

For immediate release June 5, 2008

TORONTO: Please add to listings until Aug 17 - TOURING SCHEDULE below

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Dusk Dances 2008

8 presentations throughout Ontario

Including Toronto's Withrow Park August 12-17

Now in its 14th season, **Dusk Dances** is an outdoor dance festival that brings an array of high quality contemporary and traditional dance to public parks. As dusk descends, a theatrical host ushers the audience - which invariably includes children, dog walkers and local residents - to five eclectic dance pieces that unfold in different areas of the park. **Dusk Dances** presents eight different programs in locations spread throughout Ontario and British Columbia between **June 26 and August 17**, including **six Toronto performances August 12-17 in Withrow Park** (south of the Danforth between Logan and Carlaw).

Audiences are invited on a pay-what-you-can basis to an innovative site-specific festival, which is not only an artistic event, but a social and cultural one as well. Choreographers from various backgrounds are commissioned to create a ten-minute piece inspired by the park's natural environment. Each city features a different line-up of performances including local choreographers and performers. **Dusk Dances** kicks off in Chatham (June 26 – 29), and continues on to Jane/Wilson in Toronto (July 3 - 6); travels to Vancouver (July 9 – 12); Haliburton (July 17 - 20); Kingston (July 24 – 27); Deep River (July 31 – Aug 3) and Manitoulin Island (Aug 7 - 10). The host for this year's Dusk Dances season is the extraordinary Lisa Anne Ross.

AUGUST 12 - 17 AT TORONTO'S WITHROW PARK - PIECE DESCRIPTIONS

- Quebec choreographer **Louis-Martin Charest** will present excerpts from his full length work, **Blanche**.
- **Kate Franklin** and **Meredith Thompson** have created a highly physical quartet atop picnic tables for the 2008 Toronto season. **Amplify and Magnify** will blend tap and contemporary dance in a playful dance using rhythms, sounds and highly kinetic movements that takes on the feeling of a wacky life-size game. **Artists:** Kate Franklin, Robert Halley, Meredith Thompson and Matthew Waldie
- **Karen Kaeja** will debut a new group work created for five women and five youth entitled **Wedding Threads**, bringing alive the relationship between mothers and daughters. Flooded in white, this intergenerational work threads elements and imagery of the inevitable hopes, dreams and magical ties between mothers and daughters. **Artists:** Tanya Crowder, Diana Groenendijk, Jennifer Helland, Shelly Hering & Ashley Sanderson with **children selected from dance schools of CCDT, TDT, NBS, Randolph Dance Academy:** Mika Kaeja, Raphaella Valeri, Kienna Shaw, Aliyah Hirschberg & Eva Myers. **Original composition performed live by:** Sue Smith
- **Santee Smith** will be presenting an excerpt from her piece **Kaha:wi** which blends traditional and contemporary Iroquoian song and dance. **Kaha:wi** is a reflection of traditional and spiritual beliefs connected to the cycle of life and the natural world.
- Canadian-Azerbaijani choreographer **Sashar Zarif** will create a work to live musical accompaniment inspired by the north-Asian wishing tree ritual. Sashar teaches and performs worldwide and is the founding artistic director of both Dancers for Peace and Sashar Zarif Dance Theatre.

Dusk Dances 2008

Eight programs throughout Ontario and British Columbia June 26-August 17

including **Toronto's Withrow Park August 12-17**

Withrow Park (south of the Danforth between Logan and Carlaw).

Performances nightly at 7:00pm; **Admission** is pay-what-you-can

Information: www.duskdances.ca

DUSK DANCES 2008 SEASON DETAILS:

Chatham Tecumseh Park June 26 - 29 Nightly at 7:00pm

In downtown Chatham, just across the street from the Chatham Cultural Centre on William Street North
Info: 519-354-8338 or toll-free 1-866-807-7770 Co-produced with Kiwanis Theatre

Featuring a commissioned work from local choreographer Jamie Johnston performed by local youth and works from Toronto-based artists Sylvie Bouchard/David Danzon, Nova Bhattacharya/Louis Laberge-Côté, William Yong/Zata Omm Dance Projects, Sylvie Bouchard and Kate Franklin. Hosted by Lisa Anne Ross.

