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# FIRST CITY

*Monthly Newsletter*

*Inside the Issue*



## DANCE ART SUMMER CAMPS

Look no further than FCSD for quality summer dance programming. We introduce DANCE ART summer camps.

## ADULTS WHO DANCE

Our first annual FCSD Adult Dance Conference was a success! We welcomed over 60 participants who attended many of our 23 different classes. Hear from one of our adult dancers as to why it was a highlight of her year.

## HOSTING BALLET KELOWNA

We are grateful to our community partners, The Imperial Theatre, for the opportunity to host Ballet Kelowna on their Atlantic Canada tour.

## DANCE ART

*Summer camps for aspiring artists*

At FCSD artistry is just as important as developing sound technique. They are equal pieces to the whole picture. Our summer programming will focus on developing artistry through dance with a connection to the visual arts. Dancers can expect full days of exploring their own artistry through dance and other artistic mediums. Dancers will experience classes in ballet, jazz, contemporary, hip hop, musical theatre and choreography. Outings throughout beautiful uptown Saint John are included. The camps are targeted to two age groups, 5 - 8 years and 9 - 12 years. DANCE ART camps are about dance, visual art, outings and fun extras! More information to be revealed soon!





Masterclass participants with Joanna Lige, Rehearsal Director of Ballet Kelowna

## HOSTING BALLET KELOWNA

We were honoured to be asked to host Ballet Kelowna during their Atlantic Canada tour. Our studio was filled with professional dancers taking their company classes. They also offered a masterclass for aspiring dancers from local studios. Our dancers made new connections to their learning with Rehearsal Director, Joanna Lige.

## ADULTS WHO DANCE

*by Heidi Smith*

Attending the First City School of Dance Adult Dance Conference has been the highlight of 2022 to date. I feel very fortunate to live in an area that has such a thirst for DANCE and has so many options for ADULTS! I began dancing at 3 but haven't had tons of opportunities to dance as an adult. The First City Adult Dance conference has allowed me to try many classes that I haven't taken in 30+ years and permitted me to dip my toes into new genres. The passion felt by the instructors and adults over the past week has been infectious and electrifying! I am excited to continue my dance journey and try some of the many adult classes offered this upcoming session.

## BALLET KELOWNA MAMBO AND OTHER WORKS

*by Mauricio Santos*

Our school was invited to watch Ballet Kelowna's show last Sunday at the Imperial Theatre. The company performed three pieces. The opening, called Cuatro Estaciones, involved ten dancers who performed tango-inspired pieces representing each season of the year. The second program was a delightful interpretation of the incredible and infamous Bolero de Ravel. Four male dancers and the female lead Kelsey Hanna were on stage throughout the whole performance. Mambo closed the night with very energetic and colorful choreography. As the artistic director, herself said, the songs were inspired by the immigration songs of the choreographer's grandparents and the dances they used to do after a meal to shake off the winter blues. Indeed we left the theatre with that warmth in our hearts.



Adult Prior Experience Contemporary - FCSD Adult Dance Conference





Development Weekend Participants from First City and Cobequid Dance Academy



Ballet with Diana Rutherford

# FCSD YOUNG COMPANY VISITS COBEQUID DANCE ACADEMY

*by Marcia Dysart*

FCSD Young Company had a phenomenal weekend of dance at Cobequid Dance Academy Inc.'s Development Weekend. The visit took place from Feb.18th - 21st. Our dancers danced full 8 hour days, learning from professionals in ballet, jazz and modern dance. Along with technique class, they were taught repertoire in each style for an informal performance that was held at the end of the weekend. To say these dancers worked hard is an understatement. They were challenged and inspired and their teachers were impressed by their professionalism and thirst for learning. I was privy to many conversations and loved hearing about the friendships they were making and the 'lightbulb' moments they had in class. As a school, we have made new connections that will aid in the growth of our faculty and ultimately the quality of our education. Chris Greene, jazz teacher extraordinaire, has been added to our faculty and will be teaching our Young Company twice a month starting in March! Providing enhanced learning opportunities to help dancers reach their technical and artistic goals is at the core of our mission. This is the first of many opportunities dedicated to making memories and expanding our dancer's dance education.



Jazz with Chris Greene



Hanging out at our Airbnb