



MEET GEORGIA RONDOS: THE VISIONARY OF RONDOS DANCE THEATRE

By: Andrea Scott

*Georgia Rondos,
founder of Rondos Dance Theatre*

Georgia Rondos moved to New Brunswick from Montreal in 1995. Now an 'almost-empty-nester', Georgia lives on Highland Avenue in Rothesay with her husband, Ricardo, and if you haven't been to one of her modern dance shows or taken one of her dance classes yet, you should!

Since 1995, Georgia has continued her career as a modern dance choreographer in the Greater Saint John area. Her project-based dance company, Rondos Dance Theatre (RDT) presents shows using local dancers and other artists, as well as professional guest from across Canada and around the world.

RDT has built a great reputation, putting our area on the map as a place to see high calibre Canadian modern dance. Georgia's work has been praised by locals and tourists, and

in 2014 Georgia was invited to work in Winnipeg with emerging artists from The Royal Winnipeg Ballet School's Aspirant Program.

Regular audience members appreciate the physical and psychological elements in Georgia's diverse body of work. Inspired by her ideas and her emotional and personal experiences, the music she uses plays a big part in determining mood, structure and direction of the choreography. Her work is sophisticated in a down-to-earth way, and she wants it to convey a simple and accessible story. Sometimes social issues are introduced, if they evolve organically, not because they are forced.

Georgia's description of her beautiful, timeless 1999 work *Desert Walk*, "...five females dressed in Muslim inspired costumes, perform together in a ritualistic dance; enter and roll oranges, shuffle, and sit in a communal circle. In the

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end, as they remove their head covering, one girl swings playfully and we are reminded that behind these veils, many times is youth, eager to experience, create and play and not be caught in the politics and religion of others.”

And Georgia has been absolutely committed to the creative development of our youth. With two nearly-grown children of her own, Georgia’s sensitivity to the artistic needs of young people extends into the community through her role as Resident Choreographer and modern dance teacher at Port City Dance Academy.

Georgia’s recent show, *Moveable Walls*, held at the BMO Theatre on June 29 & 30 is a perfect example of her collaborative work. The dancers included former student, Liam Caines, now dancing with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, as well as Clare Bassett, Jane Alison McKinnney, Karen Galbraith, Kleis Rondos-Duchesne, and Danielle Robertson, who all have connections to the SJ-KV area. The show also featured an



art installation by Renforth resident and artist, Mary Collier Fleet, as well as some costuming by Andrea Webster Scott.

With universal and humanist themes repeating through her body of work, even people who think “modern dance is not for me” or “I don’t get it”, will find something to enjoy at an RDT show. Georgia’s choreography is expertly layered so that it can be approached on many different levels; bask in the imagery, appreciate the interesting movements on a purely kinetic level, consider it from a cerebral perspective, or invest it with your own life experiences and give it your own interpretation. ■

Jennifer Irving
PHOTOGRAPHY

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