



2021 Ken McCarter Award Recognizes Two Distinguished NBS Alumni for their Contributions to Dance

April 28, 2021 – Canada’s National Ballet School is thrilled to announce two recipients of the 2021 Ken McCarter Award for Distinguished NBS Alumni for their transformational contributions to local, national, and international communities of dance—creating opportunities for people of all ages and levels of experience to connect with and learn from the art form. The 2021 laureates of the award are:

Miriam Weinstein Adams, CM (class of 1963): an influential figure in Canadian dance history, creating ground-breaking projects and partnerships that shape the way we view, practice, and document the art form. As co-founder of Dance Collection Danse—Canada’s national dance archives and publishing house—Adams has stewarded a legacy and history of dance in Canada for the benefit of many generations.

Jason Beechey (class of 1988): a global leader in creating opportunities for young dancers-in-training and a powerful advocate for the broad social relevance of dance-training institutions. As Rector of the Palucca Hochschule für Tanz Dresden, Beechey offered singular leadership during COVID-19, developing some of the first protocols that positioned dance-training institutions around the world to successfully reopen after initial lockdowns.

“The Ken McCarter Award for Distinguished NBS Alumni is a powerful reminder of the extraordinary capacity of NBS graduates to follow meaningful and varied paths,” says Mavis Staines, NBS’ Artistic Director and CEO. “This year’s recipients also demonstrate the relevance and constant evolution of dance itself. They send an inspiring message to current NBS students—and dancers everywhere—that this is a dynamic art form with the power to shape many people’s lives for the better.”

Reflecting on their time at NBS, the winners share:

“My most poignant memories [at NBS] are of my fellow dancers with whom I could share the joys and frustrations of preparing for a career in dance (and we remain friends to this day!)” says Adams. “To the students attending NBS today: you have chosen an education that can lead to a variety of opportunities in dance and in other art forms—beyond performance, as well as in a multitude of other sectors—proven by the achievements of many NBS graduates over 60 years.”

Beechey says: “My time at NBS still continues, but if I had to pick a favourite memory from my student days, it would be all the time spent with classmates and teachers who have become my extended family. The bonds keep growing tighter and tighter as the years go by. It has been a

challenging year to say the least, but it has been great to see how the dance world has grown even closer together and given new value and meaning to being part of a close-knit and supportive community. We are all human, we are all in this together, and the more we can learn from each other and share our experiences, the richer and stronger we all are.”

Established in 2017, the award highlights the inspiring range of significant contributions that NBS alumni make in their chosen fields and communities. Nominations are submitted by fellow NBS alumni to recognize their peers’ commitment to moving the world forward through their professional activities.

The Award is named for the late W. Kenneth McCarter, an NBS Board Director for eight years who had special admiration for the many and varied accomplishments of NBS alumni. The Award in Ken’s name is designed to acknowledge the important contributions to public service made by NBS alumni through a broad range of professional activities. Today, on the fourth anniversary of Ken’s passing, NBS honours his memory and commitment to the School.

- 30 -

Sapna Goel
Director, Brand Engagement and Content
Canada’s National Ballet School
sapna.goel@nbs-enb.ca