



**VICTORIA
MATA**



**DAELIK
HACKENBROOK**



**MARYSE
DAMECOUR**

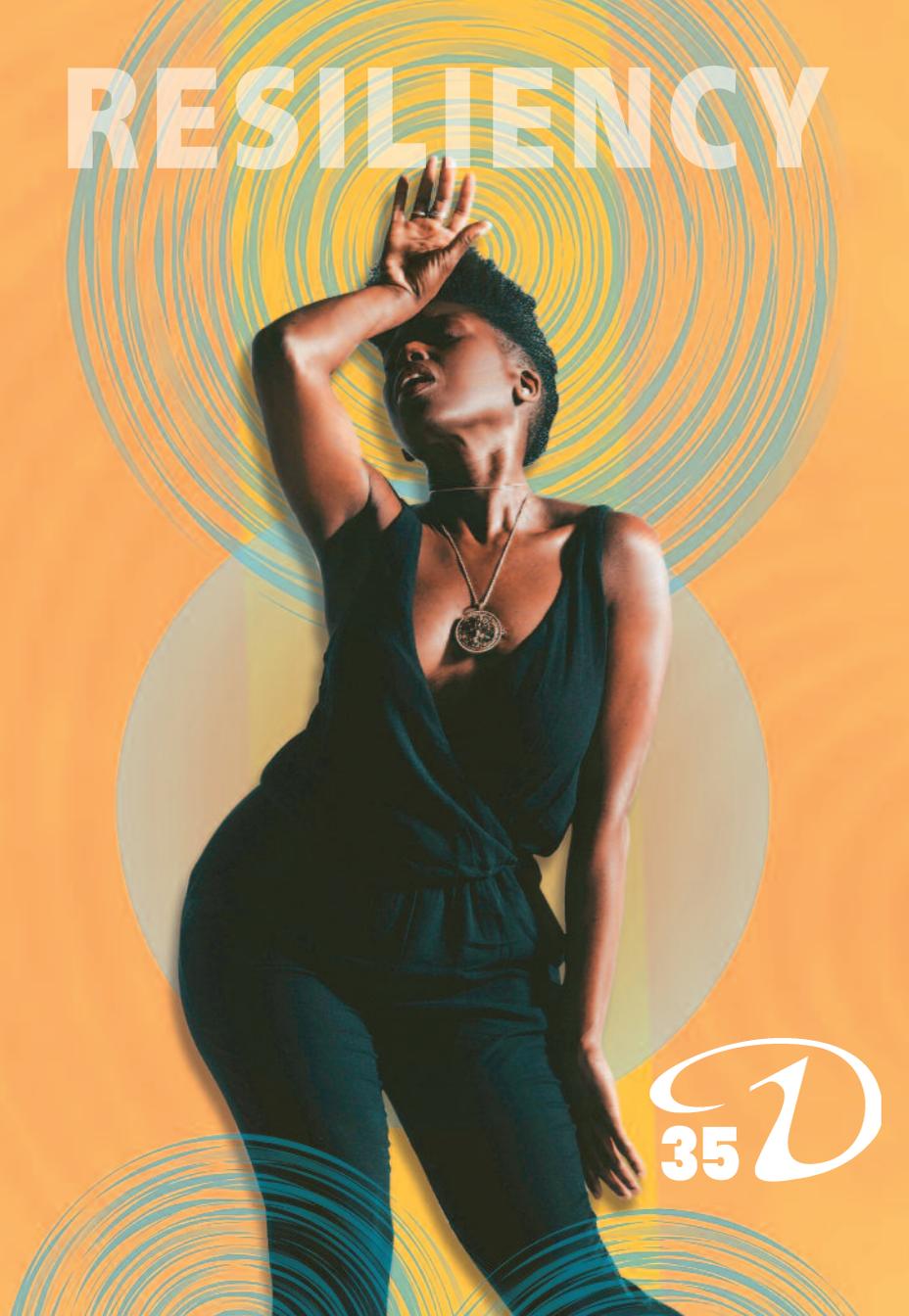
Victoria fell in love with Expressive Arts Therapy and the idea of using the arts to transform our relationship to trauma. She is currently pursuing this passion at The Create Institute.

