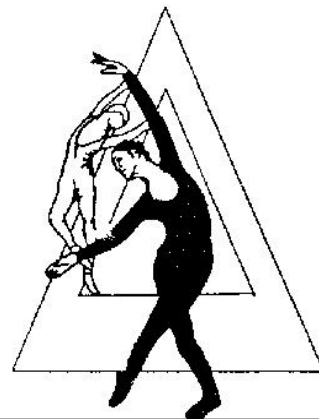


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**K**ittiwake  
**D**ance  
**T**heatre

# NEWS



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Volume 6, Number 1

April 2006

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## KITTIWAKE DANCE THEATRE: TWENTY YEARS LATER

**KITTIWAKE DANCE THEATRE** became a legal entity in March, 1987, but was born in 1986 out of the "Young Dancers Program" which was a part of Newfoundland Dance Theatre.

Kittiwake Dance Theatre has since become the Province's oldest non-profit dance company (with charitable status) and makes its home in St. John's. Its repertoire of over fifty works incorporates a variety of styles and subjects from the dramatic to the humorous and the traditional to the contemporary, with numerous works reflecting the province's rich history and cultural heritage.

Kittiwake Dance Theatre (KDT) offers several productions per year which include **THE NUT-CRACKER** in December, one in the spring (or fall) and one in the summer. The last two generally feature a mixed program of contemporary works. In addition, KDT participates in numerous other productions throughout the year. In the past these have included performances with the Youth Symphony, Dance Collage, musicals, festivals, various benefits and other independent performing groups. KDT can also be seen on the streets of St. John's, in parks and at various festivals in the form of busking – short choreographed mime vignettes, improvisations and juggling.

In addition to providing the public with quality performances, Kittiwake Dance Theatre's mandate includes an obligation to nurture the art of

dance by providing local students and performers with workshops and residencies with not only KDT's artistic staff but also with touring companies and artists. Over the years these projects and residencies have included Desrosiers Dance Theatre; Danny Grossman Dance Theatre; Toronto Dance Theatre; Winnipeg Contemporary Dance Theatre; Randy Glynn Dance Project; Montreal Dance; Motus O Dance Theatre and The National Ballet School. In addition, there have been a number of independent artists in residence including: Peggy Baker, Paul Winston, Jennifer Dick, Nicholas Kahn, Denise Fujiwara, Rebekah Rimsay and Elizabeth Langley. These workshops were open to all local performers and students with the appropriate level of training. Many became a part of our outreach program which takes workshops into high schools, and university programs, elementary schools and special interest groups.

In 2003, Kittiwake Dance Theatre's Artistic Director was asked by Mavis Staines (Artistic Director, The National Ballet School (NBS) to join a committee at the NBS to seek ways in which the NBS could play a more expanded and integral role in dance communities across Canada. In October 2004, St. John's was selected by this committee for a pilot project which involved a number of events involving local public schools and school teachers, local dance students, musicians and the general public. The result of that

(...continued on Page 4)

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# KITTIWAKE DANCE THEATRE

HONOURARY PATRON: JOHN C. PERLIN C.M., V.O.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Margaret Hitchens, Chair

Lorraine Brown  
Regina Edwards  
Jessica Webb

Brad Burness  
Heather Morgan

Dr. Frank Duff  
Susan Morrison

## KITTIWAKE GUILD

Lorraine Brown  
Geri Hill-Winsor  
Gisele Small

Sharon Buehler  
Ingrid Pardoe  
Catherine Williams

Regina Edwards  
Mary Prowse

## ARTISTIC STAFF

Linda Rimsay, Artistic Director  
Jennifer Foley, Ballet Consultant  
Martin Vallée, Resident Choreographer  
Richard Stoker, Technical Director

## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE 2006

Kittiwake Dance Theatre is Newfoundland's oldest not-for profit dance company. Your support will help KDT continue to provide Newfoundland audiences with quality performances reflecting the depth and breadth of the world of dance.

KDT is a not-for-profit organization with charitable status, run by a volunteer board of directors.

Our members help sustain Kittiwake Dance Theatre's activities. Members over 18 years of age may also vote at the Annual General Meeting.

