

# SHUMKA

## Canada's Ukrainian Shumka Dancers Announces new Executive Director

**Edmonton, AB** (June 1 2016) - Canada's **Ukrainian Shumka Dancers** is pleased to announce the appointment of **Darka Tarnawsky** as **Executive Director** of the organization effective immediately.

*"Shumka has been an important part of my life for over 32 years. I have worn many hats in the organization in that time: from dancer to executive member, tour co-producer to marketing and development director, from Shumka School Mom to special event volunteer..."* said Tarnawsky. *"I have seen the company's progression over time and feel it is on the cusp of growth in the area of artistic development, diversity, community engagement and touring/presentation. I am passionate about leading Shumka into its next phase as it nears its 60<sup>th</sup> year."*

The Shumka Board expresses its extreme gratitude to Shumka alumna and Honorary Member **Terry Mucha** who held the position of Executive Director in a volunteer capacity for two years while the company worked itself out of financial difficulties. *"Terry's dedication is admirable and we thank her for her commitment to the organization and its plans for sustainability in a very challenging time,"* said current Shumka President Joshua Semchuk.

Founding president of **Bottom Line Productions**, an Alberta-based arts marketing firm, Darka will continue to manage the company and its team of marketing professionals while assuming the ED duties at Shumka.

### **More about Darka:**

Darka has been involved in the industry as a performer, volunteer, supporter and professional manager for over 25 years. She holds a BSc with a specialization in Psychology from the University of Alberta (1987), and an Arts & Cultural Management Certificate from Macewan (1989). She was the recipient of the 1998 Macewan Distinguished Alumni Award and won the Mayor's Award for Promotion of the Arts in Edmonton in 2005.

Darka is an Honorary Lifetime Member of the Ukrainian Shumka Dancers and has volunteered as a board and committee member with a number of other community arts organizations including the Edmonton Arts Council, Alberta Council for the Ukrainian Arts, Alberta Ukrainian Dance Association, Arts Touring Alliance of Alberta, and the Professional Arts Coalition of Edmonton. Darka has been a part time faculty member at MacEwan University since 2003, teaching Media Relations, Audience & Resource Development and Performing Arts Management for the Arts & Cultural Management program.

### **More about Shumka:**

Founded in 1959, the Ukrainian Shumka Dancers present full-length, dance-theatre touring productions, as well as intimate concert repertoire across Canada and around the world. Along with Alberta Ballet and Edmonton Opera, Shumka is honoured to be a resident company of the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium.

More than 55 years of performance history has shaped Shumka's signature music and dance style. The company commissions and produces original music and choreography based on Ukrainian culture in a Canadian context. While maintaining deep respect for their heritage, Shumka continually challenges conventional boundaries in order to define the experience of Ukrainian dance in the context of today's society. In the last decade, Shumka's works were enjoyed by live audiences in Canada, China, and Ukraine.

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