



DESIRÉE DUNBAR
MODERN

Desirée Dunbar is award winning dance-artist and the creator of Catalyst Dance Year-long Mentorship Program in Vancouver, British Columbia. She lights the way for young dancers to embrace their gifts, fill up their personal development toolbox and activate their potential.

Desirée resonated with dance legend Martha Graham's movements early on in her dancing career and has gone on to be one of few Canadians to teach the traditional technique. She has had the honor of instructing at various schools including Simon Fraser University, University of Arizona, Centre National de la Danse (Paris, France) and Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music & Dance (London, UK). She is on faculty at Arts Umbrella teaching Modern to dancers age eight to eighteen.

Her teaching method addresses the whole person and includes mindset, meditation and awareness techniques. She believes that by dancing we can become more empowered, satisfied and joyful.

Her company Dezza Dance is Artist-in-Residence with the City of Vancouver and is currently in rehearsals for a new work, *A Port in the Storm* that leads the audience through various rooms of the historic Aberthau Mansion in West Point Grey.

She received a full scholarship to complete a Masters in Fine Art from the University of Arizona. Highlights include developing her signature dance psychology method of performance training, rehearsal director position for the Martha Graham Dance Company, and her MFA Thesis production *The Astro Dance* presented in collaboration with astronomers in the Flandreau Planetarium.

She is a recognized leader in community dance haven developed various programs in the past decade including the Startdance Adult Recreational Ensemble and Collaborative Creative Dance Workshops for Older Adults.

While a member of Judith Garay's, Dancers Dancing Repertory Company from 2000- 2015 she danced in principal roles of over twenty new works by esteemed Canadian choreographers including Serge Bennathan, Anik Bouvrette, Santee Smith and David Earle and was featured on the front page of the *Dance Current*.

NOTE FROM DESIRÉE - As an adjudicator it is my intent to encourage young dancers to be confident in body, mind and spirit and to venture beyond their comfort zone to experience deep self-worth and artistic excellence. I am delighted to be adjudicating at the 37th Annual Manitoba Provincial Dance Festival.