



For Immediate Release

Luminato's Education and Outreach Initiatives Invite Families, Schools and Communities to Participate

TORONTO, {April 14, 2008}- Luminato – Toronto Festival of Arts & Creativity today unveiled a broad plan to engage youth, families, schools and communities with relevant, arts-based programs leading up to the Festival running June 6-15.

In its inaugural year in 2007, the Festival included education and community outreach programs that included free public events, in-school and community-based workshops, subsidized tickets, and a Youth Creation Series. Now, in its second year, the program has grown to include artist residencies, extended workshop opportunities, and collaborative community partnerships.

Luminato's 2008 Education and Outreach Program features partnerships with the Toronto Public Library, the Ontario Science Centre, Harbourfront Centre, Pathways to Education, Manifesto, Regent Park Focus Youth Media Arts Centre and other arts and community organizations.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Luminato's community outreach initiatives aim to increase youth and family engagement and accessibility to Luminato through interactive programming, free public events, a discounted community rush ticket program and special ticket subsidies through designated community-based organizations.

Mark Morris Dance Group Artist Residency

Building on the Mark Morris Dance Group's ground-breaking "Dance for Parkinson's" program, and in partnership with the Toronto-based dancer and fitness trainer Sarah Robichaud's "Dancing with Parkinson's" program, MMDG dancers will lead a customized dance workshop for people with Parkinson's disease and their caregivers. Music and movement inspired by the MMDG's *Mozart Dances*, *Violet Cavern* and *Liebeslieder Waltzes* invite Parkinson's patients to embrace the spontaneity and gracefulness of dance. The Mark Morris Dance Group Artist Residency is sponsored by BMO Financial Group.

Volunteer Outreach Program

The Volunteer Outreach program provides a specialized group of Festival

volunteers with unique opportunities to experience the 2008 Festival, while participating in relevant training and networking sessions, and arts-focused professional development workshops.

Ticket Access

A limited number of \$20 Community Rush tickets are available the day of performances at the Festival box office at the T.O. Tix Booth in Yonge-Dundas Square (certain restrictions apply).

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Rocket and the Queen of Dreams - Shadow Puppetry from Behind-the-Scenes

In addition to the performances and post-show question and answer sessions, families can purchase tickets to watch Roseneath Theatre's *Rocket and the Queen of Dreams* from behind the curtain. A limited number of seats are available on the stage (behind the screen), providing families with a unique perspective on the art of shadow puppetry. Special discussions about the creative process with selected members of the creative team will enrich the experience. (Limited ticket availability)

Sanctuary Song

This dynamic collaboration between Theatre Direct and Tapestry tells the story of an Asian elephant as she recalls her remarkable life in captivity far from home as her keeper of 22 years leads her on a journey to sanctuary in the hills of Tennessee. Post-performance question and answer sessions invite families to share their responses to this World Premiere event.

A screening of the *Urban Elephant*, the PBS Nature documentary on the plight of elephants that inspired *Sanctuary Song*, followed by a talk with members of the creative team offer families an extension to their theatre experience.

Dan Zanes Artist Residency

During his Luminato artist residency, Dan Zanes, 2007 Grammy Award winner for Best Children's Album, will engage with the Toronto community through a variety of sing-a-longs, workshops and other related events.

- **Meet Dan Zanes at the Kiehl's Store**
Monday, June 9, 4:00 p.m.
Kiehl's Since 1851, 2518 Yonge St

Families are invited to meet Dan Zanes at Kiehl's Since 1851 and enjoy a fun filled, interactive sing-a-long.

- **Storytime with Dan Zanes at the Toronto Public Library**
See the "Luminato at the Toronto Public Library" section for details

- **Exploring the Science of Music at the Ontario Science Centre**
Saturday, June 14, 10:30am
Ontario Science Centre, 770 Don Mills Road
Free with admission to the OSC (space is limited).

In partnership with the Ontario Science Centre, Luminato offers an interactive workshop where families experiment with unusual materials to explore the science of sound waves, frequencies and vibrations, and hear Dan perform his signature songs, with informal, interactive family sing-a-longs to follow.

- **Dan Zanes at Luminat'eau - Harbourfront Centre**
Saturday, June 14, 3:00 p.m.
235 Queens Quay West, Vichy Healthy Skin Centre

Music Workshops & Family Jam Session

Local artists work with families to make simple percussion instruments out of recycled materials, followed by a 'How to Grow a Family Band' jam session using the instruments created.

