

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

princess productions, CORPUS, Kaeja d'Dance

MARCH 4, 2021
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Dovercourt House Dance Hub is Forced to Close after 21 Years Putting the Dance Community in Crisis

TORONTO - Dovercourt House, a hub for dance for over twenty years, is the City's latest cultural casualty. Dovercourt House has been the full-time home of **princess productions, CORPUS** and **Kaeja d'Dance** for 21 years. These resident companies occupied Dovercourt's ballrooms during daytime hours developing works that have toured the world. In the evenings and weekends the space turned into a centre of social dance, classes and events. Tens of thousands of Torontonians have come through its doors to practice Swing, Latin and Urban as well as yoga, capoeira and expressive arts therapy. Dovercourt House's three beautiful spaces have been popular with professional dance companies and as a social hub welcoming diverse community groups and artists who have depended on its warm atmosphere and properly sprung floors.

Dovercourt House has been closed for most of the past year due to Covid and the former leaseholder secured assistance through **Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance**, a program in which the landlord agreed to accept reduced rent. The landlord has recently secured a new leaseholder who does not plan to continue the building's current usage. The news comes after **Dancemakers** announced in November 2020 that it will close its studio doors in July 2021. The closing of Dovercourt House and Dancemakers spaces represents a combined loss of five studios from the City's cultural infrastructure.

The news came as a shock to the three resident companies who have been paying their rent on time for over two decades, benefitting both the landlord and the performing arts community. In the early 2000's the three companies secured a number of Ontario Trillium Foundation grants to make long-lasting renovations to the studios.

"We have poured energy, care and love into this wonderful building. These studios have allowed us and other members of the dance community, to build relevant and successful local and touring works, while deepening our art forms. Losing the Dovercourt House is an absolute major blow, not just for the three companies that have made it their permanent home, but to the arts community at large." David Danzon, Artistic Director, CORPUS

The landlord was looking to receive higher rent for the building but did not approach the resident companies to negotiate. Instead, the landlord found a new leaseholder without informing the current tenants. The resident companies and the new leaseholder are in discussion to smooth the transition period.

“The Dovercourt House was a creative home that provided stability for the inspirations of the resident companies. For two decades the crossover of professional practices and activity in the building facilitated a sense of belonging and consistency. Affordable, large, open reliable space in the city is a scarcity. Dance companies are being chased out. Having to move out of the Dovercourt House is tragic and the Toronto performing arts community will indeed feel a huge loss.” Karen Kaeja, Co-Artistic Director, Kaeja d’Dance

Dovercourt House is unique in the City in being a hub for both the professional and the amateur dance lover. Discovered by Allen Kaeja in July 2000, it was quickly established as a dance hub for research and development. Torontonians have benefitted from this space and the social capacity that arose spontaneously. The resident companies provided revenue stability which, along with the hard work of the outgoing building’s property manager Andy Haslett, allowed this hub to grow. This was the real-life realization of the stimulative effect of the arts in a community.

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LINK TO DANCE RESIDENT COMPANY CONTACTS:

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princess productions

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Kaeja d’Dance

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In the 20 years since then, Dovercourt House has been home to a number of well-respected, highly regarded and artistically talented performance companies, events, dances and dance schools. Among those regular groups are:

[Kaeja d’Dance](#) (Dance Performance Company),

[princess productions](#) (Dance Performance Company),

[Corpus](#) (Dance Performance Company),

[Swing Toronto](#) (Saturday Night Swing! Dance & Classes, Workshops),

[GoDanz](#) (Salsa and Kizomba Dances, Classes and Workshops),

[Paradiso Tango](#) (Argentine Tango Dances and Classes),

[Toronto Tango Club](#) (Argentine Tango Dances and Classes),

[Toronto Dance Fridays](#) (Salsa and Bachata Dances and Classes),

[Bachata Me](#) (Bachata Dances and Classes),
[Bachata Cielo](#) (Bachata Dance Classes and Events),
[Milonga Maleva](#) (Argentine Tango Dances and Classes),
[Bachata Rosa](#) (Bachata Dances and Classes),
[Midday Fix](#) (Salsa and Bachata Dances),
[The Move Collective](#) (Expressive Dance Event),
[TO West Coast](#) (West Coast Swing Classes and Dances),
[Araguacu Latin Dance Company](#) (Latin Dance School),
[iFreeStyle](#) (Latin Dance School),
[Sugar Hoops](#) (Hoop Dancing Classes and Jams),
[Sunday Contact Jam](#) (Contact Improvisation Classes and Jams),
[Tout En Connexion](#) (Modern Bachata Dance School),
[Baila Toronto](#) (Brazilian Dance Classes and Events),
[Sat Dharam Kaur](#) (Yoga Teacher Training),
[Young Yoga Masters](#) (Children's Yoga Workshops), and many more individual and one-off renters in the arts/dance/spiritual health fields.

