

## Sometimes I have positive feelings to express, and dance, for me, is the perfect outlet.

Like Mancini, actor Manon Dumas also thrills to the "do-or-die feeling of a live performance." Currently on secondment to the Privy Council Office, Dumas says she loves the hours of rehearsal required to explore all of a character's niches. When she recently performed in the *Mechanicsville Monologues* at the Carleton Tavern, it was the intensive rehearsals that allowed her to keep focus amid the distractions of a busy bar. Her performance won wide praise.

Through its Visual Arts Collection Program, annual Foreign Service Community Association arts and crafts sales and various photographic exhibits, DFAIT actively supports Canadian art and culture. Dumas says artists feel this support, and she has never felt an impulse to keep her acting career private.

"People here are avid appreciators of art and culture. Within the greater spirit of serving Canada's international interests, there's an openness that is quite in keeping with artistic thought."

*Please visit* Our World Online *for a related story on the department's seasoned creative writers, "Our World of Writers."* 



Martine Charles dancing at the Carnival of Cultures in Ottawa