



**DANCE
VICTORIA**
THE WORLD'S BEST DANCE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Creativity Thrives During COVID-19:
Dance Residency Program Provides Artistic Opportunities for Emerging
Choreographers**

VICTORIA, B.C. – Dance Victoria is opening access to its studios this summer for emerging choreographers working with dancers on the creation of new work. The [Summer Residency for Emerging Choreographers](#) provides creative and artistic mentorship for local dance makers within a framework that adheres to COVID-19 health regulations.

“In addition to presenting a dance series at the Royal Theatre, Dance Victoria assists with developing professional dance, supporting emerging dance artists and choreographers, and engaging the community in the experience and celebration of dance,” explains Dance Victoria’s Executive Producer, Stephen White. “Since independent dance artists have limited access to resources to realize their vision, we created the [Summer Residency Program](#) to provide free studio space, creative mentorship, and financial support based on each artists’ needs.”

The choreographers, who were selected through a proposal submission process, include **Alexis Fletcher** (Vancouver), **Kelly Hobson** (Victoria), **a Vancouver collective of five dance artists** (Isak and Eowynn Enquist, Ted Littlemore, Brenna Metzmeier, and Sarah Formosa) and **Kathy Lang** (Victoria). They will create new solo and group work under the guidance of the residency’s Artistic Advisor, Susan Elliott. Elliott, an accomplished dance interpreter, choreographer and teacher, will be accessible virtually and in-person, providing task-based creative stimuli and feedback on works-in-progress. The community will be invited to experience the new work (virtually or in person depending on health regulations) and learn about the creation process with the choreographers and dancers.

“COVID-19 has affected how we move forward with the residency, but we’re being innovative, agile and open - finding ways where we can connect artists, foster mentorship and artistic conversations, and continue to support dance artists during this challenging time, while we observe strict health protocols,” said White.

Dance Victoria will promote the residency through short video clips and interviews on [DanceVictoria.com](#). The Summer Residency Program for Emerging Choreographers is supported by the RBC Emerging Artists Project, Canada Council for the Arts, the BC Arts Council, the Capital Regional District, and D’Ambrosio architecture + urbanism.



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About Artistic Advisor Susan Elliott

Now living in Victoria, Susan Elliott has had a significant career as an interpreter, teacher, choreographer and dramaturge beginning in the late 1980s to present day. She trained

Main Dance (Vancouver) as well as at Simon Fraser University with additional studies in NY, Montréal, Toronto and Europe. As a dancer, Elliott was in high demand in the 1990s, performing with all of Vancouver's major dance companies, collectives and choreographers, touring extensively. Beginning in the late 1990s and into the 2000s, she turned her attention to choreography, creating work for herself and her company, *Anatomica*, as well as completing commissions for a range of artists and collectives. Elliott was Rehearsal Director for Company 605 (2011-2017) and Tara Cheyenne Productions (2010 – 2017). In 2019, with dance artist Justine A. Chambers, Elliott was co-Artistic Director of Dance Victoria's Choreographic Lab.

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

Media Contact

Stephen White,
Producer

You can visit DanceVictoria.com for participant's bios and photo headshots or request photos by [emailing us](mailto:marketing@dancevictoria.com).