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LUMINATO ANNOUNCES 2010 CURATORIAL THREADS; UNVEILS THEATRE AND DANCE PROGRAMMING

TORONTO (March 1, 2010) – Luminato, Toronto Festival of Arts and Creativity, is pleased to reveal the three curatorial threads being explored at the upcoming Luminato Festival, as exemplified by the 2010 theatre and dance program. From the relationship between east and west, the way rights and freedoms are expressed artistically, to a celebration of the diva, these over-arching concepts unify the many artistic disciplines presented at Luminato, and provide Festival-goers with a thought-provoking way to navigate the 2010 Festival program. Luminato takes place **June 11-20, 2010**. Tickets go on sale April 15.

"Each year Luminato's programming team works on creating a cohesive program that weaves elements of the Festival together," says Artistic Director Chris Lorway. "The first step is to lock in a number of significant anchor pieces. From there, we work with artists and companies to flesh out some of the ideas that these anchor works represent. Our hope is that the final result of this process will enhance the festival experience as audiences discover and follow these threads across all artistic disciplines."

Included among these 2010 curatorial threads is the notion of east and west, and the way in which this familiar division informs how individuals and communities define themselves. The anchor project within this theme is Volcano Theatre's ***The Africa Trilogy***. Three years in the making and featuring an international team of playwrights, directors and designers, ***The Africa Trilogy*** explores how geography and notions of society are sometimes defined by Western generalizations about this somewhat misinterpreted continent.

The way in which human rights are expressed artistically is another unifying concept being expressed through Luminato's 2010 Festival programming. Whether artistic, intellectual, or human rights, the idea of standing up for what one believes in is a constant cross-cultural struggle. Toronto artist Erika Batdorf explores the quest to find one's voice amidst oppression in ***One Pure Longing: Táhirih's Search***, while Halifax's 2b theatre company's ***Homage*** explores the moral rights associated with an artist's ability to control the destiny of their work once it has been turned over to someone else.

In Luminato's previously announced operatic anchor ***Prima Donna***, Rufus Wainwright has created an archetype as the nucleus of his opera: the powerful – yet fragile – woman. The 2010 festival celebrates this notion with the curatorial thread of the diva. In their first North American appearance Syria's Enana Dance Theatre presents ***Julia Domna***, a piece about a famous Syrian folk hero who personifies this notion.

"We're thrilled to announce Luminato's curatorial threads and the way in which they unify elements of our theatre and dance program," says Luminato CEO Janice Price. "As we begin announcing our fourth Festival season, the 2010 theatre and dance program exemplifies Luminato's position as Canada's premier international multi-disciplinary arts festival."

Luminato will continue announcing its Festival lineup over the next couple of weeks, which will further elaborate on the Festival's 2010 curatorial themes.

Complete 2010 Luminato theatre and dance programs:

THEATRE

The Africa Trilogy – World Premiere

A triple bill of new plays, ***The Africa Trilogy*** examines the complicated relationship existing between Africa and the West. Inspired by the 2005 Massey Lectures by Stephen Lewis, ***The Africa Trilogy*** explores the human reality of this complex global relationship from three distinct points of view. The piece features a creative ensemble of three writers and three directors spanning three continents. Directors Josette Bushell-Mingo, Ross Manson and Liesl Tommy, along with playwrights Christina Anderson, Roland Schimmelpfennig, and Binyavanga Wainaina draw upon their own cultural experiences in order to question the way we see and imagine each other. Commissioned by Luminato and the Stratford Shakespeare Festival, ***The Africa Trilogy*** is a production of Toronto's Volcano Theatre and is presented in association with Harbourfront Centre. The performance runs for a total of three hours 30 minutes, including two intermissions. **In previews Thursday, June 10 - Sunday, June 13; Tuesday, June 15 (opening night) - Sunday, June 20 at the Fleck Dance Theatre**
\$30 - 45

One Pure Longing: Táhirih's Search – World Premiere

In 1848, at a religious conference in what is now Iran, the poet and teacher known as Táhirih, or "The Pure One" dared to appear in public without a veil. Inspired by Táhirih's poetry, ***One Pure Longing: Táhirih's Search*** explores faith, freedom of expression, and women's rights. The performance utilizes song, poetry recitation, and movement to represent the courage needed to speak out against oppressive forces. Designed by Bretta Gerecke, ***One Pure Longing: Táhirih's Search*** features an international cast lead by acclaimed theatre director Erika Batdorf. Commissioned by Luminato, the production runs 75 minutes.
Friday, June 11 - Monday, June 14 at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre
\$35

