

# **GRADE A NEW ARRIVAL**

## **KIM ROBARDS DANCE COMPANY**

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Aurora has a new master of dance. Kim Robards spent decades building up the reputation, credibility and rapport of her dance company. For years, the Kim Robards Dance Company was one of Denver's finest, earning praise from local arts critics. During trips across the country and the world, Robards also drew acclaim from national publications and international audiences. All of that experience made the troupe's arrival in Aurora earlier this year all the more exciting. The newest tenant in the Aurora Cultural Arts District, Robards and her company moved into an empty storefront off East Colfax Avenue, right down the street from the Aurora Fox theater and the Downtown Aurora Visual Arts gallery. The company didn't waste any time in working to fit into their new community. Robards immediately kicked off a series of dance classes for beginners and veterans alike. What's more, Robards choreographed a moving piece specifically dedicated to the city and a recent tragedy. In "Aurora," a piece set to orchestral music by Latvian composer Georgs Pelecis, Robards and her crew dramatized a tragedy that forever changed an entire community. With simple props and graceful movement, the company tracked the fallout of the theater shootings of July 2012. "Even after the greatest of tragedies, hopefully you get into the momentum and glory of life. You have to find the exuberance again, because if you don't, those tragedies will take you under," Robards told us in June. It was a moving way to arrive in Aurora, and judging from the beauty, grace and fluidity of that piece, local dance fans will have a lot to look forward to from Robards and her peers in the coming years.

- See more at: <http://www.aurorasentinel.com/gradea/grade-2013-arts-entertainment/#sthash.jnfdYBuT.dpuf>