Annual membership costs \$25 for an individual or a family. Donations are also gratefully accepted. If this newsletter does not have a membership insert, please call or email Kittiwake and we would be happy to send you one. Thanks for your support!

## Linda Rimsay - Pioneer in the Arts

March 8<sup>th</sup> was International Women's Day. As part of the celebrations, the RCA Theatre Company's "Ladies of Misrule" paid tribute to pioneering women in the arts in Newfoundland and Labrador. Sheilagh Guy Murphy led the charge as performers such as Amy House, Anne Budgell, Anita Best, Catherine Wright, Daphne Morgan, Donna Butt, Marian Francis White, Tessa Crosbie and Vicky Hynes paid tribute to Georgina Stirling, Grace Butt, Joan Morrissey, Kate Wilson, Lois Saunders, Margaret Duley, Minne White, Rae Perlin, and Linda Rimsay.

Linda's long history of contribution to the arts community in the province is certainly worthy of recognition. In the past, Linda has also been awarded the honour of St. John's YM-YWCA Woman of Distinction. We are delighted that Linda has once again been recognized for all of her time and talent, and we offer our warmest congratulations.

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# Literature and Dance

One of the unique properties of culture in this province is the fact that the various art forms are still performed informally in family homes and communities. We still tell stories and step dance in our homes and at community events. Much of this participation at the amateur level is missing in the larger centres where "art" is done primarily by professionals. When this link with the "kitchen" is missing, art tends to become an elitist activity and more of a "spectator sport." In any discipline, art not only loses its practitioners, it loses its audience, especially as the costs of performance and attendance go up.

Furthermore, without this link to its roots, "art" often loses its spontaneity and many of its benefits to society. It tends to lose its ability to reflect reality, to speak to peoples' concerns, to serve as a commentator on the times, a preserver and a recorder of those times.

One of Kittiwake Dance Theatre's goals has always been to maintain this crucial link with those elements which make people want to move and to dance. Part of this has occurred through our selection of repertoire. Many of our works were inspired by local folklore and the geography of the province. Other works reflect general philosophical concerns of people everywhere for example: inter-relationships, spiritual and moral questions. Not to be overlooked is

the importance of a good story and/or pure entertainment.

Equally important is the relationship of one art form to another and the use of one art to enhance the understanding of another. In an attempt to maintain the relationship of art and the community Kittiwake Dance Theatre has developed a program which includes the creation of new works as well as the remounting of works in the repertoire which are based on literary works.

This program brings to life works of literature through the combined arts of dance, music, costuming and lighting. The purpose of the project is to give life to the printed page and to create characters that are three dimensional who can reach out to the audience. In essence, Kittiwake Dance Theatre's goal is to create in our audiences an interest in both literature and dance.

The first installment of this begins as a part of our April production which includes **JOCASTA**, based on the story of Oedipus and **L'AUTRE**, inspired by Sartre's one act play **NO EXIT**. We will also premiere a new work based on Edgar Allen Poe's story **TELL-TALE HEART**. In May we will begin rehearsals for another Poe short story, **THE PIT AND THE PENDULUM** which is scheduled to premiere in the summer of 2006.

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## ALICE STORY AN ARTIST AND A FRIEND

Alice Story, a musician, writer and friend of Kittiwake Dance Theatre passed away the end of 2005. Many of you remember her musical compositions which captured the action in the silent film series at MUN some years ago. In addition, she was an author of numerous short stories and two novels: **BENEATH THE BARRENS** and **PHOEBES**.

Alice's daughter Kate was among the first to join Newfoundland Dance Theatre's "Young Dancers" and later contributed choreographic works to Kittiwake Dance Theatre's repertoire. It is through Kate that we met Alice who later composed music for a number of Kittiwake works including **TECHNIQUE NO BARRES HELD**; **EXTRA, EXTRA** and **THE HAG**. Alice also performed the role of a maid in the early productions of **THE NUTCRACKER** when it was performed at the LSPU Hall.

Kittiwake's Artistic Director spent many wonderful hours in Alice's living room and around her kitchen table as they worked out the music and choreography of several works.

