



## NATIONAL TEACHERS' CONFERENCE & STUDENT WORKSHOP AUGUST 3 to 7, 2026 – MONTREAL, QUEBEC

The Quebec Provincial Committee is proud to host the Cecchetti Canada National Teachers' Conference & Student Workshop, to be held August 3 to 7, 2026, in Montreal, Quebec's vibrant cultural capital.

This year's programming features **Mrs. Gillian Hurst** from England, **Fellow and Lead Examiner of the ISTD (Cecchetti Branch)**. Among our other Ballet staff, we are pleased to welcome **Suzanne Plante** and **Mary Ross**, Cecchetti Canada Examiners. For the complete list and biographies of all our Guest Teachers, see the last section of this document.

All classes will be held in the magnificent studios of **l'École supérieure de ballet du Québec**, the only professional training institution in classical dance in the province of Quebec.

Enjoy an intensive week of classes to delve deeper into the **Cecchetti Syllabi from Grade 5 to Diploma**. Please note that **all classes are accessible to teachers and student teachers**. The five-day program<sup>1</sup> will include:

### For the teachers:

Daily warm-up class, "Build-up" classes, Advanced 2 and Diploma Syllabi, Psychopedagogy and Music.

### For the students (teachers and student teachers welcome):

Daily warm-up class, Grade 5 to Advanced 1 Syllabi, Beginner Pointework and Variations, Jazz (Fosse style), Yoga & Stretching.

## CONFERENCE / WORKSHOP FEES

### FULL CONFERENCE OPTION (Early Bird fee until June 1, 2026)

Member / Student-teacher / Student	<b>EARLY-BIRD</b> (up to June 1) – <b>\$750</b>
Member / Student-teacher / Student	<b>REGULAR</b> (after June 1) – <b>\$950</b>
Non-Member	<b>EARLY BIRD</b> (up to June 1) – <b>\$925</b>
Non-Member	<b>REGULAR</b> (after June 1) – <b>\$1 025</b>

Please note: Teachers who register 10 or more students for the full workshop waive their own registration fee. A list of registered students must be provided.

**DAY RATE OPTION: \$185** for all

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<sup>1</sup> The Cecchetti Quebec Committee reserves the right to adjust the schedule if needed.

## ACCOMODATIONS

The Cecchetti Quebec Committee has concluded a group rate with the **Zero1 Hotel** (1, boulevard René-Lévesque Est – near St-Laurent).

ZERO1 hotel Website: <https://www.zero1-mtl.com>

Room cost: \$300, including taxes

Deadline to benefit from the group rate: June 30th

Cecchetti Canada's specific link to reserve a room:

<https://app.mews.com/distributor/e9e5a128-0e40-487a-8dfe-b15e00df5059?mewsAvailabilityBlockId=121dd3b2-896f-4e28-8528-b41300c8d35a&mewsStart=2026-07-31&mewsEnd=2026-08-07>

Here are two other options closer to l'École supérieure de ballet du Québec:

**Fairfield Inn by Marriott Montreal Downtown**, 1199 rue Berri, Montreal, QC

<https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/yulfd-fairfield-montreal-downtown/overview/?scid=f2ae0541-1279-4f24-b197-a979c79310b0>

**EVO Residence**, 777 rue Robert-Bourassa, Montreal, QC

<https://www.evomontreal.com/fr/>

## LUNCH CARD OPTION

Participants who wish to do so can enjoy a daily buffet meal by purchasing a **lunch card (\$100 for 5 days)** in advance. See the Registration Form.

## DINNER CRUISE OPTION

On **Wednesday, August 5th**, a four-course dinner cruise will take place aboard a Bateau-Mouche on the St. Lawrence River! This will be a lovely opportunity to get together outside of the dance studios. Memorable moments guaranteed! At a cost of **\$160 per person, including taxes** (alcohol and gratuity extra), the dinner cruise must be reserved and paid for in advance. See the Registration Form.

## TO REGISTER

There are **two registration forms**: one for teachers and student-teachers, and the other for students.

These two forms will be available on the Cecchetti Canada Website, in the News & Events section, under National Events.

## PAYMENT OPTIONS

Cecchetti Canada accepts electronic payments, cheques and credit cards. See the Registration Form for details.

