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\$75,000 OTF Resilient Communities Fund provides online support for Jaber Dance Theatre

TORONTO, ONT: Ontario Trillium Foundation's (OTF) Resilient Communities Fund invests in non-profit organizations' projects to help rebuild and recover in the aftermath of COVID-19. Earlier this year, Toronto-based Jaber Dance Theatre (JDT) received a \$75,000 Resilient Communities Fund grant to help it develop digital skills to realize its visions for the 2021-22 season and other long-term projects. JDT was established in 2017 by artist and choreographer Roshanak Jaber, creating contemporary and inter-disciplinary political art through live performances and digital experiences.

"Art is inherently political, but some of my favourite art takes a clear stance and tells stories that often go unheard in other spaces," said Suze Morrison, MPP for Toronto Centre. "I am thrilled that Jaber Dance Theatre has received this grant and will be able to make their pieces even more accessible and connected through the use of digital tools."

OTF's Resilient Communities fund has helped JDT in COVID recovery and resiliency by supporting its efforts to streamline operational processes using digital tools, experimenting with new technology such as Augmented Reality, strengthening its online presence by upgrading its website, and adapting creative projects to virtual platforms.

"OTF has been gracious in supporting our efforts to build our digital capacity so that we can continue to deliver our programming and stay engaged with our audiences," said Roshanak Jaber, Artistic Director.

JDT's work is research-based and intersectional to create multidisciplinary stories about racialized and marginalized women about contemporary global issues. Through an artistic platform, JDT offers live site-specific and staged performances, digital projects, master workshops, professional development, research and creative residencies, commissions for guests, choreographers, and advocacy initiatives. It partners with organizations who share its values of research, collaboration and justice.

Current and upcoming projects that can be viewed online at (jaberidt.com) include: *Woman in White* documentary and Augmented Reality photo exhibit which explores the true story of a nurse and mother who was captured and forcibly disappeared in El Salvador during the Salvadoran Civil War, offering an intimate look into a daughter's journey through love, loss and a quest for justice. The highly-anticipated *No Woman's Land* Tour, a five-time Dora-nominated dance-theatre production will come to five Ontario cities this March. It is based on real stories of refugee women that beautifully reveal the depths of human resilience in the face of adversity.

And finally, there is *Slipping*, a new site-specific creative experiment and dance film in the making that brings together all-female collaborators for a two-week collective quarantine. Artists will live in a secret Ontario location where they transform the dwelling to reveal intimate stories unfolding from room to room. Inspired by personal pandemic experiences, it will be co-directed and co-produced by Karen Kaeja and Roshanak Jaber. *Slipping* is a JDT project and generously funded by the Canada Council for the Arts, Digital Now and streams online in the Fall of 2022.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation is an agency of the Government of Ontario, and one of Canada's leading granting foundations. Last year, nearly \$112M was invested into 1,384 community projects and partnerships to build healthy and vibrant communities and strengthen the impact of Ontario's non-profit sector. In 2020/21, OTF supported Ontario's economic recovery by helping non-profit organizations rebuild and recover from the impacts of COVID-19. Visit otf.ca to learn more.