



# THE SCHOOL of Toronto Dance Theatre

Artistic Director Patricia Fraser

**2021**

**2022**

## ADMISSION GUIDE

### Professional Training Program

Full-time, three-year,  
post-secondary  
conservatory dance  
program



**[schooloftdt.org](http://schooloftdt.org)**

# Welcome

The School of Toronto Dance Theatre is an exciting, creative, and vibrant place where you will receive top-notch training to become a professional dancer. We're very proud that we have developed over many years a **superb faculty**; we engage **world-renowned guest teachers**, and we have an **impressive roster of choreographers** who work with students in all three years of the Professional Training Program.

Our curriculum combines **craft and creativity**, merging intensely rigorous training with in-depth investigation into the creative process and extensive performance experience. The quality of our program has brought us **national and international regard**.

At the School, we focus on your **artistic development, choreographic exploration, and performance quality** – all to prepare you for a professional career. Our hands-on approach fosters student success.

Graduates from our program create, teach, and perform in Canada and around the world.

If you have any questions, or would like to find out more about the School – get in touch! We want to hear from you. If you are passionate and want to be a professional dancer, then come and dance with us!



**Patricia Fraser**  
*Artistic Director*

**“I could not have asked for better training than what I received at The School of Toronto Dance Theatre. The intensity of the training and variation within the curriculum set me up incredibly well for an international career in Dance Theatre.”**

**Anna Finkel, 2005 graduate, international performer, maker, and teacher: adelheid, the National Theatre (London, England), Punchdrunk (The Drowned Man and Lady MacBeth in Sleep No More), Gecko, DV8, Handspring, Lost Dog**

The School of Toronto Dance Theatre would like to acknowledge the sacred land on which we operate, the site of human activity for over 15,000 years. This land is the traditional territory of many nations: the Wendat, the Haudenosaunee, and the Anishinaabe, including the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. We are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land and to share our space with all peoples – those indigenous to Turtle Island and those from the world.

# Choose the School!

For more than **50 years**, we have been training and educating dance artists.

As a student in our **three-year, full-time, post-secondary Professional Training Program (PTP)**, you are offered a broad curriculum, an exceptional foundation of knowledge about modern and contemporary dance, a highly physical and imaginative introduction to the art form, extensive performing experience, and an environment for learning that prepares you for a professional career.

**50+** years  
of inspired dance training

We offer:

- a healthy and supportive learning environment
- a conservatory-style education with a concentration on studio work – **you spend your day dancing**
- technique classes accompanied by some of Toronto's **finest dance musicians**
- opportunities to **create your own choreography**
- numerous **exceptional performance opportunities**
- a close relationship with **Toronto Dance Theatre**, and exposure to the vibrant Toronto dance community
- a partnership with **York University's B.F.A. Honours Dance program** – **get your degree!**
- **NEW!** The School is now awarding an **Advanced College Diploma** upon graduation



# Your Training

## Our curriculum: craft and creativity

### TECHNIQUE

We pride ourselves on the strength of the curriculum, and the range of classes offered to you. A cornerstone of our approach is strong technical training to enable you to build your craft, develop a high level of skill and versatility, and to realize your physical potential.

Dance technique includes classes in contemporary/modern, Graham, ballet, and Horton, among others. The training is augmented by special workshops and master classes, anatomy, cardio-conditioning, and coaching. The School continually revises and updates its teaching methods to ensure that students receive the best education possible. All students share the same dedication to hard work and high standards, which are the keys to excellence.

"For more than 50 years, The School of Toronto Dance Theatre has been at the forefront of dance education – absolutely crucial to the vitality, profile, and evolution of contemporary dance in Toronto and across Canada. The graduates of the School are respected as some of the most accomplished teachers, coaches, interpreters, creators, artistic directors, and cultural leaders in the country. The frequency of performance opportunities is especially impressive, and is key to the success of the Professional Training Program."

