



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JULY 17, 2008

The Dance Centre: 2008-2009 season

Vancouver, BC: The Dance Centre's 2008-2009 season presents performances by artists working across contemporary and cultural genres in two series. The **Global Dance Connections** contemporary dance series features local, Canadian and international companies, and the popular **Discover Dance!** noon series showcases a diverse range of BC dance. Special events include the annual **Scotiabank Dance Centre Open House**, **International Dance Day** and **Twelve Minutes Max**, plus ongoing studio presentations, discussions and events throughout the season.

Global Dance Connections Contemporary dance series

Friday-Saturday September 12-13 Moving Dragon (Vancouver)

Thursday-Saturday October 9-11 battery opera (Vancouver)

Thursday-Saturday November 13-15 Trial & Eros (Montreal)

Friday-Saturday December 12-13 Gioconda Barbuto/Emily Molnar (Montreal/Vancouver)

Thursday-Saturday January 22-24 Hiroaki Umeda (Tokyo)

Thursday-Saturday February 12-14 Lynda Gaudreau/Compagnie De Brune (Montreal)

Thursday-Saturday May 7-9 Wee/Francesco Scavetta (Oslo/Rome)

Thursday-Saturday June 11-13 Fortier Danse-Création (Montreal)

Discover Dance! Noon dance series

Thursday September 25 Historical Performance Ensemble

Thursday October 30 Mandala Arts and Culture

Thursday November 27 Converge Dance Op.

Thursday February 26 Kokoma African Heritage Ensemble

Thursday March 26 Lola Dance

Thursday April 23 Judith Marcuse Projects

Thursday May 28 Thai Dance Company

Events

Saturday September 13 The 7th annual Scotiabank Dance Centre Open House

Monday-Tuesday December 8-9 Twelve Minutes Max

Saturday April 25 Judith Marcuse Projects *EARTH = home*

Wednesday April 29 International Dance Day

Monday-Tuesday May 25-26 Twelve Minutes Max

Information: 604 606 6400 www.thedancecentre.ca All events are at Scotiabank Dance Centre, 677 Davie St, Vancouver except for Twelve Minutes Max.

More information about each show and ticketing details follow below. Tickets go on sale August 11, 2008.

Global Dance Connections

A series showcasing contemporary dance from BC, Canada and around the world:

Moving Dragon (Vancouver): *LuminUs*

Friday-Saturday September 12-13, 8pm World premiere

Renowned as a superbly versatile performer with companies such as Ballet British Columbia, Chengxin Wei is also a distinctive new choreographic voice and recipient of the second Iris Garland Emerging Choreographer Award. His new work *LuminUs* is an exploration of the dynamic interplay between bodies and light: a visually arresting, finely crafted duet performed with Moving Dragon co-director Jessica Jone.

Presented through The Dance Centre's Iris Garland Emerging Choreographer Award.

battery opera (Vancouver): *The Whole Beast*

Thursday-Saturday October 9-11, 8pm North American premiere

The Whole Beast is a new solo work created and performed by Lee Su-Feh, in which the dancer is butcher, meat, cook and the cooked. With fine precision and startling intimacy, Lee carves the spaces inside and outside the body, uncovering recipes and stories along the way, offering up a view of a life shaped and affected by food, love and loss. *The Whole Beast* had its World Premiere in March 2008 at the Festival Les Antipodes, Brest, France.

Presented by battery opera in association with The Dance Centre's Artist-in-Residence program.

Trial & Eros (Montreal): *Elegant Heathens*

Thursday-Saturday November 13-15, 8pm Vancouver premiere

Five eccentric characters - a family of hedonists in the final stages of their glory - indulge their witty theatricality in Deborah Dunn's sumptuous quintet. With music by Vivaldi, Purcell, Chopin, Schubert and Handel, elaborate costumes and vibrant ensemble dancing, *Elegant Heathens* is a feast for the senses - spiced with Dunn's trademark sharp intelligence and caustic social commentary.

