



For Immediate Release

**Luminato, Toronto Festival of Arts and Creativity and the
Fine Arts Cultural Studies Program at York University present:**

Mikel Rouse and John Ralston Saul in Conversation

Live in-person and interactive web simulcast

TORONTO, {March 19, 2008} – New York-based composer, director, performer and recording artist Mikel Rouse converses with Toronto-based award-winning essayist and novelist John Ralston Saul live at York University on Thursday, March 27 at 12:30 p.m.

Through a web simulcast, remote audiences are invited to interact with Rouse and Saul live, as questions and comments may be submitted via a live chat option on www.luminato.com/simulcast.

Hailed by *The New York Times* as “a composer many believe to be the best of his generation,” Mikel Rouse is joined by leading intellectual and Companion of the Order of Canada John Ralston Saul for a discourse on art, inspiration, and communication.

Touching on media and communications theory from pre-eminent communication/media theorists, including Harold Innis and Marshall McLuhan, Rouse and Saul’s dialogue explores the employment of technology and interactivity in art.

Rouse cites Saul’s *Voltaire’s Bastards: The Dictatorship of Reason in the West* as a source of inspiration for his multimedia talk show opera *Dennis Cleveland*, featured at Luminato in June 2008. Video clips from Rouse’s works will complement the discussion.

The live conversation has limited seating and takes place at the Fine Arts Cultural Studies Project Centre (103 Accolades West Building) at York University, 4700 Keele Street, on Thursday, March 27, 2008. The live conversation and web simulcast will begin at 12:30 p.m. and may be viewed at www.luminato.com/simulcast.

Rouse at Luminato in 2008

Luminato presents Mikel Rouse's epic opera trilogy for the first time ever in repertory. The multi-media musical trilogy includes *The End of Cinematics*, a video collage live on stage featuring sharp lyrics, heartbreakingly beautiful music and exceptional performances. In high contrast are Rouse's solo show *Failing Kansas*, a multimedia opera directly inspired by Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood*, and his talk show opera, *Dennis Cleveland*, a stunning fusion of pop, rock and innovative rhythmic structures that transforms a sordid TV formula into pure poetry.

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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.

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.

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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 March 18, 2008. Additional Luminaries, sponsors, government partners, and individual donors will be announced shortly.

About The Faculty of Fine Arts at York University

The Faculty of Fine Arts at York University is one of North America's pre-eminent centres for education in the visual and performing arts. A vibrant community of more than 3,300 students and 280 faculty working at the leading edge of fine arts practice and scholarship, it offers academic studies and professional training in dance, design, film, music, theatre and visual arts as well as interdisciplinary cultural studies in the fine arts. As a major contributor to Toronto's arts and cultural scene in Toronto, York Fine Arts presents more than 250 public events each season.