

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE

Fringe Festival dance performance takes on issue of child sexual exploitation

Dance is a universal language. At this year's Winnipeg Fringe Festival, it will be used to tell of a difficult journey into childhood sexual exploitation.

The contemporary ballet, titled *Text Me*, was created by Philippe-Alexandre Jacques, a graduate of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School's Aspirant Program, in collaboration with Beyond Borders ECPAT Canada. Jacques has previously choreographed dances for The David Suzuki Blue Dot Tour and the Gardiner Museum of Ceramics in Toronto.

The ballet will be performed by members of the Aspirant Program, a post-secondary training program for advanced level classical ballet dancers making the transition from student to professional dancers.

Text Me follows the story of a teen's manipulation into a world of commercial sexual exploitation of children, and her ultimate escape.

"Beyond Borders was intrigued by Philippe Jacques's idea to choreograph a ballet about the sensitive topic of child exploitation. Now, we are mesmerized with the creative, thoughtful way he is communicating with the audience about this scourge on society. We are grateful to Nancy Embry for sponsoring this beautiful, contemporary ballet," said Nancy Vardalos Ginakes, the project liaison from Beyond Borders ECPAT Canada.

Text Me will be performed during the 2015 Winnipeg Fringe Festival at the Rachel Browne Theatre (Crocus Building), at 211 Bannatyne Ave. at the following dates and times:

Thursday, July 16, 10:30 p.m.
Saturday, July 18 at noon
Monday, July 20 at 10:30 p.m.
Wednesday, July 22 at 3:30 p.m.
Thursday, July 23 at 8:45 p.m.
Friday, July 24 at 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, July 25 at 1:30 p.m.
Sunday, July 26 at 7 p.m.

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