

PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

CANADA DANCE FESTIVAL 2004 LAUNCHES ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

Dare to turn up the heat from June 3 to 12, in Ottawa!

For immediate release – The 10th anniversary edition of the biennial Canada Dance Festival (CDF), will feature world-class and world-premiereing contemporary dance artists and choreographers. As well, several exciting dance-related activities are scheduled for the dance enthusiasts who will come from around the world to attend this renowned event.

Celebrating creation: Star-studded shows and brilliant artists

Curated by Artistic Producer Brian H. Webb, the CDF's sizzling line-up kicks off in style with the Canadian premiere of Ginette Laurin's ***Passare or Another Shape For Infinity***, performed by Montréal's **O Vertigo** (*Thursday June 3, NAC Theatre, Premiere, CDF Commission*).

The Festival will close with two amazing performances which define the profound link between the traditional and the contemporary. The first piece, ***Dancing Americas***, is a critically-acclaimed First Nations dance by **Red Sky** (Toronto), with original music composed by world-famous music composer **Antonio Zepeda**. In a shared program, The **Shumka Dancers** (Edmonton) will perform ***Pathways to Hopak***, choreographer Viktor Lytvynov's impassioned exploration of Canada's expression of Hopak and its metaphorical celebration of life as captured in Shumka's electrifying dance theatre style and Yuri Shevchenko's original composition (*Saturday June 12, NAC Theatre, Premieres, CDF Commission*).

Between an oh-so-contemporary opening and an unforgettable closing evening celebrating traditional sources, the CDF presents exciting top-notch performances in as many take-your-breath-away styles, with...

- **DanStaBat's *Chrysalis*** (Vancouver): the dancers are four of Vancouver's finest; the choreography is a virtuosic, high-voltage celebration of female creativity, empowerment and sexuality. *Chrysalis* is an intense and extraordinary display of in-your-face "girl power." (*Friday June 4, NAC Studio, Premiere*)
- **Les Ballets jazz de Montréal's** world premiere of ***The Stolen Show***, by Crystal Pite, the choreographer-in-residence at *bjm_danse* since 2000. This event will mark the conclusion of the choreographer's and the dancers' three-year journey together. A hit at the 2002 Festival, Crystal Pite is a choreographer with something new to say in Canada. A show for everyone to enjoy! (*Saturday June 5, NAC Theatre, Premiere, CDF Commission*)

The Ballets Jazz de Montréal will be preceded by three duet performances:

- ***Untitled Tangle***, an original work choreographed by dancer, choreographer and teacher **John Ottmann** (Vancouver), where languages intersect, engage, fracture, shift (*Ottawa premiere*);
- ***Unspoken***, a moving ballet performed by two of Canada's most illustrious dancers, **Evelyn Hart** (Winnipeg) and **Rex Harrington** (Toronto) (*Ottawa premiere*);
- ***Les Ombres dans ta tête***, choreographed by the late **Jean-Pierre Perreault** (Montréal), engages dancers **Marc Boivin** and **Lucie Boissinot** in a physical and at times spiritual pursuit of the other (*Ottawa premiere*).
- ***Bell***, by renowned dancer and filmmaker **Anne Troake** (St. John's): this dance work is centred around a large wooden bell constructed by artist **Peter von Tiesenhausen**. Anne Troake was part of the Fresh Voices program in the CDF's 2002 edition. (*Sunday June 6, La Nouvelle Scène, Commission*)
- **Le Groupe Dance Lab** – two world premieres by **Karen Guttman** and **Rob Abubo**: Ottawa's creative hothouse features Karen Guttman, who works at the interplay of the body and the imagination, exploring the hectic, the sensuous, the disorienting and the fantastic. In a shared program, Rob Abubo explores the playfulness of light with movement, creating a range of poignant responses. These performances center our celebration of **Peter Boneham's** contribution to Canadian dance. (*June 7, 8, 9, 10, Arts Court, Premieres*)

