Show

Presented by

New Dance Horizons

The Whole Bloomin' Thing

Works by Margie Gillis

Season 41

2026-2027

NDH

NEW DANCE HORIZONS

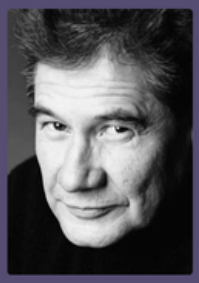
ABOUT US

New Dance Horizons (NDH) is a Regina-based not-for-profit organization that since 1986, has presented local and **internationally acclaimed dance shows,** produced original works, and organized activities that engage both the **dance community and the general public**.

NDH plays a distinctive and integral role in **developing and strengthening the dance community** in Saskatchewan. In addition to performance presentation, NDH offers **courses, workshops and lectures** with guest artists and community events.

Artistic Direction

Robin Poitras
Co-Artistic Director



Edward Poitras
Co-Artistic Director

Thanks to the bold artistic vision and community engagement of acclaimed Canadian artist and co-founder Robin Poitras, NDH has become nationally recognized as a champion of creative dance. NDH offers adventurous and ever-changing dance encounters for everyone.

"Contemporary dance develops new vocabularies to relate realities and fantasies. This season's presentations feature remarkable works by highly original artists, offering a feast of dance encounters and joyously festive events. I invite you to join us in an adventurous season of moving art!"

– Robin Poitras C.M., Artistic and Managing Director and Co-founder of New Dance Horizons

BIOS

Robin Poitras - Co-founder (1986) and artistic/managing director of New Dance Horizons in Regina. Trained in dance at York University (B.F.A. with Special Honours, 1982), with further study at Duke University, the American Center in Paris, Zurich, and Montreal. **A choreographer and performer active since the early 1980s**, her interdisciplinary work — dance, performance, installation, somatic movement — has toured Canada, Mexico, France, Germany, Mongolia, and Spain.
She also co-directs the creation **company Rouge-gorge**.

Honors include the **YWCA Women of Distinction Award (Arts, 2004)**, the **Regina Mayor's Lifetime Achievement Award (2006)**, the **Saskatchewan Lieutenant Governor's Lifetime Achievement Award in the Arts (2016)**, and appointment as a **Member of the Order of Canada (2021).**

Edward Poitras — Métis visual artist and member of **Gordon First Nation**, born 1953 in **Regina**. Trained at the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural College (1974) and Manitou College (Quebec, 1975-76); later taught at Saskatchewan Indian Federated College (now First Nations University of Canada) and the University of Manitoba.

A sculptor and installation/performance artist, he combines organic materials (stone, bone, beadwork, historical photographs) with industrial or electronic elements, often invoking the coyote-trickster figure to explore colonialism, treaties, and Indigenous survival.

In 1995 he became the **first Indigenous artist to represent Canada at the Venice Biennale**. He received the **Victor Martyn Lynch-Staunton Award (1998)** and the **Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts (2002).**

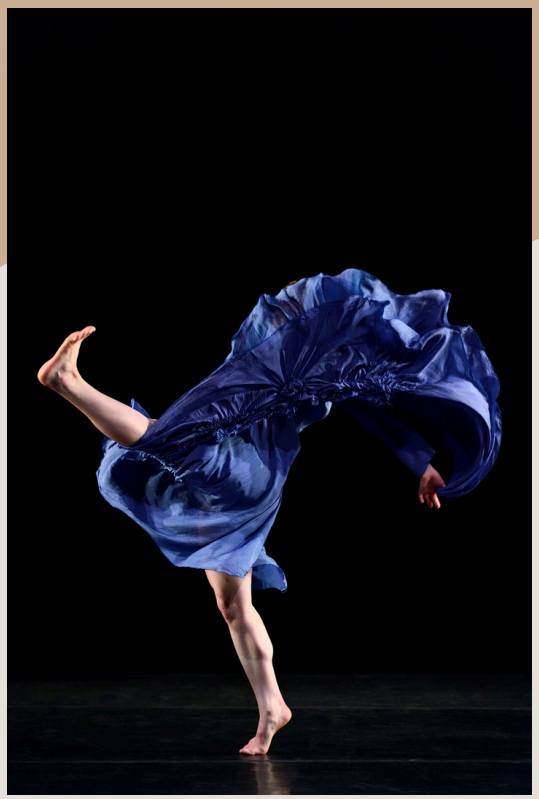
New Dance Horizons

SEASON 41

New Dance Horizons is proud to present **a season of four artistic initiatives in 2026-27.**

The season opens with a landmark engagement: The Whole Bloomin' Thing, performed by internationally acclaimed dance artist Margie Gillis.

