



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

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

DanceVictoria.com

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Dance Victoria Awards \$40,000 to Support
International Collaboration for
Two BC Dance Artists/Collectives**

VICTORIA, B.C. - Since 2010, Dance Victoria has awarded more than \$300,000 through its **Chrystal Dance Prize - Projects** to support dance artists, collectives or companies from Western Canada that are collaborating with international artists. This year, the Dance Victoria Awards Committee agreed to support two projects from a group of 18 proposals submitted to its Fall 2020 competition, committing a total of \$40,000 in commissioning support.

Vancouver-based dance artist [Ralph Escamillan](#) was awarded \$10,000 to develop a new dance work with Filipino dancer Raul “Buboy” Raquitico entitled *Piña* that will be developed over a two-year period. The first year will focus on research and development. When travel restrictions are lifted, Escamillan will travel to the Philippines to build the choreography. Escamillan is particularly interested in creating costumes with piña fabric, a traditional Filipino fiber made from pineapple leaves.

Dance Victoria has awarded \$30,000 to support a collaboration between Vancouver’s [OURO Collective](#) and German-born, LA dancer RubberLegz. Their project, entitled *7y98D* is focused on climate change and will have two components. First the group will work remotely with RubberLegz to develop a film to be completed in late spring 2021. In the fall of 2021, the collective will integrate the film into a planned live performance suitable for touring. The title of the work was inspired by “The Climate Clock,” a public art installation set on Manhattan’s Union Square. The clock is set to countdown the time remaining for the world to avoid climate disaster. The Collective became aware of the clock when it posted 7 years 98 days in the fall of 2019.



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About the Artists

[Ralph Escamillan](#) is a graduate of Vancouver's Modus Operandi dance training program and apprenticed with Kidd Pivot in 2014. He danced professionally with a range of Vancouver companies including Company 605, Co. Erasga Dance, Kinesis Dance, Out Innerspace Dance Theatre, Wen Wei Dance, Mascal Dance and Ballet BC. In the summer of 2017 Escamillan participated as one of three emerging choreographers in Dance Victoria's inaugural Choreographic Lab led by Artistic Director, Wen Wei Wang. He also has a considerable commercial career dancing in music videos and as a guest dancer for Janet Jackson's *Unbreakable* tour in 2015. His newly formed company, *FakeKnot*, has a mandate to create work that strives to understand the complexity of identity using sound, costume, technology and the body. Escamillan is a leader in the west coast Vogue Scene.

[OURO Collective](#), formed in 2014, is a Vancouver-based group that fuses hip-hop, waacking, breaking, popping and contemporary dance. Led by Cristina Bucci, collective members include dancers Rina Pellerin, Maiko Miyauchi, Dean Placzek, Mark Siller, Eric Cheung, Shana Wolfe, Ash Cornette and various apprentices/project-based collaborators. OURO Collective has built a strong audience in the Lower Mainland and has toured to Japan and the US.

RubberLegz (Rauf Yasit) is an accomplished German-born performer now living in LA whose reflexive combination of street and contemporary dance has placed him at the forefront of an emergent new dance culture.

About the Chrystal Dance Prize

The [Chrystal Dance Prize](#) is generated from a bequest made by Dance Victoria patron, Dr. Betty "Chrystal" Kleiman, to the Victoria Foundation. *The Chrystal Dance Prize –Projects* supports exceptional dance research and/or creation between a Western Canadian dance artist, collective or company and an international dance artist (interpreter or choreographer). A committee of dance professionals is assembled each year to select the



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recipients. The prize recipients may also have the opportunity for a two-week residency at Dance Victoria Studios. Some recent Chrystal Dance Prize winner include Victoria's David Ferguson, Stacey Horton, Dancers of Damelahamid, Kidd Pivot (*Revisor*) and Ballet BC (*Romeo + Juliet*). More information is available at DanceVictoria.com.

About Dance Victoria

In a regular season, 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. In 2020/21, Dance Victoria launched its Virtual Home Season featuring four international companies. It also continues to host creative residencies for local and visiting artists. Dance Victoria is a non-profit charitable society. DanceVictoria.com.

Media Materials & Contact

Photos are available of the CDP winners by contacting marketing@dancevictoria.com.

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