

A man and a woman are dancing inside a tent at night. The man is wearing a black long-sleeved shirt and black shorts, and the woman is wearing a black top with a red turtleneck. They are both looking at each other and smiling. The tent is illuminated from within, creating a warm, intimate atmosphere. The tent's interior is white, and the exterior is a dark blue or black. The lighting is soft and focused on the dancers, with the background being dark.

# KAEJA

## d'Dance



Photo by Karen & Allen Kaeja. Photo by Zhenya Cernaacov

## ABOUT KAEJA

Kaeja d'Dance is a charitable organization that creates original dance through the mediums of live performance, dance film, community integration, and education. Led by Co-Artistic Directors Karen and Allen Kaeja, our work bridges artistic excellence in professional dance and public engagement.

Celebrating the universal qualities of everyday life, the focus is personal, socially relevant, relational, physical, imagistic, quirky, and sensual. We bring together collaborators and communities who are diverse, intergenerational and multi-genre in practice.

At its core, Kaeja reveals lives lived through intimate and emotionally resonant content, connecting the audience to the risks we take as human beings.

Kaeja d'Dance has toured to India, Sweden, Venezuela, Mexico, Spain, Portugal, Israel, Japan, England, Europe, the US and across Canada.

With a passion for both process and outcome, our Company actively reinvents itself, while keeping our fundamental partner – our audiences - in close proximity!

*“KAEJA d’DANCE disconnects the eyes from the mind, and re-wires them to the heart.”*

Calgary Herald

**Over 200 works created & performed**

## Kaeja on Stage

Kaeja’s acclaimed stage works include: Old Country, Resistance, Point O, DEFIANT by Allen Kaeja and Karen Kaeja’s Eugene Walks with Grace, Uncover, Taxi!, and Crave (quadruple Dora nominated).



Central Photo: Dancers- Allen & Karen Kaeja. Photo by Aria Evans.  
Inset (Top to Bottom): Kaeja dancers in Allen Kaeja’s DEFIANT. Photo by Irinia Popova,  
Stephanie Tremblay and Michael Caldwell in Karen Kaeja’s Crave. Photo by Irina Popova.

*"BEAUTIFULLY EVOCATIVE,  
powerfully realized and  
ultimately uplifting work."*

Washington Post

Over **28** acclaimed  
dance films

## Kaeja on Screen

Kaeja is a pioneer of Dance on Screen, with over 28 acclaimed dance films, aired in over 400 festivals worldwide.

Allen Kaeja is an internationally recognized, award-winning dance film director. Kaeja d'Dance films are part of the permanent collection at the MoMA and Jewish Museum in New York, Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Israel, Museum of Civilization in Quebec, and in many university libraries.

Benjamin Kamino in Allen Kaeja's film XTOD. XTOD was conceived & developed by Karen & Allen Nabor.

*“Must-see pageant of excellence in dance. ..[N]o matter what you fancy in the way of dance. You can’t be disappointed.”*

Susan Walker, Reviewer

## Xtraordinary TO Dances

*A serendipitous exchange of dance making, where one dancer’s film solo becomes another’s seed for creation and live performance across cultures and continents.*

### BACKGROUND

In February 2018, Kaeja d’Dance premiered a film/stage collaboration called Xtraordinary TO Dances (XTOD). Ten years in planning, the film XTOD: Moments in Reel Time, conceived and directed by Allen Kaeja and the stage performance XTOD: Solo Dance Xchange (SDX), conceived by Karen Kaeja, featured the original creations of 22 extraordinary dance artists and three live musicians. Celebrating Canada’s diversity and excellence, the 22 dance artists are of distinct genres and cultural influences. The project has already experienced an international cross-continental performance partnership in Japan.

## The Film

### XTOD: MOMENTS IN REEL TIME

The original 25min film takes place throughout Metropolitan Toronto highlighting 22 Xtraordinary Toronto Dance Artists improvising one-minute dances in deeply meaningful locations of their choice. The 22 creators animate secret and sacred locations in Toronto, one of the most multi-cultural cities in the world!



*“[B]reathtaking show of contemporary dance . . . This kind of cultural exchange is important for promoting mutual understanding between countries.”*

Scott McKeeman, Secretary General,  
Hiroshima Canada Association

## XTOD On Stage

### THE STAGE PERFORMANCE - XTOD: SOLO DANCE XCHANGE

XTOD:SDX is a platform for the 22 dance artists to be intimately provoked by the essence's of each other's performances. Each film solo is exchanged with one dancer to become the seed for live performance making. Taking inspiration to another level, movement, imagination, and conversation ignite the creative process to reimagine a new three-minute stage solo.