Michael Slobodian



Lucy M. May

Margie Gillis - At the forefront of modern dance **for over 50 years,** Margie Gillis is an **internationally renowned artist** and **one of the most influential choreographers and dancers of the 20th and 21st centuries**. In 1981, she founded the Margie Gillis Foundation, whose repertoire now includes **more than 150 works**—solos, duets, and group choreographies—**presented around the world**.

Her work explores a wide range of themes, including **feminine consciousness, nature, and the process of transformation**, which she weaves together to create a profound and powerful expression of **humanism and emotion**. As a **teacher and mentor,** Margie passes on her legacy to **emerging artists**, an essential aspect of her artistic vision.

In 2015, Margie launched the "Legacy" project, created to showcase the choreographer's remarkable creative repertoire. Margie has received numerous honors, including the title of **Officer of the Order of Canada, Knight of the National Order of Quebec, and the Governor General's Performing Arts Award for her lifetime achievement, among many others**. She continues to work tirelessly on the constant evolution of her art.

New Dance Horizons

THE WHOLE BLOOMIN' THING

To kick off its **41st season**, New Dance Horizons presents **a new bilingual work** by **legendary choreographer and performer Margie Gillis**, an iconic figure in Canadian contemporary dance for over 45 years.

The Whole Bloomin' Thing brings together the dancers from her "Legacy Project" in a **collaborative work** inspired by one of the **most famous passages in modern literature: Molly Bloom's interior monologue in James Joyce's *Ulysses***.

The result is described as a **vibrant and positive celebration of a woman's relationship with nature**—a language that naturally finds an echo in the world of flowers.

Sherrie Nickol

This production follows on the heels of the critical success of *OLD*, presented by **the Winnipeg Contemporary Dancers** in February 2025 and which premiered on June 15, 2025, at the **Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec**, alongside Gillis's new solo, *Remembered Premonitions*.

Following a revival in Winnipeg (November 19-22, 2026), the work comes to **Regina on November 24 (general public) and 25 (school matinee),** 2026, at **Darke Hall, presented exclusively by New Dance Horizons**—making our audience one of the very first outside Quebec and Manitoba to discover this new production..

OBJECTIVES

"The Whole Bloomin' Thing" **- Links to Saskatchewan's Francophone Curriculum**

Margie Gillis — matinee performance for schools, Darke Hall, November 25, 2026 — **bilingual format (French/English).**

During the performance, the monologue is read with passages alternating between French and English. Saskatchewan has **three distinct Francophone programs**, each with its own curriculum: French immersion and Basic French, offered within English-language school divisions, as well as Fransaskois , specific to schools in the Conseil des écoles fransaskoises (CÉF). Below are the learning outcomes directly related to each of these programs.

French Immersion (10, 20, 30)	• **10VC.1 —** Explore how Francophones express their linguistic and cultural identities across Canada. • **30VC.1 —** Affirm one's linguistic and cultural identities: reflect on one's linguistic identities and confidence. • **20CÉ.1 —** Read and analyze the message and elements of the narrative world of a novel, as well as the theme and language of a song of Francophone origin. • **30CÉ.1 —** Read and analyze the message and elements of the narrative world of a novel or play, as well as the theme, language, rhyme, and rhythm of a variety of poems. • **30PO.1 —** Present a poetic text and actively participate in authentic communication situations in French.
Fransaskois (A10, 20, A30) CÉF	• **A10CO.2 —** Respond to messages by drawing connections to personal experiences, Fransaskois culture, and First Nations and Métis cultures. • **20L.3 —** Respond to a text: demonstrate understanding of the message and the values it conveys, and recognize the author's writing style. • **A30L.1 —** Interpret a variety of literary texts and identify the author's point of view based on clues in the text. • **A30CO.2 —** Respond to messages by drawing on one's knowledge of argumentative, poetic, and dialogic discourse. • **A30É.3 —** Express one's point of view using linguistic, literary, and cultural knowledge and connections to Francophone culture.
Core French (10, 20, 30)	• **CS10.1** — Make sense of spoken French texts, both fictional and non-fictional, on familiar topics, particularly for entertainment. • **CS30.3** — Independently make sense of various written texts in French, both fictional and non-fictional. • **CU10.1** — Explore the historical and contemporary aspects, as well as the cultural and linguistic diversity, of Francophone cultures in Saskatchewan. • **CU30.1** — Explore the historical and contemporary aspects, as well as the cultural and linguistic diversity, of Francophone cultures around the world. • **GL30.1** — Independently select and apply various strategies to interpret spoken and written texts in French.

New Dance Horizons

CONTACT

2207 Harvey St, Regina,
SK S4N 2N2

Website
https://www.newdancehorizons.ca/

Phone
(306)525-5393

Email Address
development@newdancehorizons.ca