Daelik has been interested in dog welfare for many years and chose to become a dog trainer and behavior specialist while working towards creating a dog rescue society.

Maryse is currently a doctoral student in psychology at the Université du Québec à Montréal and still dances, for pleasure's sake.

Interior Images: Karen Andrew Photo: Daniel Lastres / Kristian Clarke Photo: Aleksandar Antonijevic

RESILIENCY



KAREN ANDREW STEP FORWARD CAMPAIGN



Karen is an entrepreneur, teacher, performer, and a DTRC member since 2005. Throughout her dance career she trained in ballet, jazz, tap, and starred in countless shows from West Side Story at the Stratford Festival, to Tony award winning Broadway shows like Ragtime. Continuing to nurture her artistic life and career through education in business and arts education – Karen has transitioned from being the owner of Aurora Live Inc. Dance Studios, to creating a mobile movement studio, and now to creating iamKHAY Live Music Entertainment.

Karen's initial grant was awarded in 2009 at which time she completed her Intensive Mat Plus training. By 2018 she completed her Intensive Reformer training. For Karen this training has been instrumental as she assists her clients in their journeys to stronger and healthier physiques. Having created a mobile movement studio has allowed her to facilitate classes and workshops in multiple genres, and multiple locations making it easier to bring movement modalities to clients.

Her latest entrepreneurial pursuit is the creation of iamKHAY Live Music Entertainment, which allowed her to merge her passion for performance and live entertainment with her love of business. iamKHAY offers personalized, polished and intimate live music experiences for special events. The business training in practice for this endeavour has been made possible by the DTRC.

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My career as an artist has had multiple twist and turns, and I am acutely aware of the positive role my love of dance has played at each one. I continue to nurture every aspect of my artistic life and career through ongoing education in business, arts education professional performance and teaching. I have the DTRC to thank for providing the tools necessary to launch my transition and the ongoing support throughout the process. Through the generosity and help from the DTRC, all of the skills that I've acquired, have set me on a path to becoming a proud entrepreneur. To be able to merge my varied backgrounds and create a business and brand that I'm proud of, is as a direct result of the help I have received from the DTRC along the way.”

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RESILIENCY IN A TIME OF ADVERSITY

The past year is one that most of us will have a hard time forgetting. COVID-19 has had a dire global impact but the consequences have been particularly profound for the live performance community. It is difficult to predict when we can hope to experience dance again in a live venue – perhaps dance will never be same.

Witnessing these changes emboldens the team at the DTRC. The services that we provide allow our dancers to be resilient and to weather these sorts of events during their careers.

When the pandemic initially took hold in the spring of 2020, the DTRC nimbly adjusted its programming to offer more online support. We offered a series of workshops under the banner of the “Resource Room” which dealt with topics such as mental health and wellness, the career transition process, conflict in the workplace, and financial wellness for dancers. We also worked with sister organizations to regularly inform the community about the emergency measures offered at federal, provincial and regional levels.

Although this pandemic is undoubtedly a major setback, the precarious nature of the dance profession has always existed and the DTRC has offered support for the past 35 years. The transferrable skill development that we encourage our members to undertake makes them employable outside of dance. We have members taking classes in web design, foreign languages, and marketing just to name a few examples. In fact, I recently discovered that a member is training to develop their own podcast series!

There was also significant interest in our retraining and subsistence programs in 2020 versus the previous year. These grants provide larger amounts of money that help to subsidize both tuition and living expenses for members looking to train more extensively in a career parallel to dance or might be the career they transition out of dance into. We saw an increase of approximately \$200,000 in grants approved from the previous year.

The DTRC is all about caring for dancers. At this challenging moment, more than ever, we need to be there to assist our members. I am anticipating a continued high level of demand as dancers look for solutions in the wake of the current crisis. Together, with your support, we can continue building this resiliency in the dance community.

With thanks,
Kristian Clarke 

