

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Digidance Kicks Off Fall Season with Canadian Streaming Premiere of Superstar Brazilian Choreographer Deborah Colker's - *Dog Without Feathers* -

***Inspired by the region, animals, and people of Brazil's Capibaribe River,
Rich, Earthy Work Offers Meditation & Commentary on Climate Crisis***

Vancouver, BC – DanceHouse, in partnership with **Digidance**, announces the Canadian digital broadcast of celebrated Brazilian choreographer **Deborah Colker's *Dog Without Feathers*, streaming Sept 29 to Oct. 11, 2021**. Inspired by a poem by João Cabral of the same name, Colker crafts a mesmerizing vision of mud-and-dust-covered dancers shown as emergent from the animal and elemental worlds, yet at the same time destructive of them. In creating the work, Colker's 14-member company explored the beauty as well as the cultural and environmental impact of Northeast Brazil's Capibaribe River; the work is saturated with the sounds, landscape, animals, plants and people of the region.

The broadcast of *Dog Without Feathers* is due to the coordinated effort of Digidance, a national initiative formed in response to COVID-19 in 2020 between four of Canada's leading dance presenters: DanceHouse (Vancouver), Harbourfront Centre (Toronto), the National Arts Centre (Ottawa), and Danse Danse (Montreal).

"Amidst the many pivots of last season, my colleagues and I came together in a grand – and ultimately successful – experiment with Digidance. Through the streaming of these presentations, we were able to share works we never could have brought to our local stage with audiences in every corner of our country," says Jim Smith, Artistic and Executive Director of DanceHouse and Digidance Partner. "*Dog Without Feathers* is the ideal production in which to launch our second season. Featuring a large company of contemporary dancers and stunning technical elements, it is a massive, visually striking production with a timely commentary on the impact of human beings on nature and the resulting climate crisis. Further to this, it offers a window into a part of the world that we might never see otherwise. We could not be more thrilled that dance lovers from coast-to-coast-to-coast will have the opportunity to witness this work."

Based in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil's Companhia de Dança Deborah Colker is a company well-known for combining "death-defying feats on giant hamster wheels, voguing, hip-hop, acrobatics and anything else that suits Colker's eclectic sensibility," (NYT). The work's title, *Dog Without Feathers*, speaks to the sluggish Capibaribe River and the people who live by and depend upon it. Speaking to its message and intentions Colker explained, "It conveys the soul of Brazil from the rich and miserable to the mud and mangroves."

Following its premiere in 2017, the work quickly received international acclaim and attention. In 2018, in recognition of *Dog Without Feathers*, Colker was honoured as the choreography recipient of the International Dance Association's Prix Benois de la Danse - otherwise known as the 'Oscars of dance' - joining the ranks of such luminaries as Crystal Pite, Christopher Wheeldon, Jiří Kylián, among others.

Dog Without Feathers welcomes audiences into its world with voiceovers of Cabral's poem, accompanied by Cláudio Assis' black and white film projections and photography of the Capibaribe River, which include startling images of a dry river bed, of a burning crop field, rugged terrain, lush forests, and a shanty town. The lithe and intensely athletic dance artists enter the space in mud-coloured tights and coated with fine dust that plumes into clouds as they move through Colker's mercurial, dynamic, and acrobatic choreography.

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Over the course of eight movements, the artists come to embody not only the landscape of the Capibaribe region, but also the frogs, birds, and fauna that call the region home. Ultimately, they evolve to represent humanity itself – and explore how our species are simultaneously dependent upon and destructive of the natural world.

Colker has risen to become one of Brazil's most prominent and influential cultural figures since founding her company in 1994. Her works have toured to four continents and been seen on some of the world's greatest stages. In addition to the Prix Benois de la Danse, the international community has recognized her achievements when she became the first Brazilian to win a Laurence Olivier Award in 2001 for 'Outstanding Achievement in Dance'. Beyond the work she has created for her own company, Colker served as Cirque du Soleil's first-ever female choreographer for 2009's *Ovo* and as the Movement Director and Choreographer for the 2016 Olympics in her hometown of Rio de Janeiro.

Digidence's presentation of *Dog Without Feathers* will also include a 20-minute pre-show documentary.

For tickets and information on *Dog Without Feathers* and Digidence, visit: dancehouse.ca

About Digidence

Digidence is a joint initiative of Canadian dance presenters to deliver exceptional, full length Canadian and international dance content online to patrons across the country. Created in July 2020 as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Digidence consists of the following leading dance presenters: [DanceHouse](https://dancehouse.ca) (Vancouver), [Harbourfront Centre](https://harbourfrontcentre.ca) (Toronto), the [National Arts Centre](https://nationalartscentre.ca) (Ottawa), and [Danse Danse](https://danse-danse.ca) (Montreal).

By joining expertise, experience, and international networks, the partner organizations are better equipped to pivot to presenting work online - a first for all four organizations. Beyond the short term response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions placed on presenting live work in theatres, Digidence will ensure a rich legacy of dance in Canada for future years through continued presentations and access to Canadian and international dance works without the barriers of transportation, physical mobility, and affordability.

LISTING INFORMATION

***Dog Without Feathers* Choreography by Deborah Colker**

Dates: Sept 29 to Oct. 11, 2021
Video on Demand Streaming in Canada only.
Available from midnight PDT on Sept 29.

Price: From \$15 + applicable taxes

Event Link: dancehouse.ca

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For further media information, contact:

Angela Vannatter C. 604.992.2489

avannatter@mpmgarts.com

MURRAY PATERSON
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