners of Ottawa were seen dancing in the street yesterday during the first *Dancing in the Street for Kids* hosted by The School of Dance. For one hour between 1:00pm and 2:00pm, children from Rideau-Rockcliffe, Dovercourt Recreation Centre, Richelieu-Vanier Community Centre and Le Patro d’Ottawa joined students of The School of Dance for a lively parade in the New Edinburgh community of Ottawa. Led by musicians Rob Graves and Mike Essoudry, the children paraded up and down Crichton Street before transforming the street into an exciting dance floor as dancers from The School of Dance lead the eager and energetic children in a variety of dances that included group dancing, movement exploration and a free-style dance to the tune of *Dancing in the Streets!*

“We are extraordinarily pleased with the overwhelmingly positive community participation in our first street-closing event,” stated Merrilee Hodgins, Artistic Director of The School of Dance. “*Dancing in the Street for Kids* is an off shoot of our *Dancing in the Street* programme which provides work opportunities for young professional dancers. Inspiring dance. This IS the work of The School of Dance.”

The School of Dance welcomed many special guests who participated and danced in the parade. Joining in the festivities were Mayoral candidate **Jim Watson**, as well as Thérèse Goneau and Hélène Lamontagne, representing **Madeleine Meilleur** MPP for Ottawa-Vanier. A surprise visit from **Dovercat**, the fuzzy blue mascot from Dovercourt Recreation Centre inspired everyone to keep on grooving as the hour of dancing wound down.

A fun and kinetic time was had by all! After an hour of energetic jumping, clapping, spinning and skipping in the hot sun, everyone parted ways with a cold freezie in hand. The School of Dance wishes to acknowledge and thank infiniteRöM for donating freezies for all participants.

Dancing in the Street is an urban animation project which allows The School of Dance to provide professional work to young dancers early in their careers. In collaboration with a variety of community partners including the National Gallery of Canada, Cisco Ottawa Bluesfest, Music and Beyond, the National Capital Commission’s Canada Day Celebrations, Ottawa Jazz Festival, National Arts Centre’s Orchestras in the Park, the Rideau Canal Festival, and the City of Ottawa Parks and Recreation Department. By partnering with The School of Dance, these important organizations are ensuring that young dance artists receive real work experience in their chosen field.

Yesterday’s event, *Dancing in the Street for Kids*, is now on the summer map! Stay tuned for the next event hosted by The School of Dance in a community neighbourhood near you.

For more information or interviews, contact:
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The School of Dance is a registered, non-profit charitable, educational organization currently celebrating its 31st anniversary season.

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*Dancing
in the
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