

The Dance Centre: 2009-2010 season

Vancouver, BC: The Dance Centre's 2009-2010 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 artists and includes the biennial **Dance In Vancouver** in October and partnerships with the PuSh and Chutzpah! Festivals, while the popular **Discover Dance!** noon series showcases a diverse range of BC dance. Other events include the annual **Scotiabank Dance Centre Open House, International Dance Day, Pulse** and **Twelve Minutes Max**, plus ongoing residencies and research labs throughout the season.

Global Dance Connections Contemporary dance series

Monday-Tuesday September 28-29 Exchanges: Montreal-Vancouver (Montreal)

Wednesday-Sunday October 14-18 The 7th biennial Dance In Vancouver (Vancouver)

Thursday-Saturday December 3-5 MACHiNENOiSY (Vancouver)

Wednesday-Saturday January 20-23 Jérôme Bel (Paris)

Tuesday-Wednesday March 16-17 Aszure Barton & Artists (New York)

Thursday-Saturday April 29-May 1 MovEnt (Vancouver)

Discover Dance! Noon dance series

Thursday September 24 Raven Spirit Dance

Thursday October 29 MOVE: the company

Thursday November 26 Rahma Haddad & Lynette Harper

Thursday March 25 Flamenco Rosario

Thursday April 29 MovEnt & Friends

Thursday May 27 Mascall Dance

Events

Friday-Saturday September 18-19: *Pulse*: Claire French & Julie Lebel

Saturday September 19 The 8th annual Scotiabank Dance Centre Open House

December (dates tba) Twelve Minutes Max

Thursday April 29 International Dance Day

May (dates tba) Twelve Minutes Max

Information: 604 606 6400 www.thedancecentre.ca

More information about each show and ticketing details follow below.

Global Dance Connections Contemporary dance series

Exchanges: Montreal-Vancouver

Presented in partnership with the Festival Transatlantique Montréal /Quartiers Danses

Monday-Tuesday September 28-29, 8pm at Scotiabank Dance Centre

Alyson Wishnousky + Jean-Sébastien Lourdais/La Compagnie Défaut de Fabrication (Montreal)

Vancouver premieres

Two fast-rising young choreographers from Quebec kick off a two-year exchange project between The Dance Centre and the Festival Transatlantique Montréal/*Quartiers Danses*. Alyson Wishnousky's vividly theatrical work reveals a dark tenderness: her solo *Pop! Bang!* delves into egocentric tendencies, personal revelations and the transient nature of a lifespan. *Apparently Perverse*, a collaboration with photographer/videographer Nikol Mikus, observes stereotyped personalities ranging from the girl next door, social outcasts, criminals and lost souls to revolutionaries, dictators, politicians and pop stars. French-born choreographer Jean-Sébastien Lourdais has emerged as a wildly original voice on the Montreal dance scene. *Controle-consommation* is a clever and unsettling solo inspired by the dehumanizing effect of excessive consumption, and comes to Vancouver fresh from the prestigious Rencontres Chorégraphiques Internationales de Seine-Saint-Denis in Paris.

The 7th biennial Dance In Vancouver

Wednesday-Sunday October 14-18 at Scotiabank Dance Centre

Dance In Vancouver celebrates the energy and originality of the city's contemporary dance scene, showcasing excerpts of recent works by some of British Columbia's most exciting companies.

Program One Wednesday October 14, 7pm and Saturday October 17, 9pm

MovEnt + the plastic orchid factory + Rob Kitsos & Dancers

MovEnt's *SURGE* is about power, both personal and physical. Three dancers devour Day Helesic's full-throttle, high velocity choreography, to Gordon Cobb's propulsive industrial score, in a riveting tribute to strength and endurance. In the plastic orchid factory's *endORPHIN*. James Gnam's intricate choreography for three dancers seamlessly meshes the clean lines of ballet with contemporary movement, sound and design to frame the beauty and stoicism inherent in contemporary dysfunction. Rob Kitsos & Dancers performs *WAKE*, an ensemble work examining the perspectives of individuals living in an urban environment.

