



For Immediate Release

## Luminato commits to helping local artists garner international attention

### Partnership with Toronto Arts Council gives \$100,000 to artists

TORONTO, {September 17, 2008} - Luminato, Toronto Festival of Arts + Creativity, today announced a new and innovative artistic funding partnership initiative with Toronto Arts Council (TAC). This partnership is part of the Festival's commitment to helping local artists develop their works for exposure both locally and internationally.

The pilot development program created by TAC, entitled Incubate, will assist Toronto artists in developing the earliest phase of a new work and promoting it to international markets.

Incubate provides seed money to facilitate the early planning stages of a project that will allow the development of a proposal geared toward festivals and organizations at the international level. This \$100,000 pilot program will assist Toronto music organizations and collectives in its first year, with expansion plans to include all TAC funded artistic disciplines in the years to come.

"Over the last two years, Luminato has been exploring different ways to work with small and mid-sized arts organizations," said Chris Lorway, Luminato's VP, Programming. "Through conversations with TAC, we decided to partner with them, leverage their existing infrastructure, and help to facilitate the creation of a rich pool of potential works. Aside from potentially creating new work for Luminato, our goal for this funding initiative is to invest in new work that may play in other venues in Toronto, or even nationally or internationally."

In 2007 and 2008, Luminato has invested \$250,000 in the commissioning of new works. The \$50,000 the Festival is contributing to the Incubate program is in addition to this investment.

Past commissioned and co-commissioned new works for presentation at the Festival include:

- In 2007, Luminato's program featured ten world premiere events including six commissioned or co-commissioned works: *Book of Longing*, *VIDA!*, *Norman*, *Not the Messiah*, *Pulse Front*, and *Auroras/Testimony*

- In 2008, the program included seven commissioned or co-commissioned works: *Where the Blood Mixes*, *Slow Dancing*, *The Glass Eye*, *Homeland*, *Mille Femmes*, *Streetscape*, and a work performed by the Kronos Quartet

Luminato is committed to working with Toronto artists and aiding them in seeking international attention and opportunities:

- In Luminato 2007, the Festival worked with 1,617 local artists and hosted 26 international arts managers and producers who were seeking new works to present abroad.
- In 2007, four Luminato programs (*Norman*, *Not the Messiah*, *Spirit Horse* by Ontario's Roseneath Theatre, and *Auroras/Testimony*) were booked to international tours, festivals, or exhibitions following their debuts and critical success in Luminato.
- In Luminato 2008, the Festival worked with 1,400 local artists and hosted 40 international arts managers and producers who were seeking new works to present abroad.
- In 2008, four Luminato programs (*Homeland*, *Slow Dancing*, *Where the Blood Mixes*, and *Nunavut*) were booked to international tours, festivals, or exhibitions following their debuts and critical success in Luminato. The *Nunavut* piece performed by the internationally travelled and renowned Kronos Quartet has been added to their repertoire.

Luminato continues to commission new works for future festivals and will announce the 2009 Festival programming in the New Year.

For more information about the Incubate program and for [eligibility requirements and application forms](#) please contact Brenda House, Music Officer, Toronto Arts Council at (416) 392- 6800 or visit [www.torontoartscouncil.org](http://www.torontoartscouncil.org)

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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 2009 is June 5-14.**