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## **DANCER EVELYN HART RETURNS TO PETERBOROUGH TO SHARE STORIES OF HER LIFE AND CAREER**

Celebrated Canadian dancer and former Peterborough resident Evelyn Hart will share stories of her life and career in an informal evening of conversation with Trent professor and prominent dance historian James Neufeld at Market Hall on April 9.

An Evening with Evelyn Hart is presented as part of the Market Hall's Bright Lights series, an ongoing program of on-stage interviews with great artists from the Peterborough area. The evening will feature Hart and Neufeld in conversation as well as a selection of video clips of Hart's performances taken from various stages of her extensive career. The event begins at 8:00 p.m.

"We're very proud to bring Miss Hart back to the city as part of our Bright Lights series," said Market Hall general manager Bill Kimball. "This is a chance for Peterborough residents to hear first-hand about the life she led after leaving here as a teenager."

Hart, who danced for 30 years with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet and has won acclaim around the world for her dramatic intensity and compelling on-stage presence, lived in Peterborough between the ages of five and 14. She and her twin sister, Eleanor, attended Queen Mary Public School and started high school at PCVS before the family moved to the London area, explains older brother John Hart, now solicitor for the City of Peterborough.

"Someone – it might have been the University Women's Club – brought in a performance from the National Ballet when Ev was quite young," John said. "Evelyn saw the show and knew from that moment what it was she wanted to do. She started taking dance lessons here in Peterborough from a young woman named Wanda Ross."

After moving with her parents to the London area in 1970, Evelyn studied at the Dorothy Carter School of Dance and did a brief stint at the National Ballet School before settling in at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School.

She joined the Royal Winnipeg Ballet in 1976, was promoted to soloist in 1978, and just a year later advanced to principal dancer. Hart performed with that company for almost three decades, until her retirement in 2005.

She has been hailed across Canada and around the globe for her timeless interpretations of all the classic ballerina roles, including the starring roles in *Giselle*, *Romeo And Juliet*, *Swan Lake*, and *The Nutcracker*.

Hart also danced as a guest artist with a number of other companies, including the Bayerische Staatsballett in Munich and the National Ballet of Canada. Her performances in the starring roles of classic ballets such as *Romeo and Juliet*, *Swan Lake* and *Giselle* won her recognition and praise from some of the world's toughest dance critics.

Hart was made an officer of the Order of Canada in 1983 and was elevated to the rank of Companion in 1994. She received the Governor General's Performing Arts Award in 2001 and was inducted into the Order of Manitoba in 2007. Her life and work are the subject of Max Wyman's

best-selling biography, *Evelyn Hart: An Intimate Portrait*. Hart was also the subject of several films, including the 1992 television documentary *Moment of Light: The Dance of Evelyn Hart*.

James Neufeld, who will host the Market Hall event, is a professor of English at Trent University and a prominent dance writer and historian. He is the author of *Power to Rise: The Story of the National Ballet of Canada*, and of numerous reviews and articles about dance which have been published in Canadian and international journals.

Tickets for An Evening with Evelyn Hart are \$13 for adults and \$8 for students, seniors or the underemployed. They can be purchased from the Showplace box office at 705-742-7469 or online at [www.showplace.org](http://www.showplace.org).