

2025

The School of Dance
200 Crichton Street
Ottawa, ON K1M 1W2

Merrilee Hodgins A.R.A.D.
Artistic Director

613-238-7838

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www.theschoolofdance.ca

Ontario 

 **ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL**
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO
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The School of Dance

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A CONTEMPORARY DANCE STUDENT

Open House at The School of Dance

Discover. Create. Perform.

Experience what it's like to train as a **professional contemporary dancer!**

The School of Dance - a Career College accredited by York University - offers the only post-secondary dance education in the Ottawa region.

The Contemporary Dance Programme, our three-year, full-time Diploma programme, is known for exceptional technical training, creative growth and artistic fulfilment.

Graduates perform with renowned companies such as:

Compagnie Marie Chouinard, Tara Luz Danse, Ottawa Dance Directive, Sylvain Émard Danse, Andrea Peña & Artists, Andrew Skeels Danse, and MGM Productions, among others.

FOR SENIOR DANCE STUDENTS

If you love to dance — really dance —
and dream of turning movement into your career...
this day is for you!

EXPERIENCE THE PROGRAMME

Come spend a full day with us and see what it's like to be a CDP student!

- ✓ Take professional-level classes
- ✓ Work with choreographers
- ✓ Meet current students & graduates
- ✓ Chat with Programme Director **Sylvie Desrosiers**

OPEN HOUSE DATES — 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

- Friday, November 7
- Friday, November 21
- Monday, November 24

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Ottawa, ON K1M 1W2

REGISTER FOR FREE

Email sylviedesrosiers@theschoolofdance.ca
by **November 3 or 17, 2025**

The School of Dance Contemporary Dance Programme
Where movement becomes art – and your passion your profession.



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TIMETABLE

TIME	SUBJECT	DETAILS
8:45-9:00am	Welcome to The School of Dance	Welcome to our school: visit The School and get ready for your first class
9:00-10:30am	Contemporary Dance Technique Class	Participate in a Contemporary Dance Technique Class taught by Programme Director Sylvie Desrosiers
10:30-10:45am	Break	
10:45am-noon	Ballet Technique Class	Participate in a Ballet class taught by Faculty member Shaun Amyot
12:00-12:45pm	Lunch	
12:45-2:15pm	Repertoire	Learn repertoire works created for professional dancers and the CDP students
2:15-2:30pm	Information and question period	Learn about the Contemporary Dance Programme (Diploma) - our history, our objectives, our vision. Participate in a discussion with Sylvie Desrosiers and the artists – a chance to ask your questions!
2:30- 2:45pm	Break	
2:45pm-...	Presentation	Presentation of a work in rehearsal. You are welcome to stay and observe a rehearsal of the CDP students

FACULTY



Sylvie Desrosiers began her career as a choreographer, dancer and educator under the direction of Peter Boneham at Le Groupe Dance Lab, where she received formative training and mentorship. From 1990 to 1993, she served as director of Le Groupe's dance school, shaping its pedagogical vision and supporting emerging artists. In 1994, she joined The School of Dance to establish its Contemporary Dance Programme, a three-year full-time diploma Programme which she continues to lead. As director, resident choreographer, and instructor in modern/contemporary dance technique and composition, Ms. Desrosiers has cultivated a vibrant learning environment rooted in artistic rigour and care. Her extensive experience spans the design and delivery of movement courses, dance classes, and workshops across schools, colleges, and universities. She has been invited as a guest choreographer at numerous performing arts institutions and contributed to the development of Ontario's Grade 9-12 dance curriculum through her work with the Ministry of Education. She has also played an active role in advancing dance education initiatives with the AFEAO.

As a choreographer, Sylvie Desrosiers has presented her work in cities across Canada—including Ottawa, Gatineau, Montreal, Toronto, and Vancouver. Over a career spanning more than 30 years, and with support from the Canada Council for the Arts, le Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, the Ontario Arts Council, and the City of Ottawa, she has created a wide range of works including *Submergé de pétales d'acier* (a quintet premiered in 2019), *douce tourmente* (a duet for Marc Boivin and Heidi Strauss), *à tire d'aile, flots, glace, épaves, distance*, and the trilogy *Vestibulaire*. Through her company, DORSALE danse, she has produced *Submergé, douce tourmente, TOUT danse, fougue, and project Brut*. A founding member of Ottawa Dance Directive / Centre de danse contemporaine (ODD), Ms. Desrosiers was awarded the 2011 Prix pour la création artistique du Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec pour la région de l'Outaouais and received the Ottawa Arts Council Victor Tolgesy Award in 2017.



Shaun Amyot was drawn to music and performing from a young age which led him to study at The School of Dance in Ottawa and at Canada's National Ballet School (NBS) in Toronto. He then worked in Europe for a decade with the Netherlands Dance Theatre under the direction of Jiri Kylian and Ballet Frankfurt with the incomparable William Forsythe. Highlights were the many world premieres with choreographers such as Kylian, Forsythe, Hans van Manen, Mats Ek, Nacho Duato and many more. He then returned to his first love: Musical Theatre, going on to perform in numerous productions in Toronto and in New York, on Broadway, including three Original Broadway Casts and the feature film *Chicago*. Dream roles were Amos Hart in *Chicago* on Broadway and Tobias Ragg in *Sweeney Todd* for Canstage.

As a choreographer Shaun has created many works including pieces for the San Francisco Ballet School, NBS, and the Stratford Shakespeare Festival. His teaching career includes a decade at NBS, l'École supérieure de ballet du Québec, Harvard Dance Center, the School of the Hamburg Ballet and the National Ballet Academy in Amsterdam. He has also staged works by choreographers Jiri Kylian, William Forsythe, Aszure Barton and Demis Volpi, and worked as a Rehearsal Director for the National Ballet of Canada, the Houston Ballet and the Royal Ballet of Flanders. His unique teaching style combines all of his rich and varied

experiences including his studies in Alexander Technique. Shaun presently teaches Classical Ballet, Forsythe based Improvisation and Contemporary Technique and Repertoire.

[Other guests will join us for the afternoon workshops.](#)