**Peggy Baker**, recipient of the Governor General's Award, the Premier's Award, the Order of Canada; Artist-in-Residence at Canada's National Ballet School



*Moments & Doorways; Allen Kaeja  
Geanderson Mello, Mio Sakamoto*

## CREATION & IMPROVISATION

We focus on nurturing your imagination and creativity, as well as the quality of your movement, and the development of your full expressiveness.

As a student of the School, you will examine new and emerging areas of thought and practice in creation and improvisation.

You will begin to define your artistic point of view, defend your values, expand your critical thinking, and develop a rigorous creative practice. Courses include creative process, improvisation, contact improvisation, bouffon, music, and elements of production.

## REHEARSAL & PERFORMANCE

In rehearsal and in performance, you will be immersed in the act of **creation**, **re-creation**, and **interpretation**. You will experience different **choreographic processes**, learn valuable **production skills**, and be prepared to become the most versatile of instruments as a professional dancer.



*Standing this midnight on gray cement: Darryl Tracy*



## PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

You will perform work by acclaimed Canadian choreographers; works by Christopher House from the repertoire of Toronto Dance Theatre; works by talented emerging creators; and classic dances by significant international choreographers.

**Everyone performs!** The School presents a series of shows in our home theatre, the Winchester Street Theatre, including winter and spring programs that involve the **entire student body**, and a distinctive program of solos, duets, and small ensemble works for our graduating class. Students also perform in special professional engagements in Toronto.

## STUDENT CHOREOGRAPHY

Create your own work! Twice per year, you will have the opportunity to present your choreography in our Coffee House performances at the Winchester Street Theatre. As a third year student, you will present your own choreographic work as a culmination of the Creative Process course in our Choreographic Workshop performance.

## ACADEMICS

Our program supports your artistic development, and increases your understanding of the professional dance environment, including dance history, pedagogy, and career paths.



# Your Future: Empowering You

As a graduate of the PTP, you will be trained as a performer and prepared to pursue career opportunities in dance.

The experience you will gain at the School will provide you with transferable skills: commitment, compassion, discipline, creative thinking, collaboration, being able to both take direction and provide leadership, and learning to learn; the ability to grasp the development of an idea from conception to realization through understanding the creative process; all to enable you to enter a fulfilling dance career.

The School has an exceptional reputation as a practice-based program. We believe in "learning by doing". We empower you by encouraging you to engage in your training and education in an articulate, intelligent, and practical way. We expose you to all aspects of the art form and encourage active learning. The School gives you a good grounding and understanding of what it will take to make it in the professional world.



*Standing this midnight on gray cement: Darryl Tracy*



You will:

- learn to perform by performing – a lot!;
- create and produce your own work
- act as a production team for student performances learning roles such as Producer, Stage Manager, Assistant Stage Manager, Business Manager, Sound and Projection Operator, Front of House and Box Office Managers, and in Marketing, Publicity and Fundraising;
- be coached for public speaking for donor events, fundraising, outreach, and master of ceremonies duties;
- be trained as an usher and teaching assistant;
- take roles in student government, on committees, and as a rehearsal space coordinator;
- train in emergency First Aid/CPR;
- have experience preparing for a photo session with an excellent and experienced dance photographer, resulting in high quality head shots and dance shots to further your career; and
- have experience writing and correcting a dance biography, a dance résumé, and a mock grant application, all essential ingredients for a successful dance career

Graduates of the School are noted for their artistic and performance qualities, their technical proficiency, their versatility, and their strength. They have achieved success as performers and choreographers in companies and as independent artists. Graduates are also working as artistic and rehearsal directors, choreographers, teachers, and dance-related practitioners. In addition to Toronto Dance Theatre, which has drawn a majority of its current members from the School's Professional Training Program, the School has sent an impressive number of graduates to major Canadian and international companies.

Other alumni have initiated their own dance collectives, festivals, and schools. Some have continued with their studies for combined degrees, or have gone on to apply their knowledge of dance beyond the stage. The School is continually innovating to meet the demands of an ever-evolving art form. At its heart, the School will continue to share its expertise and passion, sparking inspiration and creativity.

