



Mission Statement

To provide an educational forum for dance students and dance educators as they develop an appreciation for the art form of dance through collaborative dance creation, performance and workshops.

PRESS RELEASE

March 7th, 2018

Ontario Secondary School DANCFEST (OSSDF) is an **inspiring event for dancers** that has been central to the evolution of Dance in Education in the Province of Ontario since 2003. Over the past sixteen years, **thousands of secondary school dancers, educators, community leaders and leading performing artists** have been welcomed to stages across the **province** in an effort to provide a venue for students to celebrate and develop their passion and skill for the art of dancing. This event is significant to **high school and elementary dancers** who might not otherwise have the means to experience dance in such a vibrant and meaningful forum.

OSSDF is proud of our **PARTNERSHIP** with **Katherine Kaszas, Artistic Director of St. Clair College's Musical Theatre Program**, their Dance Faculty and St. Clair College - Centre for the Arts. OSSDF 2018 will be held from **Thursday March 22nd - Sunday March 25th**, 2018 at the Centre for the Arts in downtown Windsor.

OSSDF and St. Clair College have done a wonderful job of bridging the professional and performance "world of dance" together with the enriching and expansive side of dance in the form of curriculum-based dance education for our students and their educators. Our talented and skilled adjudicators and workshop leaders are passionate dance advocates and educators with a "mission" to guide, inspire and provide valuable feedback to our students.

Original dance compositions, choreographed by elementary and secondary students, will be performed on the Chrysler Theatre stage and adjudicated by St. Clair Faculty member **Kristyn Wiklanski** (Radio City Rockettes, Celebrity Cruises), **Anh Nguyen** Artistic Director/Choreographer of *HNM DANCE COMPANY* and **Rochelle LaBrecque** a dancer/actress, choreographer who is filming the fourth season of *Strain*, and has recently filmed *Suicide Squad*; *Country Crush*; *11/22/63*; *Bang Bang Baby*; and, *Life*. Together, with the support of **DANCE ONTARIO**; **Prologue to the Performing Arts**; **DRAMA SOUND**; **WECDSB**, **WRDSB**, **Lululemon**, **Goodlife**, **St. Clair College of the Arts**, and several dance studios in the Windsor area such as **Dance Barre**, **Edmund Towers School of Dance**, **Catz Meow**, **Nancy Pattison's**, **Shihui's Dance School** and **Pure One Dance studio**, this 4 day event will ensure the goal of our OSSDF Board of Directors - to **"Create Pathways to Success"**, as per the 2013.

Ministry of Ontario's program policy, *"designed to help students achieve their personal goals and become competent, successful, and contributing members of society."*

OSSDF wants to assist students as they develop the knowledge and skills they need to make informed education and career/life choices; provide opportunities for this learning both in and outside the Dance in Education classroom; and, engage parents and the broader community...to support our students in their learning of dance arts curriculum.

The event will also include professional performances for our participants by **TOTTERING BIPED THEATRE - Artistic Director, Trevor Copp with Jeff Fox; HNM DANCE COMPANY - Artistic Director, Anh Nguyen; Border City Dance Company - Artistic Director, Melissa Williams;** and, various cultural dances such as **Aboriginal Dance by Herb Snake;** Classical Chinese dance, Highland, Latin and, **Changing Patterns Drum Group - Artistic Director, Carl Harris.**

WORKSHOP DAY on Saturday March 24th 2018 will offer workshops that have been organized for the 400+ dancers; a **BANQUET** to celebrate their achievements; and a **FINAL DANCE SHOWCASE at 10 am Sunday March 25th 2018 on the Chrysler Theatre stage of the St. Clair College - Centre for the Arts.**

The public is invited to attend “any or all” of the 4-day event for a cost of \$15/adults and \$10/students- children under 10 are FREE! The public’s interest to support Dance In Education programs, and especially, the students, who benefit greatly from attending this amazing and unique educational experience, is greatly appreciated.

More information can be found on our website
<http://ontariosecondaryschooldancefest.ca/>

Thank you.
Respectfully submitted,

Laurel Brown,
President, OSSDF

CC

Vice President/Secretary: Melissa Lolarga Chiandussi, St. Thomas of Villanova
C.S.S. (Windsor)

Non-Competitive Events Rep: Glenys McQueen Fuentes

Post-Secondary Rep: Debra Kapp, (retired) Lester B. Pearson School of the Arts
(London)

Secondary Education Rep: Cathy Harris, St. Thomas of Villanova C.S.S., OISE
Instructor of Dance AQ (Windsor)

Elementary Rep: Nancy Vaillancourt, L.A. Demarais (Windsor)

Alumni and Media Rep: Meagan Ferriss, York University (Toronto)

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Check us out on Facebook Ontario Secondary School DANCEFEST*