Program Two Wednesday October 14, 9pm and Saturday October 17, 7pm

Animals of Distinction + The 605 Collective

Dana Gingras has earned a dazzling international reputation as part of The Holy Body Tattoo and now with her solo project *Animals of Distinction*. Two duets from *Smash Up* combine dance with cutting edge multimedia: *Chain Reaction* sets the movements of Gingras and Sarah Doucet against the motion of animated projections, while *Double Bubble* - a new duet for Susan Elliott and Shay Kuebler - spirals into a double dare that runs wildly out of control. Gingras will also show an excerpt from a new piece being created specially for the 605 Collective which exploits the supreme versatility of the five dancers in a work packed with athletic movement and radical shifts in dynamics.

Program Three Thursday October 15, 7pm and Friday October 16, 9pm

Sara Coffin + MOVE: the company + MACHiNENOiSY

Award-winning young choreographer Sara Coffin's new duet *Dropped Signal* explores our need for togetherness, both real and virtual. Josh Beamish's *MOVE: the company* returns from sensationally successful tours around North America with *Sold Doubt*, a fast-flowing and inventive response to the Vitamin String Quartet's reinterpretations of the music of No Doubt. The myth of the mermaid inspires *He was swimming the other way*, a multilayered quartet created by MACHiNENOiSY's Delia Brett which moves in sad and sensual waves through the absurd, the tragic and the playful.

Program Four Thursday October 15, 9pm and Friday October 16, 7pm

Co. ERASGA + Kinesis Dance

Alvin Erasga Tolentino's *PARADIS/Paradise* is an intercontinental collaboration with French composer Emmanuel de St Aubin, who accompanies Tolentino's magnetic solo performance live. Raw, bold and surprising palates of sounds, imagery and movement construct an electrifying abstract meditation on the concept of paradise. In Kinesis Dance's *BOX4*, a quartet of dancers powers through a work of extreme tension in a mysteriously confined space. Choreographer Paraskevas Terezakis pushes his meaty, dense vocabulary to new limits, asking how we can find individual space and freedom in a rapidly shrinking world.

Program Five Sunday October 18 at 7pm

Karen Jamieson Dance

Karen Jamieson's groundbreaking dance works employ a mythic, poetic language to explore the tension between form and energy. *Agon: Collected Works* presents a reworking of the classic *Solo From Chaos* (1982), the devastating duet *Man Within* (1989) and new work *Agon* (2008).

MACHiNENoiSY (Vancouver): *The Open Spaces Project*

Co-presented with MACHiNENoiSY through The Dance Centre's Artist-in-Residence program

World premiere

Thursday-Saturday December 3-5, 8pm at Scotiabank Dance Centre

An ambitious and exciting new work for a cast of six men, *The Open Spaces Project* is an international collaboration between MACHiNENoiSY Co-Artistic Director Daelik, Berlin-based Australian performance artist Paul Gazzola and Calgary-based sound and new media artist Adam Tindale. The piece investigates the influence of space on identity, the relationship between architecture and gender, and constructs of masculinity, drawing on themes ranging from the cowboy as a masculine icon to the colonization of remote landscapes. Weaving innovative choreography, sophisticated video manipulation and sound together, *The Open Spaces Project* presents a multilayered essay on people and space.

Jérôme Bel (Paris): *The Show Must Go On*

Co-presented with the PuSh International Performing Arts Festival and the SFU Woodward's Inaugural Program

Vancouver premiere

Wednesday-Saturday January 20-23, 8pm at the Fei and Milton Wong Experimental Theatre, Simon Fraser University at Woodward's

A cult figure on the international dance scene, Jérôme Bel's ironic, anti-theatrical productions question the nature of dance, and blur the dividing line between spectator and spectacle. *The Show Must Go On* is regarded as his signature work and has delighted and outraged audiences around Europe and North America. The cast is a charmingly wayward group of 20 local individuals, accompanied by a DJ with a collection of classic pop hits by David Bowie, George Michael, the Police, Queen and more. This subversively witty, playful look at how we act, react and interact is the opening performance of the 2010 PuSh Festival, and the Inaugural Preview of the new Fei and Milton Wong Experimental Theatre at SFU Woodward's.

Aszure Barton & Artists (New York)

Co-presented with the Chutzpah! Festival

Tuesday-Wednesday March 16-17, 7pm at the Norman Rothstein Theatre

Known for riotously complex dance works that are at once vulnerable, feisty and witty, Canadian-born Aszure Barton is one of the world's hottest contemporary choreographers. She founded Aszure Barton &

Artists in 2002 and has performed and created all over the globe: this season she has been commissioned by both American Ballet Theatre and the National Ballet of Canada. Barton is currently Artist-In-Residence at the Baryshnikov Arts Center in New York, where she has created work for (and performs with) Baryshnikov's new company Hell's Kitchen Dance. Barton brings her company of nine superlative dancers to Vancouver for a glorious evening of works from her repertoire.