## XTOD On Tour

### NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL CROSS-CONTINENTAL XCHANGE

Each performance includes the original Toronto screening of XTOD: Moments in Reel Time film followed by the XTOD:SDX live performance, uniting creative dialogue between artists on film and stage. Artists in partner countries are matched with one of the Toronto film performers through a democratic and immediate pairing. We send the new dance artists a film solo, inspiring them to re-imagine a three-minute live stage solo. Online discussions assist the process to set structure and scoring of the solo. Creation workshops are a component when possible. Post-show conversation with the cast reveals the complexity of the cross-pollination exchange.



# KAEJA

In the Community



Over **800** community members participating in community works

*“There is community outreach and then there is Porch View Dances...the poster child for how to do everything right”*

Globe and Mail

Greenwood Ensemble. Chor. by Andrea Nann with Michelle Silagy. Photo by SVPhotography.

Porch View Dances

Porch View Dances (PVD): Real People Dancing In Real Spaces is an award-winning community dance event that engages everyday people as creators, storytellers and performers – many of whom have never danced before.

Audience members travel from house to house to see new dance works created with professional choreographers and performed by local families and residents on the front porches and lawns of their own homes. The performance culminates in a Flock Landing at the local park where audience members of all ages and abilities are invited to become active participants in the dance.

PVD was designed to celebrate the stories of neighbourhood residents and to bridge the gap between professional art and everyday people. Taking dance out of the theatre and in to our daily lives, PVD engages Real People Dancing In Real Spaces, making dance accessible to the families and participants who perform in it, as well as the audience members who come to watch. It is in this way that PVD sends the strong and powerful message that art is for everyone.

PVD was conceived by Karen Kaeja and developed with Allen Kaeja.



Over **100**  
Flock Landings  
performed around  
the world

*"Pure artistic gold"*

Apt 613, Ottawa

## Wedding Brigade

The Wedding Brigade is a community dance project designed and led by Karen Kaeja. It invites everyday women and men of all ages to perform a choreographed outdoor moving piece, adorned in wedding white. Walking against the grain of the audience with personalized gestures, this conceptual work invites an unspoken collaboration between participants and audience as human obstacle, it questions and reframes the identity of the white dress and the illusion of its perfection. The Wedding Brigade celebrates the joys and struggles that come with love, commitment and coupledom.

## Flock Landing

Conceived by Co-Artistic Director, Karen Kaeja, a Flock Landing invites hundreds of audience members to participate in a gentle and inclusive group movement ensemble experience. Led by four professional dancers dressed in white, Flock Landing embraces simple gestures that are accessible to people of all ages and abilities. An outside or indoor site-specific event that can be set in any environment, it has been performed in parks, parking lots, malls, theatre seating and stages, public squares, galleries, walkways and street festivals. Since 2007 we have established over 100 Flock Landings from Toronto to Japan - appearing in events such as Kaeja's annual Porch View Dances, Guelph Dance Festival, Nuit Blanche, Downtown Dances Moncton, Nathan Phillips Square Canada 150 Celebration, and the Yokohama Ballet Intensive.

# I Am The Child Of...

Allen Kaeja is currently in research and development for **I Am The Child Of...** The work explores the experience of childhood and family legacy. Personal writings by 16 dancers and physical investigations are the source material for exploration. Allen will also collect stories from the public via calls for contributions on our website, newsletters, and at community centres. Collaborating dramaturg Bruce Barton will write the final drafts of this work based on the collection of true-life stories.



# WHAT'S NEXT?

Top: I Am The Child Of... Chor. by Allen Kaeja. Photo by Beata Rasitsan.  
Bottom: Touch X Chor. by Karen Kaeja. Photo by Karen Kaeja.

# Touch X

Karen Kaeja is currently developing a new work that delves into personal themes of what has 'touched' us most deeply over our lives - the thought, the memory, the fragility, the ephemeral nature, and the agency of touch.


Touch X will bring five trained dancers together with the impeccable presence of up to 100 everyday people on stage.



Dancers - Sam Ford and Sara Augieras performing  
Consumed duet by Karen Kaeja. Photo by Camilla Greenwell.



Investing in the  
Next Generation



*"[Karen and Allen Kaeja] are two of the leading exponents of contact improv, a dance form where weight-bearing is unisexual."* Globe & Mail

## Youth

Kaeja has taught over 40,000 learners (grades 4-12) across Ontario in Kaeja Elevations and Express Dance workshops over the past 29 years. Express Dance is an inclusive, accessible approach to unleashing physical expression using the learner's personal movement lexicon.

Kaeja's book EXPRESS DANCE: Educators' Resource to Teaching Dance is a recommended by the Ontario Dance Curriculum.