Dovercourt House has also provided a safe space to many other dance companies and artists for rehearsals, classes and events. Among them are:

Ada Ho
adelheid dance projects
Against the Grain
Alexandra Elliot
Alex Samaras
Alias Dance Projects
Alicia Grant
Allison Cummings
Allison Toffan
Aluna Theatre
Amanda Acorn
Amanda Meadows
Ame Henderson
Ana Groppler
Andrea Bussinger
Andrew McDougall
Andrew Seok
Angela Blumerg
Angela Morra
Angela Schubot
Angelica Zuenko
Andrea Nann
Anita Young
Ann Trepanier
Aria Evans
Arzoo Dance Theatre

Ayelen Liberona
Bee Pallomina
Ben Kamino
Bethany Lee
Bianca Heuvelmans
Bill Coleman
Brad Cherwin
Bree Wasilenko
Brendan Jensen
Brendan Wyatt
Caroline Fraser
Carlynn Reed
Caryn Chappell
Catherine Murray
Celia Green
Chartier Danse
Chimera Project
Christine Moynihan
Christy Stoeten
Cinemascope
City of Markham
Cloud 9
Colleen Costello
Corpus
Craig Chambers
Dancetheatre
David Earl
Daniella Pagliarello
Danielle Baskerville
DAREarts
Daryl Vineberg
Dasein Dance Theatre
David Norsworthy
Deanna Bowen
Debra Brown
Diana Rose
Diana Tso
Diane Bruni
Dianne Montgomery
Domanique Grant
Dreamwalker Dance
Dusk Dances
Elanne Virginia Boake
Elke Schroeder
Ellen Denny
Emily Law
Emma Culpeper

Eric Cazdyn
Fabien Maltais-Bayda
Fernando Camacho
First Things First
Gavin Law
Gennie Brukner
Grimm Pictures
Hammer Pictures Inc
Hanna Kiel
Heather Hermant
Heather Mills
Holly Small
Ian - Movement Reserach
Inhabit Pilates
Irma Villafuerte
Janaki Banting
Jane Alison McKinney
Jasmyn Fyffe
Jean-Michel Brodeur
Jen Hum
Jennifer Dallas
Jennifer Dick
Jennifer Hurley
Jesse Dell
Jessica Gomes
Jessica Runge
Jillian Peever
Jim Patel
Joanna Householder
Jolyane Langlois
Julia Male
Julia Ray
Julia Sasso
Julia Wyncoll
Kari Pederson
Karissa Fyrrar
Kate Franklin
Kate Nankevis
Katie Ewald
Katie Ward
Keepers (Martha Randall)
Kemi Contemporary Dance Projects
Kiri Figueirido
Kirsten Rosenkrantz
Krista Lin
Krista Newey
Kristin Fung

Kylie Thompson
Lance Johnson
Laura Bolton
Lauren Cook
Lauren Runions
Laurence Siegel
Liisa Smith
Lilia Leon
Lindsay Cochrane
little red theatre
Liz Peterson
Lo Bil
Lorenzo Queano
Lucy Rupert
Lukas Malkowski
Mairead Filgate
Marie-Josée Chartier
Mary Louise Albert
Mateo Galindo-Torres
Mathieu Trepanier
Matthew Huether
Meaghan O'Shea
Melissa Shaw
Meredith Anderson
Meryem Alaoui
Michael Caldwell
Michaela St. Pierre
Mikaela Demers
Mikaela Orford
Mio Sakamoto
Mix Mix Dance Collective
MJ Shaw
Mocean Dance Society
Molly Johnson
Moonhorse Dance Theatre
Nadine Villasin
Naishi Wang
Natasha Powell
Nathan Cyprys
Neena Jayarajan
Newton Moraes
Nicole Faull
Nova Dance
Olivia Arcangeli
Oria Wiersma
Pam Johnson
Pablo Perez

Parul Gupta
Patricia Allison
Peter Kok
Pia Bouman School
Prajakta Dravid
Public Recordings
Reason d'etre
Rhodnie Desir
Robert Kingsbury
Rufi Rodriguez
Sabrina Mercado
Samantha Polzin
Sanja Dejanovic
Sanjay Pavone
Sarah Puja-Jones
SAS Productions
Sashar Zarif
Savannah Hoag
Seeking Bridge Collective
Series 8:08
Shawn Bracke
Simon Threlkeld
Sinha Danse
Sofi Gudino
Stephanie Tremblay
Steven Smith - The Garage
Subtle Vigilance Collective
Supriya Nayak
Susanna Fournier
Susanna Hood
Suzanne Liska
Sydney Hayduk
Sulvie Desrosier
Syreeta Hector
Tanya Crowder
Teresa Nguyen
Theatre Smith Gilmour
The Looking Sea Collective
Throwdown Collective
Tina Fushell
Tom Brouillette
Toronto Dance Community Love-In
Toronto Rhythm Initiative
Tracey Norman
Tribal Crackling Wind
Twelfth House
Ulla Laidlaw / Jenn Forgie

Valerie Calam
Vivek Patel
Volcano
Whitney Hevitt
William Yong
Zata Omm Dance Projects