## GUEST TEACHER BIOGRAPHIES

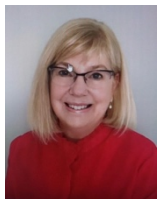
**GILLIAN HURST – RBS DIP (TTC), ARAD, DDE (NB), Fellow and Lead Examiner ISTD (Cecchetti Branch), Holder of the Enrico Cecchetti Final Diploma, PDB Spanish Dance Society, Deputy Principal KSDance Ltd, Faculty member Mentors in Ballet Education**



Gillian trained at Bush Davies School from the age of 11 to 16, after which she spent three years at the Royal Ballet School on the Teachers Course, the final year as Head Student. She then embarked upon a teaching career at Elmhurst Ballet School in Surrey, where she introduced the Cecchetti Method alongside the already established RAD work. After six years, she moved abroad to Malta, taking up the role of Principal in a large and successful Cecchetti school, before returning to London to teach freelance in several schools and train to become an examiner. Currently Deputy Head of Dance at KSDance Ltd and faculty member of Mentors in Ballet Education, Gillian is a regular faculty member on various summer schools and short intensive courses, and is in demand as a teacher and examiner, both in the UK and overseas, with emphasis on the training of young teachers as well as the continued professional development of teachers wishing to complete their teaching qualifications at the highest level.

**MARY ROSS – Fellow and Examiner CC-CICB**

Chair, Board of Directors, Cecchetti Canada  
Director of Ballet Studies, The School of Dance, Ottawa



Mary Ross started her ballet training under Marquita and Charles Lester in Peterborough, Ontario. In addition to studying in London, England, Miss Ross completed her official training at Canada's National Ballet School, where she graduated with distinction from the Teacher Training Program. For many years, Miss Ross taught at Canada's National Ballet School under the leadership of Betty Oliphant and Mavis Staines, and worked as répétiteur and rehearsal assistant in several National Ballet School productions, assisting James Kudelka, Robert Desrosiers, Peggy Baker and Denise Shultz. For Canada's National Arts Centre, she was the children's Rehearsal Director for The National Ballet of Canada, Alberta Ballet and Pennsylvania Ballet performances of The Nutcracker as well as Hong Kong Ballet's Sleeping Beauty and Houston Ballet's Marie. Professional ballet companies in North America and Europe employ some of Miss Ross's former pupils. She has been guest faculty at Summer Dance Intensives and has taught extensively at workshops across Canada. Miss Ross serves as both the Treasurer of Cecchetti International Classical Ballet (CICB) and the Chair of Cecchetti Canada.

**SUZANNE PLANTE – Fellow and Examiner CC-CICB**



Suzanne Plante is a Senior Examiner for Cecchetti Canada. She has also been an International Imperial Ballet and National Dance Examiner for the ISTD for many years. She began her ballet studies with the late Diana Jablokova Vorps in Toronto and later performed in her company as a soloist for several years. She completed her teacher's training at Ryerson under the direction of Sonia Chamberlain and Maisie MacPhee, performing as a soloist in their theatre performances, as well as briefly as a soloist for the company Ballet YS. In 1981, she was invited to teach in the UK by Laine Theatre Arts, a large vocational school, and later taught at Bush Davies and The Cecchetti Centre in London. During her 14-year sojourn in England, she taught, lectured, choreographed and performed under the guidance of many internationally renowned teachers, including over a decade-long mentorship with the author and renowned Cecchetti ballet teacher Richard Glasstone MBE. Since returning to Canada, she has directed the Cecchetti program at the Conservatoire de Danse de Montréal, served as a senior teacher at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School's Teacher Training Course, and taught in the professional program at TSOD in Ottawa. She is currently working with teachers and students at Ballet Montreal Performing Arts School, who are committed to enhancing their professional development through an in-depth study of the Cecchetti method.

## **ELAINE GAERTNER – Pianiste, professeur de musique et auteur**



A native Montrealer, Elaine Gaertner attended McGill University and participated in chamber music seminars at Bennington College in Vermont. She began her career as a freelance artist, contributing to recordings by Quebec artists such as Céline Dion and Ginette Reno, and playing for variety programs on Radio-Canada/C.B.C. television and chamber music with Concordia University faculty members. Since 1986, Ms. Gaertner has accompanied ballet classes at l'École supérieure de ballet du Québec, and since 1996, has taught music to several levels of students and prospective teachers seeking a diploma. In 2023, she also began teaching music to students in their 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the post-secondary program of l'ÉSBQ. Ms. Gaertner is the author of many articles on dance and its relation to music for the *Réseau d'enseignement de la danse* and *Dance International Magazine*.

