



# DEPARTMENT OF DANCE

➔ DEFINING THE FUTURE OF CREATIVITY

Since accepting its first students in 1970, the Department of Dance in York's School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design (AMPD) has become one of North America's premier centres for dance training and scholarship, and the largest and most comprehensive dance program in Canada. More than 250 dance majors a year experience a blend of both physical dance training and dance scholarship, with the added benefit of critical thinking and writing. AMPD is also home to Canada's only doctoral-level program in dance.

## THE LANDSCAPE

Dance is a language all of its own, but it's a language carved from the relationships between artists and their world, and between the art and other forms of expression. It can no longer be contained or defined by style; dance is rapidly evolving to include other aspects of creative expression and the latest interactive technologies for live performance.

## OUR VISION

Our unique approach to disciplinary innovation sets the stage for the department's larger vision: AMPD Dance is committed to continuously seeking new ways to explore the relationships between dance, technology and other artistic media as a catalyst for ground-breaking research and live performance.

## THE OPPORTUNITY

York's Department of Dance was built on the premise that the best dance education includes equal parts of physical training and academic rigour. Our innovative curriculum, launched in September 2013, breaks down the silos even further: students experience a common first year, specialized streams in year two and then a blending of all interests in years three and four. Students master their craft and experiment with other forms of creative expression—every dance student must take at least one music course, and an interactive stage course brings together students of dance, theatre and digital media.

## YOUR INVESTMENT

Gifts to one of the following priority areas will help foster disciplinary rigour and interdisciplinary daring across AMPD Dance:

- An **Interactive Studio Laboratory**, a hub for research, teaching and performance in the field of interactive technologies for live performance with a sprung dance floor. Using motion-tracking cameras, projectors, data processing and audio to track performing bodies in 3D space, this Laboratory allows the signals generated by their movement to control sound, lighting and video
- **Alumni Guest Artists** to connect students with alumni working in a myriad of dance occupations around the world through master classes, workshops, performances, guest lectures and colloquia
- Unique opportunities for students of design, music, theatre, film, digital media and visual arts to join dance majors in a capstone experience involving the department's resident performing company,

### **York Dance Ensemble**

## YOUR IMPACT

Your investment will help AMPD Dance:

- shape the global expression of dance through the integration of all the arts disciplines
- remain a North American leader in dance education, research and performance
- equip students with the skills, imagination and versatility born from interdisciplinary education and experience
- meet the growing demand from students, industry and audiences for live performances that challenge preconceived notions of what dance performance should be

## INSPIRED GLOBAL LEADERS

York dance graduates bring a mix of traditional training and a capacity for divergent thinking, versatility and innovation to successful careers as dancers, choreographers, archivists, librarians, curators, film producers, arts administrators, writers, critics and editors.

“ York had the most amazing balance of structure and freedom. Also the technique that I picked up at York was amazing—the best I could have received in my career. I never put myself in a box, nor did York University and it opened up so many doors. It gave me wings to fly.

– Emmy Award-winning *Cirque du Soleil* choreographer Debra Brown, BFA'78

## CONTACT US

For more information about York's Department of Dance and how you can help define our creative future today, contact:

[ampd.yorku.ca](http://ampd.yorku.ca)

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