



For Immediate Release

## Festival Partners with National Film Board to offer free film series

TORONTO, {April 22, 2008} - Luminato – Toronto Festival of Arts & Creativity, announces a free film series as yet another component of its vast and varied 2008 program. The collection of films is part of Luminato's *Illuminations* program, a series of lectures, panels, public workshops and open houses intended to complement and enrich the Festival experience.

Luminato has partnered with the National Film Board of Canada (NFB) to present *The Luminato Reel*, a series of free screenings to take place June 7-11 at the NFB Mediatheque, John Spotton Theatre, 150 John St.

The series includes a documentary that follows the creation of one of last year's signature Luminato events, a film that inspired a Luminato 2008 world premiere and additional films created by or starring 2008 Festival artists.

The Channel 4 feature film version of Tim Supple's re-imagined *Twelfth Night*, scored by Nitin Sawhney opens *The Luminato Reel* series. This film links two Festival artists – Supple, director of the internationally acclaimed South Asian production of Shakespeare's classic play *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and composer and cultural prodigy Nitin Sawhney, a Luminato 2008 Artist in Residence. Preceded by the NFB short *The Stratford Adventure*. June 7, 2:00 p.m.; June 8, 7:30 p.m.

The world premiere of Veronica Tennant's vibrant and moving documentary *Direct from Havana – VIDA!* on the making of one of the theatrical hits of last year's Festival will be followed by a conversation with the filmmaker (June 7 only). Preceded by the Academy Award winning NFB short *Flamenco at 5:15*. June 7, 7:30 pm.; June 8, 2:00 p.m.

The PBS *Nature* documentary *The Urban Elephant* tracks the displacement of Asian elephants due to deforestation and industrialization. One of the more poignant stories from this film – the tale of two elephants reunited after many years apart – inspired *Sanctuary Song*, a new chamber opera by Toronto artists Marjorie Chan and Abigail Richardson which will have its world premiere at this year's Luminato. The film will be followed by a chat with the creators of the opera. Preceded by the NFB short *Champions of the Wild – Elephants*. June 8, 11:00 a.m.

A double-bill of filmed productions from the Brooklyn-based Mark Morris Dance Group includes *Dido & Aeneas*, featuring Tafelmusik, and *Falling Down Stairs*, featuring Yo-Yo Ma, both directed by one of Canada's pre-eminent directors of dance and music films, Barbara Willis Sweete. Preceded by the Academy Award winning NFB short *Flamenco at 5:15*. June 9, 7:00 p.m.

The screening of the CBC *Opening Night* documentary entitled *A String Quartet in Her Throat* on the making of *Nunavut*, the musical collaboration between Kronos Quartet and Inuit throat singer Tanya Tagaq, includes a post-film discussion with Kronos' Music Director David Harrington and performer Tanya Tagaq. Preceded by the NFB short *Toonik Time*. June 11, 8:00 p.m.

For the full film schedule, visit [www.luminato.com](http://www.luminato.com).

*The Luminato Reel* is produced in association with the National Film Board of Canada.

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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](http://www.luminato.com). Tickets are available through all Ticketmaster outlets (call 416-872-1111 or visit [www.ticketmaster.ca](http://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.

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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.

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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 April 11, 2008. Additional Luminaries, sponsors, government partners, and individual donors will be announced shortly.