Kaeja has won 4 Toronto District School Board Partnership Appreciation Awards and was nominated for 2015 Ontario Arts Foundation Artist Educator Award and were TD Diversity Award finalists, 2013.

Over **60,000**  
students worldwide



## Professional Training

Kaeja has passionately supported artists for decades, mentoring hundreds of dancers over the past 20 years. Recent mentees include: Jasmyn Fyffe, Jaber Dance Theatre, Sylvie Moquin, Nyda Kwasowsky, The Chimera Project and a partnership with New Blue Creative Risk Residency.

The first teachers of Contact Dance at the National Ballet School, Karen & Allen are on faculty at the School of the Toronto Dance Theatre and Ryerson University and teach in most schools with dance programs throughout Metro TO and Ontario.

Through partnering, improvisation, devised structures, and Kaeja Elevations, Kaeja explores the moving body, enhanced by meaningful intentions, around the globe in public and private workshops for professionals and community members.

Downtown Dances. 2016. Chor. by I. Dobrovolskiy, K. Kaeja, A. Kaeja. Photo by Viktor Pivovarov.

Inset: Still from Old Country directed by Allen Kaeja.



## Downtown Dances

Downtown Dances: Real People Dancing In Real Spaces was first piloted in Moncton, New Brunswick, in collaboration with Atlantic Ballet Atlantique Theatre, in order to support the revitalization of the downtown core. It pairs professional choreographers with local business employees, the Mayor and City Council, to animate a downtown commercial core through dance.

Downtown Dances celebrates the stories and spirit of local businesses, government employees and inhabitants on sidewalks, storefronts and gathering spaces to bridge the gap between professional art and everyday people.

## List of Holocaust Films

- Old Country (2004)
- Departure (2003)
- Resistance (2001)
- Sarah (1999)
- Zummel (1999)
- Witnessed (1997)



*“The Kaejas make dance accessible, exploding barriers between art and life, making dance public in unexpected locations.”*

Toronto Star



Just Dance (Janelle) Photo: 2012. Chor. by A. Kaeja. Photo by Allen Kaeja.  
Just Dance (Janelle) Photo: 2012. Chor. by K. Kaeja, C. Moore. Photo by Cameron McLaren.

## Animating Historic Spaces

Bringing historical spaces to life through dance and community outreach, Kaeja d’Dance performs the historical narratives of heritage spaces. Performances are framed to fit the historical accuracy of the site-specific locations both indoors and out and involve professional choreographers, dancers and community movers.

## Just Dance

Just Dance celebrates the inherent creativity that exists within our inner city. It begins as a vibrant series of Dance workshops that draws out the stories of the inhabitants, leading up to a three-day long festival that brings together youth, elders, and everyone in-between, to perform in outdoor residential and community spaces, to dance together and celebrate community.

## Select Awards

CDA "I Love Dance" Community Award

UNESCO Citation for the Year of Culture and Peace

Clifton E. Lee Choreography and Bonnie Bird Awards (UK)

Paul D. Fleck Fellowship for Innovation

Nominated for The Muriel Sherrin Award

Nominated for 7 Dora Mavor Moore Awards, winning one

Go [here](#) for a full list of awards.

## Links to Trailers

### Selected Kaeja Trailer Examples of Professional Work

[Crave](#) (Chor. Karen Kaeja) nominated for 4 Dora Mavor Moore Awards, winning one

[DEFIANT](#) (Chor. Allen Kaeja)

[Xtraordinary TO Dances: Solo Dance Xchange](#)  
Nominated for 1 Dora Mavor Moore award. Solo Dance Xchange was conceived and directed by Karen Kaeja. Xtraordinary TO Dances was conceived and developed by Karen & Allen Kaeja.

[Xtraordinary TO Dances: Moments in Reel Time](#)  
Moments In Reel Time was conceived and directed by Allen Kaeja. Xtraordinary TO Dances was conceived and developed by Karen & Allen Kaeja.

[lifeDUETS: 25 to 1](#) (Chor. Tedd Robinson)

[lifeDUETS: with](#) (Chor. Benjamin Kamino)

[.0](#) (Chor. Allen Kaeja)

### Selected Kaeja Trailer Examples of Community Work

[Porch View Dances 2018 Highlights](#)

[Flock Landing](#)

[Downtown Dances](#)

[Community Engagement Video](#)

### Selected Kaeja Trailer Examples of Education Work

[Kaeja Elevations Certification](#)

[Karen & Allen Teaching at STDT](#)

### Selected General Kaeja Trailers

[25th Anniversary Trailer](#)

[www.kaeja.org](http://www.kaeja.org)





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of Canada



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[www.kaeja.org](http://www.kaeja.org)





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