

CDF 2018 ANNOUNCEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE 2018 EDITION OF CANADA DANCE FESTIVAL

SUSPENDED DUE TO FUNDING SHORTFALL

CDF Board Hopeful Festival Will Return and Thrive in the Future

OTTAWA, ON – The Board of Directors of the Canada Dance Festival (CDF), in consultation with staff and key stakeholders, today announced it would suspend the May 2018 edition of its festival. The Board opted to press pause on next year's festival in order to explore alternate funding options after a series of grants did not come through.

"The decision to suspend the 2018 edition was not an easy one," said CDF Board Chair Denis Walz. "The CDF is a significant player on the Canadian dance landscape. Many artists and people across our country love and depend on this festival. We now have the opportunity to consult with key stakeholders to determine how best to generate stable and predictable funding. Our hope is that, with a renewed vision, the festival can thrive in the future."

It is normal for festival funding to fluctuate from year-to-year. However, the CDF experienced an unexpected loss of funding in the past two fiscal years which has led to insufficient cash flow, making it difficult to pay the full-time staff necessary to plan and run the CDF, and in turn making other ongoing fundraising efforts more difficult.

A Successful Festival

The CDF has generally been successful artistically and financially over the years. The CDF alternated between large and small spring festivals, allowing the event to find efficiencies, pay down debt and deliver balanced budgets. While it continues to be recognized for excellence in programming – for example, the large 2016 festival was a record-breaking box office success – the CDF struggled to find sustainable and predictable funding and to maintain stable staff levels.

The Board of Directors would like to convey its deep appreciation for the outstanding support of the CDF's donors, as well as current and past funders such as the Department of Canadian Heritage, the Ontario Arts Council, the Canada Council for the Arts and the City of Ottawa, as well as the National Arts Centre.

The Canada Dance Festival Society Board will be holding its Annual General Meeting in the winter of 2018, and encourages community members and interested parties to attend. An announcement about the AGM and other updates will be made public in the New Year.

About the Canada Dance Festival

The Canada Dance Festival Society is a not-for-profit presenter of contemporary Canadian dance, and a catalyst for the development of the art form. As a national organization presenting live dance performances by Canadian artists, the CDF reflects the diverse cultural and regional landscape of the country, and fosters a stimulating environment for dance community networking, artistic exchange and audience development. Since its inception 30 years ago, the CDF has been presenting, advancing and celebrating dance in Canada, in partnership with its co-producer, the National Arts Centre. Held annually in Ottawa, the CDF has put the spotlight on Canadian achievement in dance performance and creation, and provided a unique showcase for dance artists from across the country. The CDF has commissioned over 95 new works over the past three decades, and helped launch the careers of some of the biggest names in dance in Canada.

Contact:

Ella Matheson

1(306) 502-5095