**Debbie Wilson**

Debbie Wilson began her professional dance career at the age of 12 with the Cincinnati Ballet Company, where she became a soloist and one of the company’s rehearsal assistants. Leaving the ballet world, she worked for The American Dance Machine, touring Japan and the USA as the company’s dance captain/performer. In 1980 she moved to Canada to become the rehearsal director/dancer of Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal. Debbie went on to work with Howard Richard & Dancers, the Judith Marcuse Repertory Dance Company, the Randy Glynn Dance Project, Ballet Jörgen and many independent choreographers across Canada and the United States.

As a choreographer, she created a repertoire of critically acclaimed productions including *Aphrodite Unveiled*, *Raphael is whispering,* and *Homo Office Sapiensis,* which in 2002 received a Dora Mavor Moore nomination for Outstanding New Choreography. In October 2005, Wilson was honoured to be invited to present *Planetarium* at the United Nations' Assembly Hall in Geneva, Switzerland, as one of the events celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the United Nations.

Since 2009, Debbie has been focusing on two elements of dance. One is mentoring female dance artists who have been developing their own unique choreographic voices including Lua Shayenne, Roshanak Jaberi, Victoria Mata Soledad and Esie Mensah. And the second is deconstructing alignment-based techniques (ballet and Horton) to their functional elements which allows a greater range of body types to safely tackle these dance forms.