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# COMING UP THIS SUMMER

## JULY & AUGUST

This summer, Kitiwake Dance Theatre will be performing works with occasional guest artists from the local dance community. These performances will include works from the repertoire as well as new works. These performances will be at Kitiwake Dance Theatre.

We will also be performing mime and juggling on the streets and in the parks of St. John's throughout the summer, weather permitting.

## AUGUST

The first weekend in August Kitiwake Dance Theatre will be presenting works at **SummerDance** in Pippy Park, weather permitting.

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## KDT - 20 YEARS LATER

(...continued from Page 1)

project was that two more cities in Canada were chosen for similar projects in 2006.

Furthermore, this program was so successful here that it has been expanded from three days to five in April 2006 and, for the first time; it will include communities beyond the City of St. John's.

Kitiwake Dance Theatre's Board of Directors examined the company's mandate, trends in theatre and dance and decided to spend time revamping the performance season in a manner which will provide dancers, choreographers and audiences with more frequent and affordable participation.

The first step was to alter our facility so that it could act both as a rehearsal and a performance space. This is now completed and, depending on the configuration used by the performers/choreographers, the facility can accommodate up to forty audience members. The reason for this change was two-fold: Kitiwake Dance Theatre needs to perform more often and the costs of venues have increased considerably; and with no additional overhead, a lower ticket price can be offered making art more accessible.

In addition to its productions and residency projects, Kitiwake Dance Theatre has been a founding member of several organizations including: The Association of Cultural Industries; The Dance Teachers Association of Newfoundland and Labrador, Dance Events Inc.; Arts Depot; Sharing The Expertise; and Kitiwake's Arts Emporium.

Our facilities have continued to provide rehearsal space for numerous theatre and dance groups and independent dancers. It has become a place where many performing artists meet and exchange ideas and rehearse.

Kitiwake Dance Theatre is a non-profit organization run by an annually elected board of directors. The company has received grants from numerous organizations including: The Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council; the City of St. John's; Human Resources and Development Canada; Challenge; Strategic Employment Opportunity Program; Canadian Heritage and The Canada Council. In addition to government support and a wide range of fundraising activities, Kitiwake Dance Theatre relies on donations and corporate sponsorships.

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# Artistic Director's Notes

It is hard to believe that twenty years has passed since that night at the LSPU Hall when we announced that Newfoundland Dance Theatre's Young Dancers had become **KITTIWAKE DANCE THEATRE**.

An anniversary is both a time to celebrate and a time to reflect. While we have a program of activities to celebrate this occasion, I want to take a moment to acknowledge those who have contributed to dance in this province.

First and foremost are the many dance teachers in this province. It is their students who have become dancers with Kittiwake Dance Theatre and without them we would not exist. Not to be forgotten are those dance teachers of the past who inspired and trained many of those teaching today. For example, from the late thirties to the mid-sixties, the name Galway was synonymous with dance. When you look at dance school recital programs of more recent years you see the influence Phyllis Angel and Judy Fagan had on today's teachers. Not to be overlooked are Mrs. Stringer, Dolly Pohl, Gail Parsons, Geri Hill and Joanne Duff, many of whom have moved out of the province or retired from teaching.

Were it not for Gail Innes, Cathy Ferry and Sharon Walsh there would not have been Newfoundland Dance Theatre, Neighbourhood Dance Works, Atlantic Ballet Company or The New Dance Festival. These were some of the forerunners and contemporaries of Kittiwake Dance Theatre. In the early days of KDT, Sandra Blackmore served as Assistant Artistic Director and later on Jindra Mimra filled the role of Ballet Master for several years. In recent years Martin Vallée has joined us as performer, Ballet Master and resident choreographer and for two years Larissa Rog joined us from Estonia where she was a teacher and dancer.

We would not exist without the dancers themselves. They are the ones who spend hours training, learning new parts, rehearsing and performing. They are the story tellers of the choreographer's tales. Over the years many have left the province to pursue successful careers in dance. Some became dance teachers in both

public and private schools; others have become dancers and choreographers among them: Joanne Fagan, Janet Kearsley, Jennifer Dick, Sarah Stoker, Tristan (Margaret) Rehner, Kate Story, Jill Smith, Tina Fushell, Rebekah Rimsay, Natasha and Kim Pike. Many more have been selected to study at such prestigious professional training programs as Quinte, The Royal Winnipeg, The School of Dance (Ottawa) and the National Ballet School. The list is endless and unfortunately incomplete as records have not been accurately kept.

