



# DANCE VICTORIA

THE WORLD'S BEST DANCE

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

[DanceVictoria.com](http://DanceVictoria.com)

**Media Contact:** Tracy Smith  
[marketing@dancevictoria.com](mailto:marketing@dancevictoria.com)  
250-595-1829

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 2, 2018

**Dancers of Damelahamid Celebrate Ancient and Contemporary  
in Margaret Grenier's *Flicker*  
McPherson Playhouse, January 19, 2018, 7:30 pm**

VICTORIA, B.C. – Margaret Grenier, Executive and Artistic Director of **Dancers of Damelahamid**, is conscious of her role in fostering the ancient traditions of the Gitksan First Nations peoples. She and her company of dancers aim to keep these traditions alive, but also redefine them so that they continue to resonate with future generations and promote cross-cultural understanding of first nations heritage.

Grenier and her company, Dancers of Damelahamid, will perform *Flicker* for ONE NIGHT ONLY on **Friday, January 19, 2018** at 7:30 pm at the McPherson Playhouse.

From 1885 to 1951, the Canadian government's potlatch ban outlawed Indigenous traditional practices. Native lineage stories, religious practices, and dance traditions were passed down in secret, when they were passed down at all. Grenier's parents, Ken and Margaret Harris, started the Dancers of Damelahamid in the 1960s to revive the ancient art forms – this time for public audiences, as a powerful healing space for both indigenous people and all Canadians to advance the ongoing process of reconciliation.

*Flicker* is a First Nations contemporary work combining west coast graphic design with projected environments, live-action shadow dance, and vibrant dance regalia. Vividly rich imagery represents the spirit world, the mystical realm portrayed through coastal masked dance. Literally, a flicker is a woodpecker, significant in Northwest coast design for the split-u design of the bird's tail feathers. As a metaphor, flicker represents the flickering of light or moments when one can cross both space and time, as the masked dancers journey in and out of the spirit world of their ancestors.

"We're calling our 2017/18 season *The Year of the Choreographer* and felt that it was important to include Margaret's work," said Stephen White, Executive Producer, Dance Victoria. "*Flicker* honours First Nations heritage with a modern twist. It tells a compelling story about a young man who realizes his potential, a story with a message that bridges cultures."

**Exploring Contemporary Coastal Dance Workshop - January 20**

Dancers of Damelahamid will facilitate a free 90-minute contemporary Coastal Indigenous dance workshop on **Saturday, January 20 from 10:00 am to 11:30 am at the Songhees Wellness Centre**. Participants will gain awareness of the dynamic and innovative qualities of



# 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**

current Indigenous dance practices. Through basic dance instruction and sharing of song and story, participants will engage in the shared experience of dance. Space is limited to 40 participants. You must be 16 years of age or older and have some dance experience. To register, email [RSVP@dancevictoria.com](mailto:RSVP@dancevictoria.com) with the subject line "Coastal Dance".

### **Pre-Show/Post-Show Chats**

Presented by DFH Real Estate | With support from the Victoria Foundation

While the Fathers of Confederation toiled at the table of nation making, two voices were not invited to the discussion: women and Indigenous peoples. Co-curated by Amy Bowring, Director of Collections and Research at Dance Collection Danse, and dance and theatre artist Troy Emery Twigg, *By Invitation Only: Dance, Confederation and Reconciliation* illuminates the stories of how women and dance were essential to networking during the 1864 conferences that led to Confederation. The discussion will also reflect on how Indigenous dance was banned within two decades of Confederation in an attempt to suppress the culture and assimilate Indigenous peoples. Join us for this pre-show chat at 6:45 pm in the McPherson Playhouse lobby.

Theatregoers are also invited to stay for a post-show chat with Dancers of Damelahamid's Executive and Artistic Director/Choreographer Margaret Grenier, and dancers Nigel Grenier and Rebecca Baker. Facilitated by Dr. Allana Lindgren, Chair of the Theatre Department, UVic, the discussion will include *Flicker's* intention as a powerful healing space for indigenous people and all Canadians to advance the ongoing process of reconciliation.

**Tickets:** Check the Royal and McPherson Box Offices for ticket availability and visit [DanceVictoria.com](http://DanceVictoria.com). Single tickets are from \$38.

**Media Materials:** Images with photo credits: [DanceVictoria.com/media](http://DanceVictoria.com/media). Please credit all photos. Password: media-dance-victoria

Dance Victoria's 2017/18 season also includes these exceptional performances at the Royal Theatre: [ODC/Dance](#) Feb 2 + 3, 2018 • 7:30 pm | [Company Wayne McGregor](#) Mar 16 + 17, 2018 • 7:30 pm | [Ballet Hispánico](#) Apr 6 + 7, 2018 • 7:30 pm | [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre](#) May 1, 2018 • 8:00 pm

### **About Dance Victoria**

Dance Victoria brings the World's Best Dance to the Royal Theatre and supports the development of new dance for the international stage from its studios in Quadra Village. Dance Victoria is a non-profit charitable society. [DanceVictoria.com](http://DanceVictoria.com)