



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LUMINATO UNVEILS 2009 THEATRE AND DANCE PROGRAMMING

TORONTO (February 17, 2009) – Luminato, Toronto Festival of Arts and Creativity, proudly announces its 2009 theatre and dance program. A kaleidoscope of art from Canada and around the world, Luminato brings the best of theatre and dance to the city for ten days **June 5-14, 2009**. Now in its third year, Luminato is an annual celebration of the arts where Toronto's stages, streets, and public spaces are infused with theatre, dance, classical and contemporary music, film, literature, visual arts, and design. This year's Festival includes: the highly-anticipated North American premiere of Robert Lepage's nine-hour epic *Lipsynch*; Nederlands Dans Theater's first Canadian performance in 14 years; and Catalyst Theatre's *Nevermore*, a theatrical journey into Edgar Allen Poe's psyche. Tickets for Luminato events go on-sale April 16.

"Luminato will continue to engage and inspire our audiences with exciting premieres and companies that rarely visit Toronto," says Janice Price, Luminato's CEO. "Luminato ignites the city with accessible arts that appeal to every taste, and this year our theatre and dance programs ask audiences to ponder how people communicate in today's wired world."

"With 50% of our theatre and dance program commissioned or co-commissioned by Luminato, the Festival continues to make significant investments in local, national, and international artistic work," says Chris Lorway, Luminato's Artistic Director. "This year's theatre and dance line-up once again includes a full range of high-quality presentations that Luminato is proud to share with the city and the world."

Complete 2009 Luminato theatre and dance line-up:

THEATRE

***Lipsynch* – North American Premiere**

Robert Lepage's nine-hour multimedia epic weaves together the stories of nine interconnected lives over the span of 70 years. In this groundbreaking work, co-commissioned by Luminato, Lepage complements the visual spectacle that is a hallmark of his staging with an exploration of the sound of the human voice. The performance lasts approximately nine hours including four intermissions and one extended meal break.

Nevermore

Blending verse, song, movement, original music, and striking visual imagery, ***Nevermore***, by Edmonton's award-winning Catalyst Theatre, is a dreamlike journey into the tormented psyche of Edgar Allen Poe. Co-commissioned by Luminato and the Magnetic North Theatre Festival, ***Nevermore*** is one of several tributes to the tortured genius of classic American gothic literature in the 2009 Festival.

5 O'Clock Bells

Jazz guitar legend Lenny Breau was found dead in a Los Angeles swimming pool in 1984. His murder remains unsolved. In this innovative production told from the bottom of the pool, Ottawa's Sleeping Dog Theatre explores Breau's artistry, remarkable life, and mysterious death in a one-man show written and performed by Pierre Brault and directed by Brian Quirt.

Continuous City – Canadian Premiere

Co-commissioned by Luminato, New York's The Builders Association explores the influence of technology on social interactions. A travelling businessman uses electronic media to keep in touch with his boss, daughter, and her nanny. Blending live performance with video shot in Toronto and cities around the world, ***Continuous City*** is a multi-media experience incorporating a participatory website (www.xubu.cc) that expands its reach beyond the walls of the theatre.

Zisele – North American Premiere

Produced in association with The Harold Green Jewish Theatre, the original cast from the Beit Lessin Theatre of Tel Aviv use song, dance, and pantomime to celebrate the quirky and complex relationship between mother and daughter in Yiddish culture.

DANCE

Nederlands Dans Theater I – Canadian Premiere

In their first Canadian appearance in 14 years, the world renowned Nederlands Dans Theater performs a three-part mixed program of its most thrilling and sensual pieces. Canadian choreographer Crystal Pite's ***The Second Person*** uses puppetry to symbolize the relationship between the individual and society. Lightfoot Leon's ***Shoot the Moon*** opens a window into the anguish of a love triangle. The dancers in Jiří Kylián's hauntingly beautiful ***Wings of Wax*** dart and weave like birds in flight. The Nederlands Dans Theater engagement is sponsored by The Weather Network and a gift from Pierre L. Morrissette through Luminato's SuperNova Program Development Fund.

Tono

This dance and music creation explores shamanism and the majesty of the horse. Bringing together the Indigenous cultures of Canada, China, and Mongolia, ***Tono*** is conceived, co-choreographed, and directed by Artistic Director Sandra Laronde of Toronto-based Red Sky Performance, with co-choreography by Roger Sinha. Co-commissioned by Luminato and The Banff Centre, ***Tono*** was featured during the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Carmen – Canadian Premiere

Choreography, film, and spoken word combine in two innovative dance pieces produced by The National Ballet of Canada. In its Canadian debut, Italian choreographer Davide Bombana's re-conceptualization of Bizet's ***Carmen*** dispenses with the story's inessentials and goes straight for the latent carnality and primal passions at its heart. Inspired by Ann Michael's poetry collection of the same name, ***Skin Divers***, choreographed by Dominique Dumais, explores the idea of the human body as "a living archive of experience."

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 multidisciplinary celebration of theatre, dance, classical and contemporary music, film, literature, visual arts, design and more.

For more information, visit luminato.com. Tickets will be available on April 16 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 Passholders; corporate sponsors, particularly our presenting sponsor, L'Oréal; our dedicated government partners, especially the Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada; and many other partners and supporters.

Luminaries: The Founding Luminaries were among the Festival's first supporters. These visionary arts patrons and civic-builders stepped forward to help found Luminato, and will be recognized for their commitment in perpetuity.

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Luminato Media Partners: CTV, The Globe and Mail, Toronto Life, The Toronto Star, Cineplex, St. Joseph Communications.

This list represents commitments as of February 10, 2009. Additional 2009 sponsors, government partners, and individual donors will be announced shortly.

- 30 -

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