MovEnt (Vancouver): *Around the Block*

Co-presented with MovEnt through The Dance Centre's Artist-in-Residence program
Vancouver premiere

Thursday-Saturday April 29-May 1, 8pm at Scotiabank Dance Centre

Inspired by New York, Day Helesic's *Around the Block* is a full-length dance work reflecting the energy of the city and the people who live there. A physical essay of boldness and intensity, four dancers travel the streets of Manhattan in a desire to find connection within the chaos. With an original score by Marc Stewart, lighting by Rob Sondergaard and striking film by Aren Hansen and Reva Quam, *Around the Block* is a work of physical devotion and harnessed energy.

Global Dance Connections tickets \$26/\$18 students & seniors (except Exchanges, \$20/\$16, and Jerome Bel, \$30/\$24) available from Tickets Tonight 604.684.2787 (service charges apply) and online at www.ticketstonight.ca from August 14. Azure Barton & Artists tickets available after October 1 from 604.257.5145 www.chutzpahfestival.com and www.ticketstonight.ca. Subscription packages and group rates available from 604.606.6420 tickets@thedancecentre.ca.

Discover Dance! noon dance series

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.

Raven Spirit Dance Thursday September 24, 12 noon

Raven Spirit Dance's distinctive brand of contemporary dance is rooted in an Aboriginal worldview, and asks questions about identity in works full of layered meaning and spiritual resonance. *Gathering Light* is Artistic Director Michelle Olson's latest work, an evocative piece for five dancers which explores the journey from seed to flower, and the desire of the flower – and the human spirit - for colour and light. Presented through The Dance Centre's Artist-in-Residence program.

MOVE: the company Thursday October 29, 12 noon

Josh Beamish's dynamic young company, formed four years ago when he was just 17, has taken Vancouver – and North America – by storm with its audacious blend of contemporary and jazz dance, and astonishingly prolific output. *Sold Doubt* is inspired by vibrant strings covers of the music of iconic band No Doubt, an ensemble work for seven dancers which fuses high-octane movement and an acutely modern sensibility.

Rahma Haddad & Lynette Harper Thursday November 26, 12 noon

Rahma Haddad and Lynette Harper are renowned as two of BC's most outstanding Middle Eastern dance exponents, and make a welcome return to the Discover Dance! series to present *Bekaa Valley Girls: A Lebanese Saga*. Performing a vivid array of dances bursting with sensuality, expressiveness and joyful

grace, Haddad and Harper explore their shared Lebanese roots and their Arab-Canadian identities, providing a personal and cultural context for experiencing contemporary genres of Arab dance.

Flamenco Rosario Thursday March 25, 12 noon

The brilliant footwork and breathtaking virtuosity of flamenco come to life in this exhilarating performance by Flamenco Rosario. Led by celebrated Artistic Director Rosario Ancer and Musical Director Victor Kolstee, company dancers and graduating students of the Flamenco Rosario professional training program perform a special edition of the popular *Cuadro Flamenco* series, featuring traditional flamenco with live music and singing.

MovEnt & Friends Thursday April 29, 12 noon

Well known for bold and kinetic dance creations as well as the hit series *Dances for a Small Stage*, MovEnt's work discovers a driving, contemporary approach to movement. Co Artistic Producer Day Helesic's choreography combines thrilling technical virtuosity and abandoned physicality. For this mixed program MovEnt is joined by special guests for a presentation of short works, including an excerpt from Helesic's ode to New York, *Around the Block*.

Presented in celebration of International Dance Day

Mascall Dance Thursday May 27, 12 noon

Choreographed by Jennifer Mascall, *Homewerk* investigates stories of home and belonging through high-energy dance, rhythmic music and inventive props. Concepts of shelter, comfort and acceptance are split open by four superb dancers in this delightful but thought-provoking performance about how people live throughout the world.

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 and group discounts available from 604.606.6420 tickets@thedancecentre.ca.

