

# The Arnold Spohr Distinguished Guest Artist Endowment for Dance



## In Celebration of Dance at The Banff Centre

The dance program at The Banff Centre has a long and distinguished history that dates back to the 1940s when Gweneth Lloyd and Betty Farrally, co-founders of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, established the program. Now one of North America's pre-eminent dance training programs, The Banff Centre provides emerging and professional dancers with opportunities to advance their skills under the direction of extraordinary leadership. Dancers in the program are chosen by the artistic directors of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, the National Ballet of Canada, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, Alberta Ballet, Ballet British Columbia, Ballet Jörgen, and Boston Ballet.

The Banff Centre's dance faculty and alumni read like a "who's who" in Canada, including Winnipeg icons Arnold Spohr and Evelyn Hart as well as choreographers Brian Webb, Christopher House, Crystal Pite and Dulcinea Langfelder. The Banff Centre alumni and faculty comprise:

- Over 50 per cent of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, including principle dancer Tara Birtwhistle
- Over 80 per cent of Ballet British Columbia, including artistic director John Alleyne
- One quarter of the National Ballet of Canada, including principle dancer Ryan Boorne
- Over 75 per cent of Alberta Ballet, including artistic director Jean Grand Maître
- One quarter of Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal, including soloist Marie-Eve Lapointe.

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In celebration of The Banff Centre's 75th anniversary and over 60 years of dance, we have established an endowment in the name of legendary dancer and artistic director, Arnold Spohr. This endowment will create a legacy of world-class learning, mentorship, and creative mastery in dance by bringing internationally renowned guest artists to The Banff Centre to instruct promising dancers who attend our programs.

### Mr. Arnold Spohr

As director of the ballet summer school at The Banff Centre, Mr. Spohr was known for bringing exceptional guest instructors to his students. He was also the artistic director of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet for 30 years. Mr. Spohr has retained an advisory role as Artistic Director Emeritus since his retirement from the RWB in 1988. For his many contributions to dance in Canada, Mr. Spohr is honoured with the Governor General's Performing Arts Award, the Companion of the Order of Canada, and the Royal Bank Award for Canadian Achievement. He has also been inducted into the Winnipeg Hall of Fame.

### For more information:

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Mr. Arnold Spohr. Co-head of The Banff Centre Dance Programs, 1968-1981

Being at The Banff Centre taught me to love the arts. I would not be dancing if it weren't for the Centre.

**Tara Birtwhistle**  
principal dancer,  
The Royal  
Winnipeg Ballet



The Banff Centre  
inspiring creativity

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## Extraordinary Leadership in Perpetuity

The Arnold Spohr Distinguished Guest Artist Endowment for Dance will provide sustainable funding for dance programs at The Banff Centre. 100% of your donation will go directly to the endowment – an investment that will work in perpetuity to help ensure that the brightest, most talented and promising participants at The Banff Centre are mentored and taught by extraordinary leaders in the world of dance. The Endowment will enable The Banff Centre to foster the development of exceptionally talented dancers. It will provide the inspiration and instruction they need to make outstanding contributions to their communities, inspired by the legacy of excellence represented by Mr. Spohr.

## Planning for the Future

Endowments are created by a transfer of money or property with the stipulation that it be invested and the principal remain intact. They are the hallmark of leading educational institutions in North America. Banff Centre endowments create exceptional learning opportunities in perpetuity for artists, not-for-profit leaders, and emerging talent in the cultural sector.

## Matching Funds

Endowed gifts received by The Banff Centre until 2010 will qualify for matching funds from the Department of Canadian Heritage's Endowment Incentive Program. The Program provides matching funds of up to one dollar for every dollar raised from private donors.

## Gifts to Endowments – the Impact on Dance in Canada

The Banff Centre's goal is to continue to raise funds for The Arnold Spohr Distinguished Guest Artist Endowment for Dance, an amount that will increase significantly when matched with funds from Canadian Heritage's Endowment Incentive Program.

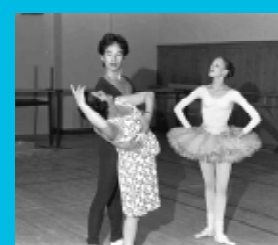
## Gifts to the Arnold Spohr Distinguished Guest Artist Endowment for Dance will:

- Attract internationally distinguished guest artists to The Banff Centre;
- Offer participants access to creativity-based programming of outstanding international calibre;
- Provide exceptional dancers from across Canada the programming, resources, inspiration, and interactions they need to make extraordinary contributions to their art form and their communities, regardless of their means;
- Provide the opportunity for promising and committed dancers to expand their skills through exposure to new techniques;
- Enrich the arts and cultural scene across Canada and beyond through the creation of new work.



I feel liberated creatively here. This is our haven, there's something in the air that allows creative juices to flow.

**Vicki Adams Willis,**  
founder and artistic  
director, **Decidedly Jazz  
Danceworks**



**Natalia Zolotova, Roger Shim and Evelyn Hart in rehearsal at The Banff Centre in 1977.**

To contribute to the Arnold Spohr Distinguished Guest Artist Endowment for Dance, please contact 1.888.495.4467 or visit:

[www.banffcentre.ca/support](http://www.banffcentre.ca/support)



**The Banff Centre**  
inspiring creativity