Gioconda Barbuto/Emily Molnar (Montreal/Vancouver): *LifeLines*

Friday-Saturday December 12-13, 8pm Western Canadian premiere

Two of Canada's most outstanding dancers, Gioconda Barbuto (Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, Nederlands Dans Theater III) and Emily Molnar (Frankfurt Ballet, Ballet British Columbia) join forces for a duet created in collaboration with video artist and photographer Michael Slobodian. *LifeLines* is an intimate conversation about life, consequence and the passage of time, filled with exquisite dancing and memorable images. Presented in partnership with Gioconda Barbuto and through The Dance Centre's Artist-in-Residence program.

Hiroaki Umeda (Tokyo): *while going to a condition/Accumulated Layout*

Thursday-Saturday January 22-24, 8pm Western Canadian premiere

In just a few years Hiroaki Umeda has become one of Japan's most exciting artists. His body movements borrow from both hip hop and butoh, and unfold in response to a crescendo of pulsating sound and light to conjure a futuristic, fiercely poetic landscape.

Presented with the PuSh International Performing Arts Festival.

Lynda Gaudreau/Compagnie De Brune (Montreal): 0101**Thursday-Saturday February 12-14, 8pm** Canadian premiere

Two dancers perform three versions of the same material, executing simple movements punctuated by the beat of a drummer on stage: celebrated choreographer Lynda Gaudreau continues her rigorous examination of the body, in a work of dry minimalist wit which challenges ideas of what dance can be. This examination of details and time is quiet and playful, and full of absurd glimpses.

Wee/Francesco Scavetta (Oslo/Rome): Live***Thursday-Saturday May 7-9, 8pm** Canadian premiere

Italian-born, Norwegian-based choreographer/dancer Francesco Scavetta has delighted audiences around Europe with his adventurous integration of performance and technology, and offbeat humour. Commissioned by the Venice Biennale, *live** is a collaboration with composer Luigi Ceccarelli. It forces audiences to question what they see and hear as Scavetta's rubber-limbed everyman grapples with live and remixed video and music, in a teasing dissection of reality and illusion.

Fortier Danse-Création (Montreal): Cabane**Thursday-Saturday June 11-13, 8pm** Vancouver premiere

Canadian dance icon Paul-André Fortier's new duet is created and performed with the extraordinary artist and musician Rober Racine in and around a small cabin. The elegant Fortier and mischievous Racine generate a series of surreal encounters in a provocative, amusing work which is part installation, part site specific work, and breaks the conventions of dance performance.

Global Dance Connections Tickets \$26/\$18 students, seniors from Tickets Tonight 604 684 2787 (service charges apply) and online at www.ticketstonight.ca. Subscription packages available from 604 606 6420.

Discover Dance!

The popular noon series offers informative and inspiring shows by BC-based dance companies which combine performance, question-and-answer sessions with the artists, and sometimes even audience participation.

Historical Performance Ensemble Thursday September 25, 12 noon

The Historical Performance Ensemble brings to life dances from centuries past, with authentically recreated social and theatrical dances performed in beautiful costumes, and accompanied by live music played on period instruments.

Mandala Arts and Culture Thursday October 30, 12 noon

Mandala Arts and Culture artistic director Jai Govinda hosts a performance showcasing three contrasting styles of classical East Indian dance: Bharata Natyam, Kathak and Odissi.

Converge Dance Op. Thursday November 27, 12 noon

Vancouver's newest all-female troupe, Converge Dance Op mixes a vigorous blend of urban dance styles – jazz, hip hop, house, popping, locking, b-girling and more - with contemporary movement. Presented as part of World Aids Day events.

Kokoma African Heritage Ensemble Thursday February 26, 12 noon

The high-energy dances and powerful drum rhythms of West Africa burst on to the stage in this exhilarating performance by one of Canada's most highly regarded African dance and music ensembles.