**My dance training at the School has been absolutely critical in supporting me as a mover, a performer, a teacher and a human being! I can't imagine how my life would have turned out if I hadn't had the opportunity to learn from the teachers and cohort when I did."**

**Jennifer-Lynn Crawford**, 2002 graduate, UK-based teacher and performer: Hagit Yakira, ProDance Leeds, Northern School of Contemporary Dance, Charlotte Spencer Projects, Hofesh Shechter

# Student Profiles

## MICHAEL RAYSON

*Nominated for the 2019 Dance Ontario Youth Award  
Winner of the 2019 Dance History Award*

Michael started dancing at age 12, and pushed himself to train hard to catch up to dancers his age. He is passionate about promoting males in dance, and breaking gender stereotypes. Since coming to the School, he has received the highest accolades from his teachers. He is a fantastic dancer and, without doubt, has huge potential. He is a natural leader and a generous, dependable, and trustworthy student. Michael is keen to teach, choreograph, and help other young dancers discover the joy and power of dance.



## ANDREA ROJAS ORTIZ

*Winner of the 2020 Creative Process 3 Award  
Winner of the 2019 Kathryn Ash Scholarship*

From Toluca, Mexico, Andrea started her dance training in jazz at the age of eight. Pursuing her dream of becoming a professional dancer, she moved to Queretaro, Mexico, to study at a performing arts high school. After graduating, she performed with a local dance company, and received two gold medals as best performer in a major dance competition. Motivated to expand her professional and personal boundaries, Andrea moved to Canada to study at the School, where she is living dance to the fullest.

## MARÍA ISABEL SALGADO

*Co-Winner of the 2020 Winchester Prize*

María danced for many years at a musical theatre academy at her home in Colombia, and then in a university program for performing arts. There, she met a graduate of the School, and decided to come to Toronto. At the School, she has especially appreciated opportunities like the Choreographic Workshop and the student-run Coffee House performances. She's grateful to have had a platform to present her work, with feedback. She is a wonderful dancer and a gifted choreographer, and is looking forward to the future.



# Your University Degree

## B.F.A. ELIGIBILITY

On successful completion of the School's three-year program, you will be eligible to **apply for admission to the York University Dance Department** and will be able to complete your degree in **two years**. The York University-School of Toronto Dance Theatre program is an Honours B.F.A. program offered jointly with York University.

The relationship between the academic and professional worlds is one of the School's core features, and one of the keys to student success.

For more information on this joint program, please contact us.

## M.A./M.F.A. POTENTIAL

The School's PTP is considered to be **equivalent to an undergraduate degree in dance** for the purposes of admission to many graduate programs. Our graduates have gone **directly into Masters' programs** including Canada's McGill University and York University; The Institute of the Arts, Barcelona; M.F.A. State University of New York, Brockport; and in England: The London Contemporary Dance School, Middlesex University, and Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, among others.

“ The School of Toronto Dance Theatre had a huge impact on my career as a small business owner in the fitness industry. I have to give huge credit to the School for helping me to be the strong, driven professional that I am today. Beyond the high quality of physical training I received it was the push to be a hard-working, self-driven, collaborative, and creative individual that has helped me achieve my goals.”

**Emma-Kate Millar,**  
**(2006 School graduate,**  
**2010 York University graduate),**  
teacher and business owner,  
Body Mason Pilates, Toronto





Rosemary James and students of the School

## Tuition & Fees

### Tuition

Fees for the 2021-22 school year are:

- \$6,790 (domestic)
- \$8,148 (international), plus
  - \$300 for a non-optional performance series fee
  - \$135 for a non-optional book fee (first-year students only)
  - \$60 for non-optional book fee (second-year students only), and
  - \$300 for a non-optional photo shoot fee (third-year students only)

All fees are in CAD\$.

**Fees are subject to change.**

### Financial assistance

We recognize that financing your education can be a challenge. Select scholarships and bursaries are available to students in all three years of our Professional Training Program.