There are also the visual artists who, in cooperation with light and sound technicians, create the appropriate moods and context through their set and costume designs and help promote the productions through their poster designs.

Not to be over-looked are the musicians – some of whom have created original music for us while others have inspired us with existing music. Dance and music are an inseparable pair.

Arts funding agencies, corporate sponsors, local businesses and private donors have played a significant role in keeping the arts alive and accessible to the public. And, of course, there are the many who have served as volunteers on various committees and as members of Kittiwake Dance Theatre's Board of Directors.

Equally important is you, our audience, for without you there would be no one with whom to share the story and therefore no point in telling it.

Artistic expression, regardless of discipline, depends on a great deal of team work. Over the past twenty years Kittiwake Dance Theatre has had the good fortune of being a part of an incredible team of artists, teachers, technicians, sponsors, volunteers and audiences.

Our thanks to all of you for your contributions and support. We would not exist without you.

**Linda Rimsay**  
**Artistic Director**

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# International Dance Day

## April 29th

On April 29, dancers, dance companies, choreographers and people who like to dance will join in a world wide celebration. It was established in 1982 as a means of attracting attention to the art of dance.

The International Dance Council is the official umbrella organization for all forms of dance in all countries. Founded in 1973, it is a non governmental and non-profit organization within the UNESCO headquarters in Paris where it is based. It embraces all forms of dance and those who perform from amateur to professional.

In recent years various local dance organizations have celebrated the event by providing movement workshops in schools, performances, gathering historical data and providing open forums on various aspects of dance.

This year Kittiwake Dance Theatre celebrates the event with a full month of activities designed to involve anyone and everyone interested in dance as dancer (recreational or professional), choreographer, teacher or spectator.

Please look at Kittiwake's schedule of events and plan to join in the celebration.

## Are You Serious About Dance?

Are you eleven years of age or over and serious about dancing but not yet old enough or technically strong enough to join **Kittiwake Dance Theatre (KDT)**? For several years **KDT** has offered an apprenticeship program designed to prepare the young aspiring dancer for performing with the company.

Available by audition only, this program features classes in modern dance and mime. In addition, apprentices are introduced to house management, costuming, makeup, prop, set design and street performing. As apprentices progress, they are given roles appropriate to their level of expertise. There is also opportunity to understudy various roles.

Being an apprentice with **KDT** **does not** prevent you from studying elsewhere. Most of our dancers and apprentices take classes from various studios throughout the area.

While the most appropriate time to become an apprentice is in the fall, we do hold auditions throughout the year.

For further information call:

**Linda Rimsay, Artistic Director**  
**Kittiwake Dance Theatre**

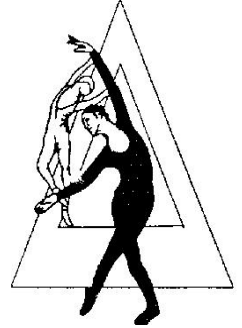
**722-6907**

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# COFFEE FUNDRAISER FOR KITTIWAKE DANCE THEATRE

<http://www.multatuli.ca/>

The Multatuli fundraising program provides nonprofit groups and other organizations an easy way to raise funds on an ongoing basis by supplying friends, family and co-workers with gourmet coffees at very favorable prices. Instead of just asking for donations or selling typical items such as cookies and chocolates, Multatuli provides an alternative with fresh roasted coffee, something most people consume every day. Multatuli also offers Fair Trade certified coffee, which means a better deal for farmers and their communities. For more information on Fair Trade Certified visit [www.transfair.ca](http://www.transfair.ca)



## COFFEES FOR SALE:

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**1 lb. Bag Coffees (\$12.00 each,  
choose from whole bean or ground)**

**Fair Trade Organic French Roast (dark):**

Our most popular blend. Great as a regular coffee but strong enough for an espresso.