Events

8th Annual Scotiabank Dance Centre Open House

Saturday September 19 at Scotiabank Dance Centre

A day of free open classes, workshops and studio showings celebrating Canada's flagship dance facility. Events include an open rehearsal with Aeriosa Dance, LINK Dance's Breakfast Dances, class with Mandala Arts and Culture, a screening of films from the Festival Transatlantique Montréal/Quartiers Danses (part of the Montreal-Vancouver Exchanges project), and more. Full schedule to be announced.

Presented with the support of Scotiabank

Pulse: Claire French and Julie Lebel (Vancouver)

Friday-Saturday September 18-19, 8pm at Scotiabank Dance Centre

Claire French and Julie Lebel present a mixed program of contrasting solos for the seventh edition of Pulse. French's *Inside Outside In* is a poetic solo that explores the link between thinking and doing, while *Outside Out* takes an updated look at the leading ladies of the Hollywood musicals era. Julie Lebel's *Field Notes* was created through walks on Côte-Nord in her home province, Quebec. Dance, music and video stimulate the senses to challenge the distinction between body and environment in the places where we belong.

Tickets \$20/\$15 students, seniors and Dance Centre members from 604.684.2787 www.ticketstonight.ca
Pulse is an assisted presentation program of The Dance Centre.

International Dance Day Thursday 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.

Twelve Minutes Max

December and May (dates tba) at the Firehall Arts Centre

Now in its fourteenth year, Twelve Minutes Max showcases the latest in interdisciplinary live performance with a selection of eclectic works lasting twelve minutes or less. Program and artist details will be announced closer to the performance dates.

Tickets \$12 from 604.689.0926 www.firehallartscentre.ca

Co-hosted with the Firehall Arts Centre

Residencies and Labs

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:

The **Artist-in-Residence** program provides support and fully subsidized studio space at Scotiabank Dance Centre to assist dance professionals in the development of new works, with activities ranging from creation and teaching to public events such as studio showings, discussions and performances. The 2009-2010 Artists-in-Residence are:

Josh Beamish (MOVE: the company)

Sara Coffin

Daelik (MACHiNENOiSY)

Susan Elliott (Anatomica) and Tanya Marquardt (Proximity Arts)

Noam Gagnon (Co. Vision Selective)

Laura Hicks

The **DanceLab** interdisciplinary research program supports collaboration between choreographers and artists working in other disciplines, providing fully subsidized studio space for research into how cross-art form collaboration can enhance artistic growth and the development of new work. At the end of the Lab the artists open up the process to the public with an informal free studio presentation. The 2009-2010 DanceLab choreographers and collaborators are:

Delia Brett with Tamara Unroe (puppets), Jordan Bent (animation and projections) and Chris Kelly (music)
Justine Chambers with Joshua Hite (open source software and digital video installation)

Alison Denham with Itai Erdal (lighting design) and Billy Marchenski (acting/performance)

Nicole Mion with Evann Siebens (new media)

Starr Muranko with Rahul Bader (music), Monica Mustelier and Denise Lonewalker (dramaturgy and maskwork), Yvonne Chartrand (costume consultant), Margaret Grenier (regalia and storyline)

Lee Su-Feh with Tannis Hugill (dance movement therapy)

Choreographic Labs

Lynda Gaudreau (Montreal) *Clash* June 2010: Developed and directed by internationally acclaimed choreographer Lynda Gaudreau, *Clash* is an event devoted to choreographic research. The project encourages the circulation of ideas about contemporary issues and allows a real exchange about methods, helping choreographers to develop choreographic material and to work closely with one another. Participating choreographers in this special Vancouver edition are Jennifer Clarke, Claire French, Julie Lebel, Caroline Liffmann and Jennifer Mascal.

Information: 604 606 6400 www.thedancecentre.ca

All events are at Scotiabank Dance Centre, 677 Davie St, Vancouver except where stated.

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.

- 30 -

<p>Media contact: Heather Bray, Marketing Manager T: 604 606 6412 F: 604 606 6401 marketing@thedancecentre.ca</p>
--

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.**

Media sponsors: **The Georgia Straight** (Global Dance Connections)

OMNI Diversity Television, Vancouver Courier (Discover Dance!)

The Dance Centre
Scotiabank Dance Centre, Level 6, 677 Davie Street, Vancouver BC V6B 2G6 Tel 604 606 6400
www.thedancecentre.ca