Saturday, June 14, 7:00 p.m.
Toronto Star Stage

Sea shanties with Dan Zanes.

The Dan Zanes Community Outreach programs are sponsored by Kiehl's Since 1851 and Vichy Laboratories.

A **Luminato Family Arts Adventure Guide** encourages families to engage in various Luminato activities and events through arts-based games, behind-the-scenes information, and opportunities for artistic and creative response.

The Luminato Family Arts Adventure Guide is supported by the Toronto Community Foundation.

Luminato at the Toronto Public Library

Luminato is proud to partner with the Toronto Public Library, collaborating on special family programs that bring Luminato to library branches throughout the city of Toronto.

Programs include:

- **Shadow Puppetry with Puppetmongers Theatre**
Inspired by the story and shadow puppets created for Roseneath Theatre's *Rocket and the Queen of Dreams*, families learn about the art of shadow puppetry in which shadows are cast upon a lit screen and stories are brought to life. The creators of Puppetmongers

Theatre introduce each workshop with an overview of *Rocket*, and explain the creative development of the production.

Jane-Dundas Branch, 620 Jane St – Saturday, June 7, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Parliament Branch, 269 Gerrard St. East - Saturday June 7, 2:00pm-3:00pm

Beaches Branch, 2161 Queen St. East - Saturday June 14, 11:00am-12:00pm

- **Storytime with Dan Zanes**

As part of his week-long artist residency, Dan Zanes visits three Toronto Public Library branches for special storytime and family sing-a-longs. A rock star to kids and parents everywhere, this exuberant musician encourages families to enjoy music together.

Riverdale Branch, 370 Broadview Avenue - Tuesday, June 10, 2:00pm-3:00pm

Black Creek Branch, 1700 Wilson Avenue - Wednesday, June 11, 1:00pm-2:00pm

Richview Branch, 1806 Islington Avenue - Thursday, June 12, 2:15pm-3:15pm

- **Family dance workshops with the Mark Morris Dance Group (MMDG)**

MMDG dancers bring dance to the library. Families learn basic dance movements in an after-school workshop taught by MMDG company members, inspired by the MMDG's *Mozart Dances*, *Violet Cavern* and *Liebeslieder Waltzes*, all of which are performed at Luminato.

Oakwood Branch, 341 Oakwood Avenue - Monday June 9, 4:00pm

The Mark Morris Dance Group Artist Residency is sponsored by BMO Financial Group.

Luminat'eau at Harbourfront Centre

Weekend-long water carnival celebrations, such as "*Eau La La Land*", transform the 10-acre waterfront site into a family playground with under-the-sea outdoor sand sculptures, Thai circle dance workshops and performances, floating lantern workshops, canoe rides, world music events and the spectacular Fire Walk parade.

As part of Harbourfront Centre's commitment to Education and Outreach, the Luminat'eau Water Kite Program involves local Toronto artists working with grade 4-6 students to decorate the Luminat'eau site with water kites of their own creation. Culminating in the Luminat'eau fire walk, participating students and their families are bussed free-of-charge to enjoy and experience the parade. Additional public workshops are offered as part of the Luminato Opening Weekend celebrations at various Festival sites.

Luminat'eau is supported by Luminato's Official Weather Source, The Weather Network, as well as Vichy Laboratories, Kiehl's Since 1851 and the Ontario Arts Council.

YOUTH OUTREACH

Streetscape Youth Outreach Program

Luminato's Education & Outreach program partners with Pathways to Education, Manifesto Community Projects Inc. and other local arts organizations to offer Luminato

StreetScape mentorship and workshop opportunities.

Youth participation is a central component of the creative process and programming for *StreetScape*. Youth will collaborate with artists and engage the community to ensure the artwork reflects and celebrates the cultural narratives of Regent Park.

Youth from the Regent Park area have been invited to participate in *StreetScape* in the following ways:

- Group Mentorship Sessions
- Artist Workshops
- Artist Apprenticeship Program
- Various Volunteer Opportunities

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Luminato's arts-based school programs support the curriculum, while providing opportunities for experiential learning through student matinee performances, study guides, post-performance question and answer sessions, and workshops. The Festival partners with individual schools and school boards to ensure meaningful and relevant educational experiences for diverse communities. The Festival also offers a professional development program for educators.