- **Fortier Danse-Création** (Montréal): with **Lumière**, Paul-André Fortier and his crew of five men and two women connect to the city's pulse, weaving fleeting moments of happiness in ones, twos and groups. Audacious, uncompromising, this work questions the happy and luminous aspect of the urban soul. (*Monday June 7, NAC Theatre*)
- **Anik Bouvrette DANSE** (Ottawa): Intimate and poetic, **Lustrale** is a sensual exploration of movement, water and light. In a shimmering landscape created by four stainless steel containers filled with water, three women evolve in a space suspended between two worlds. (*Tuesday June 8, NAC Studio*)
- **Theatre Flamenco** (Winnipeg) and their smashing **Mariposa: The Butterfly's Evil Spell**: For the first time in its history, Flamenco takes the stage at the Canada Dance Festival. Flamenco, modern dance and Spanish classical dance come together in a searing, emotional interpretation of a tragic love story. (*Wednesday June 9, NAC Studio*)
- **Kaeja d'Dance** (Toronto) and the world premiere of **Asylum of Spoons**, a theatrical and kinetic journey filled with suspense, humor and erratic behavior; *Asylum of Spoons* will be preceded by a new work created by Kaeja d'Dance and performed by **Canterbury High School** students. (*Thursday, June 10, NAC Theatre, Premiere, CDF Commission*)
- **Compagnie Danse Nyata Nyata** (Montréal), performs **Nsamu**. As caught up in the rhythm of the music as always, Zab Maboungou explores "a place for words that only the body can establish," where actions and words are inextricably linked. (*Friday, June 11, NAC Studio*)
- **Filmdance, celebrating Jean-Pierre Perreault**, avant-premiere of **The Body Architect** (working title), a French-language documentary film (52 minutes, subtitled) about Jean-Pierre Perreault, directed by Paule Baillargeon, produced by Amérimage-Spectra/Office national du film. Includes post-show discussion with dancers who have interpreted Perreault's choreography, and reception. Presented by the NAC and the 2004 Canada Dance Festival (*June 6, National Gallery of Canada*).

Advancing Innovation : Special Events

The Festival's hot hot hot groove moves on at...

- **Public post-performance chats**, held every evening (except opening and closing evenings), with artists and choreographers. Who doesn't relish sharing comments and discussing the show, after a wonderful performance? (*June 4 to 11, NAC Fountain Room for NAC venues; or at Arts Court and La Nouvelle Scène for performances being held in those venues*)
- **Professional programs**: The Canada Dance Festival is happy to include the participation of the contemporary dance training programs: L'École de danse de Québec, Les Ateliers de danse moderne de Montréal, The School of Dance (Ottawa), The School of Toronto Dance Theatre, School of Contemporary Dancers (Winnipeg) and Main Dance (Vancouver). The programs are the training source for many of Canada's best dancers. As part of this unique program, the CDF has commissioned a dance by one of the youth artists of the School of the Toronto Dance Theatre. You will enjoy this experimental dance created from the perspective of a truly emerging dance artist (*June 11 and 12, NAC Rehearsal Hall B, Premiere, CDF Commission*).

The Canada Dance Festival has a most impressive history of celebrating Canadian contemporary dance. Since it was first produced in 1987, it has participated in commissioning over 60 original dances and has been the catalyst for countless national and international tours. The Canada Dance Festival's tenth anniversary edition features nine new commissioned works.

Visit www.canadadance.ca for complete listings, photos and more info on the CDF.

**Tickets will be available as of March 25
at the NAC Box Office and through Ticketmaster.**

The Canada Dance Festival gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the following: *Co-Producer*: National Arts Centre; *Government Partners*: Department of Canadian Heritage, Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, City of Ottawa, Human Resources Development Canada, Cultural Human Resources Council, British Columbia Arts Council, Alberta Foundation for the Arts; *Performance Partners*: Swarovski Canada, CIBC Wood Gundy, TD Canada Trust; *Communication Partner*: Banfield-Seguin Ltd.; *Foundation Partner*: Laidlaw Foundation; *Sponsor Partners*: Dollco Printing, Brymark Promotions, Magma, Cooper Street Hotel and Suites, Algonquin Travel, Iroquois Water; *Media Partners*: The Ottawa Citizen, Le Droit, Ottawa Xpress, Voir Outaouais, CBC Television, Télévision Radio-Canada, Première Chaîne de Radio-Canada 90,7 FM, Rogers Television, Week-End Outaouais, CIMF Rock-Détente and Capital Xtra; *Festival Partners*: The National Gallery of Canada, The Banff Centre; *Supporters*: Downtown Rideau BIA, Council for the Arts in Ottawa, Le Groupe Dance Lab, La Nouvelle Scène, Medco, Institute On Governance, CanDance Network, Ottawa Festival Network.

Information:

Lara Mainville, Llama Communications, (819) 776-6888 lara@llamacom.ca