Lola Dance Thursday March 26, 12 noon

Perhaps Lola MacLaughlin's most stunning creation to date, *Provincial Essays* is a virtuosic quintet, full of delicious humour and ravishing visuals, inspired by observations of the natural world.

Judith Marcuse Projects Thursday April 23, 12 noon

Combining dance, music, text and video to express the thoughts of young people about the state of the planet, Judith Marcuse's hit show *EARTH = home* delivers a universal message with energy and passion. Presented in celebration of Earth Day.

Thai Dance Company Thursday May 28, 12 noon

This spectacular performance explores Thailand's culture and traditions. The elegant choreography features an array of elaborate and colourful costumes that vary from region to region. Presented as part of Asian Heritage Month.

Discover Dance! Tickets \$10/\$7 students, seniors and children from Tickets Tonight 604 684 2787 (service charges apply) and online at www.ticketstonight.ca. Subscription packages available from 604 606 6420.

Events**The 7th Annual Scotiabank Dance Centre Open House Saturday September 13, 12-5pm**

A day of free open classes, workshops, studio showings and special events celebrating the opening of Canada's flagship dance facility. Full schedule to be announced in August. Presented with the support of Scotiabank.

Judith Marcuse Projects: *EARTH = home* Saturday April 25 at 2pm

A special all-ages matinee. See Discover Dance! for show information. **Tickets** \$15/\$10 students, seniors and children from Tickets Tonight by phone at 604 684 2787 (\$2.50 per ticket surcharge applies) or online at www.ticketstonight.ca. Presented in celebration of Earth Day.

International Dance Day Wednesday April 29

A series of events celebrating the art of dance for International Dance Day, which was instituted by UNESCO in 1982. Full program to be announced in spring 2009.

Twelve Minutes Max

Mixed programs of dance and interdisciplinary works lasting twelve minutes or less.

December 8 & 9 and May 25 & 26 at the Firehall Arts Centre.

Co-hosted by The Dance Centre and the Firehall Arts Centre.

Studio Showings

Informal studio presentations and discussions coming out of The Dance Centre's research and development programs will take place throughout the season – dates and times to be announced:

Artists-in-Residence 605 Collective; Claire French; MovEnt; Michelle Olson (Raven Spirit Dance); Tara Cheyenne Friedenber; Helen Walkley.

DanceLab interdisciplinary research labs: Jennifer Clarke; James Gnam; Laura Hicks; Kidd Pivot.

Choreographic Labs

Correspondanse (Quebec City) and Co. ERASGA (Vancouver) in association with The Dance Centre:
November 24-30

Claire French (Vancouver) January-June

Lynda Gaudreau (Montreal) Clash February 9-11 and June 15-28

Paul-Andre Fortier (Montreal) June 15-29

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All events are at Scotiabank Dance Centre, 677 Davie St, Vancouver except for Twelve Minutes Max.

About The Dance Centre Established in 1986 as a resource centre for the dance profession and the public in British Columbia, The Dance Centre has expanded into a multifaceted organization offering a range of activities unparalleled in Canadian dance. It presents performances and public events; operates Scotiabank Dance Centre, Canada's flagship dance facility; promotes BC dance to the public and to presenters of dance; and provides resources and services for the dance profession, through its team of experienced professional staff.

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The operations of The Dance Centre are supported by the Canada Council for the Arts, the Province of British Columbia through the BC Arts Council, and the City of Vancouver through the Office of Cultural Affairs. Programs are also supported by the Department of Canadian Heritage, and the Province of BC through the Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch.

Official hotel sponsor: **the Holiday Inn Vancouver Downtown Hotel & Suites.**
 The 2008 Scotiabank Dance Centre Open House is presented with the support of **Scotiabank**
 Media sponsors: **Channel M, Vancouver Courier** (Discover Dance!),
The Georgia Straight (Global Dance Connections)