

Press Release
For immediate publication

A new portal showcases Québec's dance heritage

Montréal, November 10, 2016 — A unique overview of dance in Québec, from 1900 to the present, will soon be available online in an all-new virtual space devoted to the iconographic collections of the Bibliothèque de la danse Vincent-Warren. This user-friendly space, at bibliodanse.ca, will showcase a peerless set of documents. The recent digitization of more than 4,500 photographs enriches the largest collection of dance documents in Canada. It includes, among others, posters, art prints, programs and video recordings.

As head librarian Marie-Josée Lecours explained: “An important part of the Library’s iconographic collection remained inaccessible, yet it was the subject of countless searches, consultations and requests for use or reproduction. We felt an urgency to digitize, treat and showcase this unique collection whose fragility is palpable and whose historic importance is undeniable.”

Brought together in this new “Digital Collection” space, these documentary treasures cover more than a century of dance in Québec, attesting to the creators and their works, dance companies, the dancers themselves, not to mention dance photographers. The digitization of this collection ensures the protection of an entire section of the history of Québec society, by avoiding the irreversible deterioration that would result from repeated handling of the originals.

The “Digital Collection” space will be unveiled at an official launch slated for December 9. The Bibliothèque de la danse Vincent-Warren was able to carry out this project thanks to financial assistance from the *Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec*, and Library and Archives Canada as well as the support of L’École supérieure de ballet du Québec.

About the Bibliothèque de la danse Vincent-Warren

With more than 26,000 documents, the Bibliothèque de la danse Vincent-Warren holds Canada’s largest collection specializing in dance and one of the largest in the world. Its mission is to acquire, preserve and disseminate information to the general public. The only major organization essentially dedicated to documentary management in the field of dance in Québec, the Library has been, for more than 35 years, a key player not only in the support of research and creation but more importantly, in the constitution, preservation and dissemination of our dance heritage.

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