

Name: Gwen Lavoie-Repeta

Board Position: volunteer

Hometown: Winnipeg

How are you involved in Manitoba's Dance Community? When we put our daughter into dance at age 2, 23 years ago, we had no idea what was about to begin! In a few years we were well into the "Dance Parent" mode through volunteering at dance recitals, dance competitions and more ! I have been volunteering and helping at the Manitoba Dance Festival for many years and have continued after our daughter no longer lives here

How long have you been involved with Dance Manitoba? About 20 years with the Manitoba Dance Festival and other dance related activities. This is my first year as a volunteer with the Dance Manitoba Board

Favourite thing about Dance in Manitoba? Dance in Manitoba is for everyone! And there is such diversity! People who don't do sports, people who DO sports, people who want exercise, or people who MUST dance and those who love to watch dance... there's a little dance in all of us.

Favourite thing you've ever seen on stage? You must mean other than my daughter? ☹ I saw The Addams Family on stage in New York with Nathan Lane. In one scene he cracks a whip to scare a 'monster' back under the stairs. He accidentally hurt himself with the whip and was in some pain while trying to continue the scene with his partner on stage. After a few attempts, with his partner also asking 'are you ok??', he finally gave up and said 'F (expletive) it. Let's do the next scene!' and walked off the stage to roars of laughter from the audience. (it was obvious that he was not seriously injured) Reference to his impromptu line was made by most of the other actors in the final scene on stage and of course there was much laughter. You only get this kind of ad lib thing in live theatre!

Favourite song to dance to? Sweet Child of Mine by Guns 'N' Roses

If you had one piece of advice for young dancers, what would it be? Learn from as many different people as you can, dance like no one is watching, and enjoy, enjoy, ENJOY !

Any family/pets you'd like to acknowledge? The rest of our family who were so patient as we got our dancer to many different classes, recitals and competitions. My 'Harley Davidson' husband who was brought into the unfamiliar world of dance and music. He was there for every single recital, performance, competition and more!

Favourite pastime other than dance? Live theatre, reading, movies and being at our home in Arizona

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go? Greece is on my bucket list

Who inspires you? Our youngest daughter - because of her patience and interest in things that will change the world, my son -because of his intense need to write music and staying true to his individualism, our middle child the dancer -who overcame many odds that could have waylaid her blossoming career in theatre. I have met a number of teachers, dance or otherwise, that go above and beyond. THEY are an inspiration as well.