



## Inaugural Canada-United States Symposium Addresses Racialization in Ballet

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On January 28-29 and February 4-5, Canada's National Ballet School, The Dance Institute of Washington and Lauri Fitz-Pegado will co-host an inaugural Canada-US symposium for a comprehensive exploration of racial equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in ballet.

The online *Addressing Racialization in Ballet* symposium will engage in meaningful and solutions-oriented discussions of racialization in ballet, with a focus on three pillars that support the credible pursuit and implementation of equity, diversity and inclusion: business success, subjectivity of ballet, and the ethical responsibility of the art form.

This online symposium will convene lived experiences, areas of expertise and innovative ideas from a diverse range of more than 40 multi-generational speakers, panelists and facilitators from Canada and the United States, representing many facets of the arts sector, including administration, performance, instruction, education, and consulting. Presentations and panel topics will include:

- Why Equity Matters
- History, Ballet and Race
- Centering Race Equity in the Culture of Ballet Organization
- Dance Theatre of Harlem: Continuing the Vision (panel)
- Voices of the Next Generation: Conversation with Emerging Artists (panel)
- Opportunities Missed & What the Future Has In Store For Us
- Responsibility and Aspirations to Advance Equity in Ballet (panel)
- Pedagogy and Teacher Training
- Voices of Current Dancers: Changing Environment...or Not? (panel)
- The Role of Awareness and Cultural Competence in Teaching Ballet (panel)
- Why EDI is Good Business: Opportunities and Strategies (panel)
- From Learning to Action: Tools and Resources to Make EDI Happen

The symposium will be hosted entirely online, and is ideal for arts administrators, dance teachers, artists and students. Registration for the full symposium is priced at:

- General registration – \$75 CAD
- Student registration – \$18 CAD

Speaker bios along with the full agenda and registration details are available online at [www.nbs-enb.ca/symposium-2022](http://www.nbs-enb.ca/symposium-2022).

The *Addressing Racialization in Ballet* symposium has been generously sponsored by Brian Miron, with additional support from Ainsliewear and Bloch Canada. Special thanks to The Blidner Family Foundation for their support of NBS initiatives that create equity, diversity and inclusion within dance communities.

**From the co-hosts:**

"I am honored to contribute my relevant experience in dance, diplomacy, public relations, business and leadership to this critical work. Essential change in ballet will be informed by this symposium's diverse voices."

– [Lauri Fitz-Pegado](#), Advisor, Author of *Dancing in the Dash*

"I think I am most excited about the symposium creating the space for very real and possibly difficult, but authentic, conversations around the evolving role of race and identity in ballet. Now more than ever, there is so much pressure for industries to become more equitable and inclusive but there are not enough safe spaces for us to explore and shift to genuine understanding of why these values matter. Rather than imposing a superficial acceptance of these values, this experience seeks to facilitate an authentic understanding of them and their significance, and I think more of those spaces are needed."

– [Kahina Haynes](#), Executive Director, The Dance Institute of Washington

"I have spent 30 years sharing with people the power of dance, but I have only now understood that this only matters if the delivery of ballet equitably reflects and resonates with the full diversity of society. We have the opportunity and responsibility now to be a part of the most important movement in ballet's evolution in which, with ever-increasing momentum, the delivery of ballet will embody equity, diversity and inclusion. By moving ballet forward in this way, we will create a more vibrant, relevant and overall stronger future for the art form."

– [Mavis Staines](#), Artistic Director and CEO, Canada's National Ballet School

- 30 -

For more information, or to book an interview with the co-hosts, please contact:

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