Jane/Wilson, Toronto Chalkfarm Park July 3 - 6 Band starts at 7:00pm, dance starts at 7:30pm

On Wilson, north of North York Sheridan Mall.
Info: 416-747-5616

Co-produced with the Doorsteps Neighbourhood Services

At Jane/Wilson's Chalkfarm Park, the program will feature local steel pan band Pan Fantasy, local Hip Hop artists Rated Inc. and a commissioned work from choreographer Lady Noyz performed with local youths. Joining them on the program are classic outdoor works by William Yong/Zata Omm Dance Projects, Sylvie Bouchard and Menaka Thakkar Dance Company. Hosted by comedian Blakka Ellis.

Vancouver, BC Stanley Park July 9 - 12 Nightly at 7:00pm

Main entrance is at the west end of Georgia Street

Presented by Dancing on the Edge Festival, featuring work by a local Vancouver choreographer and exciting works from Toronto artists Sylvie Bouchard/David Danzon, Nova Bhattacharya/Louis Laberge-Côté, William Yong/Zata Omm Dance Projects, Sylvie Bouchard and Kate Franklin. Hosted by Lisa Anne Ross.

Haliburton Head Lake Park July 17 - 20 Nightly at 7:00pm

In the village of Haliburton off York Street
Info: 705-457-3555

Co-produced with: Haliburton Sculpture Forest et al

Featuring a commissioned work from local choreographer Terri Matthews performed by local youth and works from Toronto-based artists Sylvie Bouchard/David Danzon, Nova Bhattacharya/Louis Laberge-Côté, William Yong/Zata Omm Dance Projects, Sylvie Bouchard and Kate Franklin. Hosted by Lisa Anne Ross.

Kingston City Park July 24 - July 27 Nightly at 7:00pm

King Street, between Barrie & West Streets
Info: 613-546-4093

Co-produced with Rising Sun Productions

Featuring a commissioned work from local choreographer Aida Sulcs performed by local youth and works from Toronto-based artists Sylvie Bouchard/David Danzon, Nova Bhattacharya/Louis Laberge-Côté, William Yong/Zata Omm Dance Projects, Sylvie Bouchard and Kate Franklin. Hosted by Lisa Anne Ross.

Deep River Bill Rounding Park July 31 - August 3 Nightly at 7:00pm

Beach Avenue, Deep River
Info-line: 613-584-9550

Co-produced with Deep River and Area Arts Council

Featuring a commissioned work from local choreographer Valerie Croy performed by local youth and works from Toronto choreographers Sylvie Bouchard/David Danzon, Nova Bhattacharya/Louis Laberge-Côté, William Yong/Zata Omm Dance Projects, Sylvie Bouchard and Kate Franklin. Hosted by Lisa Anne Ross.

Manitoulin Island Old School Park, Mindemoya August 7 - 10 Nightly at 7:00pm

Downtown Mindemoya, beside the Arena
Info: 705 377 4788

Co-produced with: Manitoulin Family Resources

Featuring a commissioned work from local choreographer Lynn Dueck performed by local youth and works from Toronto based artists Sylvie Bouchard/David Danzon, Nova Bhattacharya/Louis Laberge-Côté, William Yong/Zata Omm Dance Projects, Sylvie Bouchard and Kate Franklin. Hosted by Lisa Anne Ross.

Toronto Withrow Park August 12 - 18 Band starts at 7pm, dance starts at 7:30pm

South of the Danforth between Logan and Carlaw. Nearest TTC Subway Station: Chester

Info: 416 504 6429 ex 41

Audiences will be treated to works from Louis-Martin Charest (Montreal), Karen Kaeja, Santee Smith, Kate Franklin /Meredith Thompson and Sashar Zarif, with opening band The Goodtimes. Hosted by Lisa Anne Ross.