



ASSEMBLÉE INTERNATIONALE 2009

Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet School



In 1938, Gweneth Lloyd and Betty Farrally, two dynamic and enthusiastic teachers, left England and arrived in Winnipeg to share their love of dance with the people of Winnipeg. In 1939, The Canadian School of Ballet began with six dancers training under the careful eyes of Miss Lloyd and Miss Farrally. The two women also founded the Winnipeg Ballet Club, which held its first performance in 1939 dancing to two prairie-accessible pieces *Grain* and *Kilowatt Magic*. Both pieces were choreographed by the two founders and were performed by students of the School.

In 1938, Gweneth Lloyd and Betty Farrally travelled from England to Winnipeg to open The Canadian School of Ballet. They also established the Winnipeg Ballet Club, which held its first performance in 1939, danced by students of the School. By 1940, the School was already welcoming testers from the Royal Academy of Dancing to adjudicate students. In 1943, The Winnipeg Ballet was formed, exclusively made up of School graduates.

In 1957, the School ended its connection with The Royal Winnipeg Ballet (made Royal by Queen Elizabeth II in 1953), but the two women continued to run the School. In 1962, the company took over the School and it became known as the School of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, with Jean McKenzie as the principal.

In 1970, the School began to operate under the two separate divisions, General (now Recreational) and Professional. David Moroni assumed the role of Artistic Director of the School, and he established a training program designed to produce highly trained classical dancers and ensure the Company had a continuous stream of emerging talent. The School, throughout its years, developed a successful training system that is unique to them and their students, and matches that of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet Company.

It has also been a priority for the School to develop a strong modern dance component to its curriculum. This contemporary work incorporates elements of the Martha Graham, José Limon and Merce Cunningham techniques. To support the artistic training of the dancers, an integrated academic and dance program was developed in 1994, and a residence housing 60 students was built in 1995.

Arlene Minkhorst

Director, Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet School



Ms Minkhorst graduated from the National Ballet School of Canada in 1976 and from Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet School in 1979. She performed in numerous productions with Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet before deciding to direct her energies to teaching full-time.

In 1979, Ms Minkhorst joined the teaching team of the RWB School and was named Vice-Principal in 1991. For the 2002/03 season, she was appointed Associate Director and in July 2004 she took over the directorship of the RWB School from founding Director, David Moroni, C.M.

Throughout her years with the RWB School, Ms Minkhorst has taught all levels of ballet and pointe technique, repertoire classes, conducted rehearsals for performance and taught in the RWB Schools' Teacher Training Program.

She has toured Manitoba and neighbouring provinces with Concert Hour Ballet, the schools performing group and presented lectures about dance and dance training in public schools.

Ms Minkhorst recognized the importance and the need for the school to have an integrated academic and ballet program and worked closely with Nelson MacIntyre Collegiate and Nordale School to develop the current academic/dance structure. She continues to work as a liaison between the RWB School and its academic partners.

In 1996 and 1997, Ms Minkhorst facilitated the restructuring of the RWB School Recreational Division. She initiated a special boys program that now provides dance instruction to over 250 boys a year.

Ms Minkhorst has worked as a guest teacher and adjudicator for dance festivals and dance competitions across Canada and the United States. Since April 2004 she has been a member of the jury for the Youth America Grand Prix in New York, NY. She has guest taught for dance schools across Canada, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet Company and the Basel Ballet Company in Switzerland.

Ms Minkhorst has travelled to Europe to observe classes, performances and operations at other internationally recognized schools, including the Paris Opera Ballet School, the Royal Ballet School and the English National Ballet School.

Alex Lantz

Student Choreographer, Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet School

Born in Rockford, Illinois, Alex Lantz began dancing at the Rockford Dance Company at the age of seven. Ten years later he moved to Winnipeg in 2006 to attend Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet School Professional Division.

Alex has danced several lead roles in the RWB School's year-end performances of *In Concert*, such as "Alain" in *La Fille mal gardée* and "Gamache" in *Don Quixote*. He has also toured with

Concert Hour Ballet and was featured in Ballet in the Park, where he appeared in Founding Professional Division Director David Moroni's "Pas de Quatre", Associate RWB School Director Jordan Morris' "Deverell" and the classic pas d'action from Laurencia.

In addition to performing, Alex has choreographed works for the RWB School's First Steps Choreographic Workshop Competition and was awarded the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School Award in 2009 for his piece "The Sea Within Us."

Alex is currently studying within the RWB School Aspirant Program and hopes to continue choreographing after a successful career in professional dance.