Students enrolled in the Professional Training Program may be eligible, if qualified, for assistance under the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) or financial assistance programs in their provinces or territories of residence.

Please contact the School office for more information and visit the Professional Training Program section on our website for details of bursaries and awards.



# Admission

## Application information

In order to be eligible for the Professional Training Program, applicants must:

- be a high school graduate (or equivalent), or have mature student status
- have a minimum of one year of advanced dance training
- be at least 17 years of age
- audition

## Audition Dates

To begin the program in September 2021:

**January 31, 2021**

Application deadline: January 15, 2021

**July 17, 2021**

Application deadline: July 9, 2021

## How to apply

- complete and submit an application form with all supporting documents and a fee of \$100
- attend an audition or submit a video

Application forms (including requirements) can be downloaded from [schooloftdt.org/ptp/admission/apply](https://schooloftdt.org/ptp/admission/apply).

If you have any questions about the application process, please contact us.

**We encourage serious applicants to attend our pre-professional Summer Intensive (July 5-16, 2021).**



Mario (Xiongfei) Ma (China), Adeline Faucher (France), Momoko Kawada (Japan), Chihiro Nukuto (Japan)

## An International School

The spirit of the School is always open, welcoming the world. The School plays a key role in preparing all students to offer their craft, creativity, and artistry to the world. Students from across Canada, including First Nations, as well as from **more than 30 countries**, have been drawn by the School's reputation for excellence. A true "global village", our studios are abuzz with the activities of students from different dance milieus and backgrounds. As a student at the School, you will become a part of a **close-knit community** and meet new friends from around the world who share your passion for dance.

The School welcomes international students, and video auditions are available. Once accepted, you will need to obtain a study permit and any other appropriate documents from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.

Students have come from

# 30+

countries around the world

"There are days of excitement, pain, joy, frustration, satisfaction, fear, and perseverance; there will also be days when you will feel you can't possibly do it. **It takes a lot to be an artist, but as in life, each moment brings its own blessings.** I am forever grateful."

**Geanderson Mello**, 2017 graduate  
from Barbacena, Brazil



# Living in Toronto

## THE SCHOOL

The School of Toronto Dance Theatre is located in the heart of historic Cabbagetown, on the east side of downtown Toronto. We are situated in a heritage-designated renovated church, which is also home to Toronto Dance Theatre (TDT) and the Winchester Street Theatre. With shops and cafés right on our doorstep, and only a short distance from the heart of the city, the School is ideally located for all aspects of student life.

## SCHOOL FACILITIES

- Four fully-equipped dance studios
- In-house, 125-seat theatre
- Access to dressing rooms, showers, and sauna

## THE CITY

Toronto is one of the most vibrant and multicultural cities in the world, making it an extremely exciting place to live. Throughout the year, the streets and neighbourhoods are alive with entertainment and the buzz of major sporting events, internationally renowned performances, global festivals, a hugely diverse selection of restaurants, and everything from vintage thrift shops to high-end designer stores. There really is something for everyone here!

For more information about the city, please visit [seetorontonow.com](http://seetorontonow.com)

## HOUSING & ACCOMMODATION

The School does not have housing or student residences, however we are able to provide information and guidance that may assist students in their search for housing.



Students of the School in an open class as part of Fall for Dance North's 'Open Studio' at Toronto's Union Station



**Contact us:**

The School of Toronto Dance Theatre


80 Winchester Street  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4X 1B2 Canada  
416-967-6887 Ext. 22  
andrea@schooloftdt.org


Photography:  
Colin Frotten, Marlowe Porter, Cylla von Tiedemann,  
Jeremy Wulkan, Jae Yang, Timothy Yeung  
Design: Jae Yang, Colin Frotten  
Front cover: Kari Labrentz  
Back cover: Yiming Cai

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The School of Toronto Dance Theatre's Professional Training Program is approved as a vocational program under the Private Career Colleges Act, 2005.

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*Pour obtenir des renseignements en français, veuillez nous visiter au [schooloftdt.org/fr/ptp/](http://schooloftdt.org/fr/ptp/)*