



# DANCE VICTORIA

THE WORLD'S BEST DANCE

111-2750 Quadra Street,  
Victoria BC Canada V8T 4E8

**DanceVictoria.com**

**Media Contact:** Tracy Smith  
marketing@dancevictoria.com  
250-595-1829

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Dance Victoria Awards Close to \$36,000 to Dance Artists with Annual Chrystal Dance Prize

VICTORIA, B.C. – Dance Victoria recently announced that **Meredith Kalaman** and **Arash Khakpour** are the recipients of the 2017 Chrystal Dance Prize for Independent Dance Artists.

Meredith Kalaman was awarded \$16,000 to bring her work, *Femmes Fatales*, to the stage in Greater Vancouver and Berlin. Kalaman will collaborate with renowned Berlin dramaturge Gabi Beier in the spring of 2017. *Femmes Fatales* will premiere at the Shadboldt Theatre in Burnaby and travel to the ada studio Berlin in August. Kalaman was the recipient of the 2015 Chrystal Dance Prize, including a two-week residency at Dance Victoria Studios and time with Beier during the work's initial creation. She also presented her work-in-progress during Dance Days 2016.

Vancouver dance artist, Arash Khakpour, has been awarded close to \$20,000 for a new duet with Swedish dance artist Emmalena Fredrickson with residencies planned for Victoria, Vancouver and Sweden. Khakpour was featured with his brother Aryo in *Righteous Floater* during Dance Days 2015. The Khakpours also performed at Dance Days' *Rough Cuts* in January.

"We were pleased with the calibre of the submissions for the Chrystal Dance Prize Independent Artists this year," said Stephen White, Executive Producer, Dance Victoria, on behalf of the Dance Victoria Awards Committee. "This award will help Kalaman bring her work to full production. Khakpour has a distinctive voice, a fusion of theatre and dance that really stands apart. These two projects will lead to some exciting international collaborations."

### About the Artists

**Meredith Kalaman** ([www.meredithkalaman.com](http://www.meredithkalaman.com)) is a Contemporary Choreographer and Performer born and raised in Greater Vancouver, B.C. Through the education and sharing of contemporary dance, she supports people, particularly young girls to develop an empowered relationship to their bodies and to foster confidence in being fully self-expressed in the world. Meredith has danced for the Karen Jamieson Dance Company, Dancers Dancing, Judith Marcuse Projects and Movent and performed works by Noam Gagnon, John Ottmann, Kate Franklin, Farley Johansson, Michael Kong, Julie Lebel and Kirsten Wiren. She is a graduate of the Ballet BC Mentor Program. Her choreography has toured Canada, the US and China.

**Arash Khakpour** ([www.bitingschool.com](http://www.bitingschool.com)) is a dancer and choreographer residing in Vancouver. He is a graduate of Out Innerspace's Modus Operandi training program and has completed the EDAM Scholarship Program under the direction of Peter Bingham. Arash had the privilege of working with Out Innerspace Dance Theatre, Kinesis Dance Somatheatro, Wen Wei Dance, Full Performing Bodies, Shay Kuebler, Constance Cooke, Meredith Kalaman, and Battery Opera (David McIntosh). Arash is the co-founder of The Biting School alongside his brother Aryo



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Khakpour. He is privileged to be dancing on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh nation.

### **About the Chrystal Dance Prize**

The Chrystal Dance Prize - Independent Dance Artists is Canada's richest prize for international collaboration supporting new works by independent dance artists living in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia or the Yukon who are working with a dance artist(s) outside Canada. The prize can include a two-week residency at Dance Victoria Studios and the potential of presentation in an upcoming Dance Victoria season. Dance Victoria will be accepting applications for the **Chrystal Dance Prize for Emerging Artists** completing their training at recognized international dance institutions. The application form will be available at [www.dancevictoria.com](http://www.dancevictoria.com) beginning April 10, 2017. Deadline for submission is May 19, 2017.

The Chrystal Dance Prize is generated from a substantial bequest made by Dance Victoria patron, Dr. Betty "Chrystal" Kleiman, to the Victoria Foundation. For additional information, visit: <http://www.dancevictoria.com/in-the-community/chrystal-dance-prize>

Photo headshots available of the CDP winners by contacting [marketing@dancevictoria.com](mailto:marketing@dancevictoria.com).