Best Before

Best Before combines video gaming with live theatre to create an inventive participatory experience. Each audience member navigates an anonymous avatar, interacting with a panel of on-stage experts — an electronic artist, a game tester, a politician, and a traffic flagger. A simulated city, BestLand, gradually develops as each audience member adds their personal touch via game controllers. BestLand evolves and devolves as the audience clashes and collaborates while making personal, social, and political decisions. ***Best Before*** is a work from theatre company Rimini Protokoll, known for attracting attention throughout Europe for blurring the line between reality and fiction. ***Best Before*** is commissioned by PuSh International Performing Arts Festival and co-produced by Goethe-Institut, Brighton Festival, Hebbel - Theater Berlin GmbH, Luminato, Toronto Festival of Arts and Creativity, PuSh International Performing Arts Festival, Rimini Apparat, The Cultch, and La Bâtie - Festival de Genève. Supported by Arts Partners in Creative Development and the Federal Republic of Germany.
Wednesday, June 16 - Saturday, June 19 at the Berkeley Street Theatre
\$35

Homage

Based on the work of Canadian sculptor Haydn Davies, ***Homage*** documents the commission, construction, and demolition of the artist's first large-scale outdoor commission. ***Homage*** explores the meaning of public art, proprietorship, and the creative spirit by examining issues surrounding artistic rights. By Halifax's 2b theatre company, ***Homage*** features an award-winning creative team and a custom-built theatre-in-the-round designed by architect Peter Blackie. ***Homage*** runs for 90 minutes with no intermission.
Thursday, June 17 - Saturday, June 19 at the Imperial Oil Opera Theatre
\$35

DANCE

Julia Domna – North American Premiere

Making their North American Premiere, Syria's celebrated Enana Dance Theatre presents ***Julia Domna***. The daughter of a high priest and a diva in her own right, Julia Domna was the wife of Roman Emperor Septimius Severus, and was widely believed to be the real power behind the throne. She is also one of Syria's most revered historical folk icons. ***Julia Domna*** uses traditional Syrian dance to bring the story of one of ancient history's most extraordinary women to life. ***Julia Domna*** runs 80 minutes.

Friday, June 18 - Saturday, June 19 at the MacMillan Theatre

\$35

West Side Story Suite and Opus 19/The Dreamer with a new work by Jorma Elo – World Premiere

A thrilling triple bill celebrates the work of renowned American choreographer Jerome Robbins, with a new work from Finland's Jorma Elo. ***West Side Story Suite*** uses seven of the popular song and dance numbers from the famous Broadway collaboration with Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim. ***Opus 19/The Dreamer*** demonstrates the enormous range of choreographic talent that Jerome Robbins possessed, and the dual European and American influences in his work. Finnish choreographer Jorma Elo's work is notable for its intricate fusion of the classical and contemporary, as displayed in this world premiere, his first work for The National Ballet of Canada. This program runs two hours.

June 4 - June 6, June 9 - June 13 at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts

\$20 - \$210.

Two Faced Bastard – Canadian Premiere

Two Faced Bastard defies traditional conventions by portraying two simultaneous shows on either side of a slated curtain. The piece removes offstage space, with cast members exiting one side of the stage, only to enter through the curtain to the other. A combination of modern dance, and abstract movement, ***Two Faced Bastard*** creates two completely different viewing experiences depending on what side of the stage an audience member is seated. The piece plays on the notion of 'us vs. them,' as represented in the Festival's east and west theme.

Arranged by award-winning choreographers Gideon Obarzanek and Lucy Guerin, ***Two Faced Bastard*** is a production of Australia's Chunky Move dance and theatre company and runs for 60 minutes with no intermission.

Friday, June 11 - Sunday, June 13 at the Imperial Oil Opera Theatre

\$50

ABOUT LUMINATO

For 10 extraordinary days in June, Toronto's stages, streets, and public spaces are illuminated with arts and creativity. Luminato is an annual multi-disciplinary celebration of theatre, literature, music, food, dance, celebrations, visual arts, fashion, film, and magic.

For more information, visit luminato.com. Tickets will be available at 10:00 AM, April 15 through all Ticketmaster outlets (call 416-872-1111 or visit www.ticketmaster.ca).

Luminato gratefully acknowledges the generous support and vision of its Luminaries, SuperNova donors, and Patron Circle Members; corporate partners; the presenting partner, L'Oréal; the dedicated government partners; and major media partners.

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Major Media Partners: CTV, The Globe and Mail, Cineplex, Toronto Star, The Weather Network, Tourism Toronto, St. Joseph Communications.

This list represents commitments as of February 25, 2010.

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