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ANNUAL REPORT

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All Bodies Dance Society

2646 East Georgia St

Vancouver BC V5K2J8

Unceded Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh territory

info@allbodiesdance.ca

exploring the artistic possibilities of differences



Trout Lake Community Class, photo by Luciana Freire D'Anunciação

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Programming



Community Classes

- Roundhouse Community Centre
- Ready Dance Youth Project
- Online with ConnecTra
- Trout Lake Community Centre

Workshops, events and special projects

- Culture Days workshops at Raycam and John Braithwaite CC
- Workshops with Future Leisure / New Works
- Community Dance Party Celebration
- Outreach workshops at EVA BC conference, CAN, and DDA
- Cross-Pollination Exchange with Propeller Dance (Ottawa)



Performances

- Translations at High Performance Rodeo (Calgary) with Inside Out Theatre
- DWELL at Chutzpah! Festival
- Other Animal, Carnegie group at Vines Art Festival
- Making Marks, Ready Dance, BC Youth Week

Statistics At a glance

140+ Classes & Workshops

400+ Class Participants

30+ Artists Employed

1500+ Audience Members

Performances

- Vines Art Festival – *Other Animal*
- Chutzpah Festival – *DWELL*
- High Performance Rodeo (Calgary)
- Trout Lake Family Day Celebrations
- BC Youth Week – *Making Marks*
- National Arts Centre (Ottawa)

Financial Statement

Available upon request to info@allbodiesdance.ca



In partnership with

- Trout Lake Community Centre
- The Roundhouse
- Vancouver Board of Parks & Recreation
- Carnegie Community Centre
- ConnecTra Society
- North Vancouver Recreation & Culture
- Chutzpah! Festival
- New Works
- Future Leisure
- Developmental Disabilities Association
- Canucks Autism Network



Message from the Board of Directors

The Board has been thoroughly impressed by just how much our Artistic Director and General Manager are able to accomplish in a year. Thanks to their amazing efficiency and skill, Naomi and Trang have steered ABDP through another year of growth full of programming while continually modeling care for each other and for all of us. We feel so lucky that ABDP has such strong leadership that reflects the values of our organization.

Most of the Board's activities this year were focused on addressing questions regarding how ABDP could respond to the situation in Gaza. We held 6 formal board meetings on this topic, were in regular contact for months drafting formal responses, connected with our Safe Third Party Contact, met with community members both informally and within the context of a formal listening circle, and we compiled our learnings from all of these experiences.

Through all this work, it became clear to us that:

- Our relationships and our care for one another is our priority. When issues arise, we will approach them with care for the individuals involved and for our community over any specific "political position."

- We support individuals' autonomy to enact their values and politics through their own actions and activism.
- There is not a policy or guideline for everything. As an organization we need to remain open, flexible and responsive as issues arise and create space for dialogue and process.
- The board's role is to deal with pushback, conflict, and to act as the collective employer.

We thoroughly enjoyed working together this year and noticed the depth of care, thought and respect that each of us brought to our many meetings. We appreciate that conflict is inevitable in a growing organization and we are so grateful to our community for leaning in and engaging with these issues in a way that helped us clarify our roles with each other and with the organization.

Moving forward, we are excited to expand the circle of the Board as we nominate Fanny Kearse as a new addition to the Board.

Sincerely,

Sarah and Leela

Reflections from Co-Founder/Artistic Director

Naomi Brand

One of the biggest teachings of improvisation is to be responsive to the moment. In our dancing we practice being responsive by staying present, noticing our relationships, and using what is offered. This year, ABDP drew on this learning both inside and outside the studio as we were called to respond to the current moment in a new way. As did many organizations, global politics had a significant impact on us, as did loss, grief, and evolution in the makeup of our community. All of this danced in between our incredibly successful community classes, numerous performances, rehearsals and opportunities to gather in celebration and joy. In short, it was a very full year that contained the immense range of what it is to be human.

As we move into our 2024/25 season where we will celebrate our 10th anniversary, I am thinking about the image of a constellation, not only because it is the title of our upcoming production, but also because it feels an appropriate image to describe what ABDP is, or has become: a collection of relationships, body/minds, ideas, and practices, holding a structure in which we can ask the questions Who gets to dance? What can dance do? Those embodied connections created by moving together are the glue of ABDP. As we evolve, the hundreds (or maybe even thousands at this point) of connections between our bodies stretch and expand in new directions, a shapeshifting container.



Rehearsal for
*Between Us &
Them*, SFU
Woodwards
June 2024. Photo
by Luciana Freire
D'Anunciação

It has been a delight to work closely with our amazing General Manager Trang who has brought such insight, talent and generosity to the company. We have found a great rhythm together and have been quite the grant writing machine!

After many years of collaboration and contribution to ABDP, we said farewell to our dear friend Carolina Bergonzoni who moved to Cape Breton in the spring. We integrated new voices into our team inviting Kevin Jesuino, Kevin Li and Alyssa Favero to lead classes. And we mourned the death of ABDP dancer and class assistant Vanessa Mendoza and celebrated her life together.

We had opportunities to expand our network of connections beyond Vancouver, with work in Calgary with Inside Out Theatre in the winter and through a fruitful exchange project with our colleagues at Propeller Dance in Ottawa in the spring.

As we enter this milestone tenth season, I find myself both looking back at the practice, knowledge and memories we've accumulated and looking forward with excitement to new ways of sharing this work generously.

It is an honour to learn within this constellation. I am proud of our community, the art that we make, the learning we have done, the moments of challenge and growth, and the unique flavour of joy that we generate by dancing together.

With love,



A world where **Dance is for Everybody**

*Residency at the
National Arts
Centre as part of
Cross-Pollination
project with
Propeller Dance*



Board

Sarah Bourne, Board Chair

Hilary Maxwell, Treasurer

Leela Chinniah, Secretary

barbara findlay, Director

Staff

Co-Founder/Artistic Director

Naomi Brand

General Manager

Trang Trinh

Communications Manager

Shanna Cheng

Community Class Facilitators

Andrea Cownden, Alyssa Favero, Kevin Jesuino, Janice Laurence, Harmanie Rose, Rianne Švelnis, danielle wensley

Community Class Support Team

Peggy Leung, Cheyenne Seary, Rachel Whitmore, Candice Larscheid, Lance Lim, Kevin Li

ABDP Co-founder

Sarah Lapp Bourne

Safe Third-Party Person

Bee Andressen

Accounting

Quantum Accounting

Thank you to our Partners and Funders



Canada Council
for the Arts



BRITISH COLUMBIA
ARTS COUNCIL



We are grateful to the support of individual donors who has
given to the work of making dance for Every Body!