## **JO-ANNE LAFLECHE – Performance Psychologist**



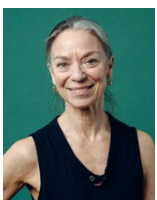
Jo-Anne La Flèche is a clinical and performance psychologist with a Certificate in Dance Pedagogy, an MA in Dance, and graduate studies in Somatics. She is the resident psychologist at l'École supérieure de ballet du Québec (l'ÉSBQ), counselling young dancers in need. She also provides workshops on personal growth through dance and lectures on performance psychology, dancer mental health and dance psychopedagogy, not only at l'ÉSBQ but for various dance institutions in Canada, the U.S.A., and Europe. Jo-Anne has authored and co-authored many articles and papers on dancer mental health issues and recently collaborated on a book on dance injuries. She has researched the maltreatment of dancers and participated in several international work groups focusing on dancer mental health. Ms. Laflèche is a Board member and Co-Chair of the Continuing Education Committee with Healthy Dancer Canada, as well as Past President (2021-2022).

## **SYLVIE NORMANDIN – danse jazz, style Fosse**



Sylvie Normandin studied classical ballet at the school of Les Grands Ballets Canadiens and jazz with Eva von Gencsy. After graduating, she joined Les Grands Ballets Canadiens. She holds a diploma from the Royal Academy of Dance in London and specializes in the jazz style of Bob Fosse. Ms. Normandin has worked as a freelance dancer on stage and for television and as a teacher-choreographer in the greater Montreal area (l'École Supérieure de ballet du Québec, Louise Lapierre Danse, Collège Lionel-Groulx), as well as in the rest of Canada and the United States. She currently also works with high-level skaters.

## **DOMINIQUE TURCOTTE – Licentiate CC-CICB**



A graduate of Canada's National Ballet School (professional ballet program 1970-75 / Teacher's Course 1978-79), Dominique taught for four years at NBS (1979-1983), obtaining her Licentiate from the ISTD (Cecchetti Faculty Branch) in 1980. Moving to Quebec City in 1983 to marry, she was head of the classical ballet division at Le Centre de danse Les Ballets Jazz until its closure, becoming Executive and Pedagogical Director of its successor, Le Centre de danse de Québec, renamed l'École de danse de Québec (l'EDQ) following a merger with Le Groupe Danse Partout. During her 24 years at the helm (1985 to 2009), the institution had a period of sustained rapid growth, including its designation as one of only three professional dance schools in the province of Quebec. In 2011, following a two-year sabbatical, Dominique returned to teaching on a freelance basis. Based in the Quebec City area, she has also been a guest teacher for over a dozen schools and organizations in Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, as well as on the Caribbean island of Saint Vincent. Throughout her career, Dominique has served on several committees and boards of directors at the regional, provincial, and national levels, including the Réseau d'enseignement de la danse (RED), for which she also co-authored the pedagogical program for recreational and preparatory schools. She has been serving on the Cecchetti Canada Board of Directors since 2018.

## MURIEL VALTAT – Fellow, Enrico Cecchetti Diploma CC-CICB

Born in Paris, Muriel Valtat studied classical ballet with Yvonne Cartier, a former soloist with the Royal Ballet. She graduated from the Royal Academy of Dance with the Solo Seal in 1983, completed her studies at the Royal Ballet



School, was awarded the Professional Prize at the Prix de Lausanne in 1984, and began her career with the Royal Ballet in 1985. From 1989 to 1992, she danced with the National Ballet of Canada and Scottish Ballet before returning to the Royal Ballet. In 1995, she was appointed First Soloist of the Royal Ballet under the artistic direction of Sir Anthony Dowell. Up to her departure in 2003, she danced numerous leading roles in the classical repertoire as well as in the works of Sir Frederick Ashton and Sir Kenneth MacMillan. During this period, she contributed as a performer to the book *Mime in Ballet*, the only reference book on the art of mime. As an educator, she has taught classical ballet, pointe work, variations, and classical repertoire at l'École supérieure de ballet du Québec since 2004, primarily in the professional division, at the high school and post-secondary levels. Concurrently, she studied the Cecchetti method under the tutelage of Suzanne Plante, professor emeritus of the method. In 2014, Ms. Valtat was awarded the prestigious Maestro Enrico Cecchetti Diploma. She subsequently travelled to London to be filmed for the documentary *Ballet's Secret Code*, which details the six physical principles of the Cecchetti method. Muriel Valtat earned her Fellowship in 2022, again under the mentorship of Suzanne Plante. Since 2023, she has been Cecchetti Canada's provincial representative for the province of Quebec.