Events and artists involved in Luminato's 2008 school programs:

- ***Rocket and the Queen of Dreams (Roseneath Theatre)***
- ***Sanctuary Song (Theatre Direct and Tapestry New Opera Works)***
- **Dan Zanes**
- **Mark Morris Dance Group**
- ***The Political Graphic Novel***

Luminato's Education & Outreach Programs are generously supported by the Ontario Trillium Foundation. More information about the program can be found at http://luminato.com/festival/eng/listing_education.php

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ABOUT LUMINATO

For 10 extraordinary days in June, the vibrant city of 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. **Luminato 2008 is June 6-15.**

For more information on both free and ticketed Luminato events, including dates, locations and schedules, visit www.luminato.com. Tickets will be available in April 2008 through all Ticketmaster outlets (call 416-872-1111 or visit www.ticketmaster.ca).

The Festival's first donors, called Founding Luminaries, were vital to the visioning and success of the inaugural Festival and establishing a world-class annual celebration of arts, culture and creativity. The Festival's Luminaries ensure Luminato continues to present Canadian and World premieres, innovative new work and unexpected collaborations that result in memorable moments of artistic excellence.

Luminato gratefully acknowledges the generous support and vision of its Luminaries; corporate sponsors, particularly our presenting sponsor, L'Oréal; our dedicated government partners, especially the Government of Ontario, the Government of Canada through the Department of Canadian Heritage, and other supporters.

Founding Luminaries – Mohammad and Najla Al Zaibak, Charles and Marilyn Baillie, Avie Bennett, Helen Burstyn and David Pecaut, Kate Alexander Daniels and David Daniels, Joan T. Dea and Lionel F. Conacher, Ian and Kiki Delaney, John Donald and Linda Chu, The Duboc Family Foundation, Margaret and Jim Fleck, Linda Frum and Howard Sokolowski, Kevin and Roger Garland, Anthony and Helen Graham, Lucille and Urban Joseph, Michael and Sonja Koerner, Chetan and Clara Mathur, Judy and Wil Matthews, Robert and Cheryl McEwen, Pierre L. Morrissette, Sandra and Jim Pitblado, Jonas and Lynda Prince, Richard Rooney and Laura Dinner, The Slight Family, Marisa and Edward Sorbara, Larry and Judy Tanenbaum, and Robin and David Young.

Luminaries – Tony and Anne Arrell, David and Stacey Cynamon, Lonti Ebers and Bruce Flatt, The Ira Gluskin and Maxine Granovsky Gluskin Charitable Foundation, Jay and Barbara Hennick & Family, Joan and Jerry Lozinski, Joseph Mimran and Kimberley Newport-Mimran, David and Audrey Mirvish, Nancy Pencer, and Geoff and Megan Smith.

Founding Corporate Luminaries – BMO Financial Group, Ivey Foundation, MacLaren McCann, Manulife Financial, RBC, St. Joseph Communications, TELUS, and Tourism Toronto.

SuperNova Program Development Fund – Margaret and Jim Fleck, Rob and Cheryl McEwen, Sandra and Jim Pitblado, and Gretchen and Donald Ross.

Luminato 2008 Sponsors – L’Oréal, TELUS, CTV, The Globe and Mail, Cineplex, St. Joseph Communications, BMO Financial Group, OLG, National Bank Financial, Manulife Financial, Toronto Star, Scotiabank Group, Toronto Life, The Weather Network, Mill Street Brewery, and Four Seasons Hotel Toronto.

Government Partners – The Government of Ontario, the Arts Presentation Canada program of the Department of Canadian Heritage, Tourism Toronto, The Ontario Trillium Foundation, Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund, Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council, and the British Council.

Corporate Supporters – The Boston Consulting Group, Endeavour Marketing, The George Partnership, MyThum Interactive, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, Stikeman Elliott LLP, Strategic Counsel, and ThinData.

Foundations

J.P. Bickell Foundation, Hal Jackman Foundation, The McLean Foundation, Sidney Lee Dream Foundation, Inc., and the Toronto Community Foundation.

This list represents commitments as of April 11, 2008. Additional Luminaries, sponsors, government partners, and individual donors will be announced shortly.