**Fair Trade Organic Mexican:**

Dark roasted with big body and sweet aftertaste.

**Fair Trade Organic Guatemalan:**

This medium roast has a wine-like flavor and a sharp finish.

**Fair Trade Organic Ethiopian Limu (light):**

From the birthplace of coffee. Bright coffee with a floral aroma.

**Fair Trade Organic Confederation Blend  
(medium/light):**

Specialty blend, served on Parliament Hill.

**House Decaf:**

Our famous decaf breaks all the rules on decaf taste. This coffee stands on its own with medium body, sharp acidity and excellent aroma.

**300g Can Coffee (\$6.50-\$7.50)**

Our coffee for cans is roasted and packaged immediately using new "valve" technology which permits the coffee to de-gas while preserving the delicate oils. Each can contains 300g and is ground fine. The coffee includes an overcap to reseal the can.

**Choose from four different varieties:**

- **Multatuli Blend (\$6.50)**
- **Buzz (\$6.50)**
- **Fair Trade Certified (\$7.50)**
- **Decaffeinated (\$7.00)**

**To order Multatuli coffees, please email Jessica at [jwebb@nf.sympatico.ca](mailto:jwebb@nf.sympatico.ca) or call Kitiwake at 722-6907. Please be sure to indicate your phone number/email address, quantity and type of coffee desired, and your choice of whole bean or ground for the 11lb bag coffees. We place orders once we have reached at least 25lbs.**

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# Kittiwake Dance Theatre Kicks Off Its 20<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary With A Series Of Events In April

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## OPEN HOUSE

KITTIWAKE DANCE THEATRE  
157 WATER STREET

Saturday, April 1  
10:00 – 4:00

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## PERFORMANCES

KITTIWAKE DANCE THEATRE  
157 WATER STREET

April 8, 9, 13, 15  
20, 21, 22, & 27, 28, 29  
8:00 P.M.

These performances (lasting approximately one hour) include works by Kittiwake Dance Theatre and invited guests including: Martin Vallee, Andrew Draskoy, Jessica Webb, Catherine Wright, Dounia Hamoutene, Andrea Kitta, Alicia Grant; The Neighbourhood Strays, Dounia's Dancers, The English Country Dancers and The Scottish Country Dancers.

The works being performed include a wide variety of styles of dance including ballet, modern dance, belly dancing, folk and ethnic dance to name a few.

Call Kittiwake Dance Theatre for listing of which groups and works are being performed each nights. **722-6907**.

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**KDT NEWS, founded in April 1992, is a publication of**

**KITTIWAKE DANCE THEATRE**

**157 Water Street, 2nd Floor**

**PO. Box 7414, St. John's, NL, A1E 3Y5**

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**website: <http://www.kittiwakedancetheatre.ca>**

**Articles: Linda Rimsay, Jessica Webb**

**Newsletter Editor: Jessica Webb**

## ENTRECHAT

CANADA'S NATIONAL BALLET  
SCHOOL OUTREACH PROJECT

April 3 – 7

Laurel Toto and Anuschka Roes, dance faculty and Craig Wingrove, musician at The National Ballet School will be in St. John's to offer a number of activities involving many facets of the community.

- Open classes for local dance students
- Special workshops in creative movement for grades 4/5 at elementary schools in St. John's, North River, Upper Gullies, Manuels and The School for the Deaf.
- Discussions on dance (open to the public)
- Workshops in creative movement in the classroom at the Arts in Education Conference for Elementary School Teachers.
- Carol Beavers, from The National Ballet School's Shoe Room, will be in St. John's April 3 & 4 for the purposes of fitting dance students with proper fitting pointe shoes and answering questions regarding the fit and care of dance shoes.

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## DANCE FILMS

KITTIWAKE DANCE THEATRE  
157 WATER STREET

April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29  
Saturday Afternoons at 3:00 P. M.

Kittiwake Dance Theatre has a collection of dance videos of various ballets, modern dance works, folk dance and other dance related information which will be shown at the studio for anyone interested in dance. The films are free and refreshments will be sold.

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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON  
THESE EVENTS, PLEASE  
CONTACT LINDA RIMSAY AT  
722-6907**