



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Canada's best dancers get ready to *Hit The Floor* in world-class dance competition, April 27 to 29 in Toronto

*Three-day dance event celebrates World International Dance Day, April 29*

*- Tickets for the All Star Showcase go on sale April 3 -*

**Toronto, March 27, 2018 – Hit The Floor**, one of the largest multi-style dance competitions in the world, returns to Toronto for its second edition from April 27 – 29, 2018, that will attract 8,000 spectators and feature 1,500 dancers from over 45 dance schools from across Canada, as well as *Flamers*, an international dance school from Nairobi, Kenya. The Toronto event is part of a three-city tour that includes Gatineau, QC (March 15-18) and Levis, QC (May 17-21), as dancers take to the stage to compete in this unique and artistic cultural event that reaches millions of people around the globe each year through its events and digital platform. In addition to the competition, the event will offer dancers and visitors a varied public market featuring local vendors, a breathtaking show and several workshops.

Dancers will compete for nearly \$50,000 in total prizes across the tour including prestigious training scholarships at the *Broadway Dance Theatre* in New York, judged by an esteemed panel of some of the most exciting and accomplished dancers and choreographers in the industry. Event passes are available on site, starting on Saturday, April 28 and are \$15 to access two full days of competitions.

### **THE ALL-STARS SHOWCASE: THE ULTIMATE SHOW**

Presented Saturday, April 28 at 9 pm, Part One of the prestigious *All-Stars Showcase* will feature the top eight performances of the competition as selected by the judges who will have one last opportunity to perform on stage at Hit The Floor. The ultimate grand prize winner will be announced and receive a cash prize of \$1,000, while second and third place will leave with cash prizes of \$500 and \$250, respectively. A special prize of \$1,500 in training scholarships will also be awarded by the *Broadway Dance Center* in New York.

Part Two of the All-Stars Showcase will feature breathtaking performances by professional artists from around the world. Dance icons such as **Diana Pombo**, **Luka Milacic-Perusina** and **Jenalyn Saraza-Pacheco**, who have appeared on NBC's *World of Dance*, will be a part of the show.

Tickets for the *All-Stars Showcase* are \$35 and go on sale Tuesday, April 3, at [www.hitthefloor.ca](http://www.hitthefloor.ca).

### **JUDGES PANEL**

An impressive panel of four industry judges will evaluate dancers in multi-style dance categories. Judging the technical categories is Los Angeles-based dancer **Taylor Sieve**, a finalist on *So You Think You Can Dance* Season 14 and cast member of Travis Wall's *Shaping Sound*. She has won several awards including *Senior Female Best Dancer* at the Las Vegas Dance Awards in 2016.

**Melissa Charlot**, a Montreal dancer and choreographer who left everything behind to pursue her career in Los Angeles, will be the competition's hip hop judge. Her distinguished dance career has included participation and choreography at the *Monsters of Hip Hop A-List*, the *Broadway Dance Center* and *Motivating Excellence*.

Two versatile judges will also be included on the panel to offer their expertise in several dance styles. **Lex Ishimoto**, an accomplished international dancer, will offer his knowledge and experience in technical and urban dance. Ishimoto was the winner of *So You Think You Can Dance* Season 14. His resume includes dancing in *Billy Elliot The Musical's* national tour and *The Pulse On Tour*, where he was an *Elite Protégé*.

**Janick Arseneau**, a New Brunswick dancer who performs for the biggest stars in Los Angeles such as Jennifer Lopez, will be the fourth judge at Hit The Floor Toronto. She has also appeared on TV shows such as *America's Best Dance Crew* and *So You Think You Can Dance Canada*.

#### **ABOUT HIT THE FLOOR**

Created by Nicolas Bégin, a professional dancer and entrepreneur, Hit The Floor is the reference in Quebec and Canada for multi-style dance events. The mission of the event; contribute to the development of the dance community worldwide. Since its creation in 2011, Hit The Floor has collaborated with more than 10 countries thanks to the participation of internationally renowned artists and the involvement of the dancers of the competition. Hit The Floor also welcomed **more than 138,000 spectators** and **33,000 dancers** from **928 dance schools**, which featured **nearly 9,000 routines** during the competitions. Hit The Floor is now proudly considered as a world-class dance event followed by thousands of faithful followers around the world: **more than 575,000 subscribers on its Facebook page**, **more than 126,000 subscribers on its Instagram feed** and **more than 17.5 million views on its YouTube channel**.

**An event for the whole family!**

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Hit The Floor

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