

Chutzpah! 2006

The Lisa Nemetz Showcase of Jewish Performing Arts

January 9, 2006

February 25 to March 5, 2006
with the Chutzpah! Plus series from March 6-12

Dancers strut their stuff at Chutzpah!

Vancouver, BC – Clap, snap, stomp, swing and get ready to experience an incredible variety of dance performances at the **2006 Chutzpah! Festival**. This year's festival boasts the world premiere of a multidisciplinary work from choreographer **Marla Eist**, a Vancouver premiere performance from Argentina's **Marcela Suez** teaming up with Vancouver's own **Flamenco Rosario**, two of 2005 Chutzpah! Festival's favourite performers coming together for the first time in a world premiere, **Emily Molnar** and **Boris Sichon** and works showcasing some of the city's most exciting dancers and choreographers.

"It's thrilling to bring such a diverse array of dance styles to Vancouver audiences and to present performers displaying such a high level of artistic and technical brilliance," says Chutzpah! Artistic Director Mary-Louise Albert, who danced professionally for over 20 years before taking over the helm of Chutzpah! in 2005. This year's festival features an additional week of dance and theatre performances in **Chutzpah! Plus**, running March 7-12, 2006.

MARCELA SUEZ AND FLAMENCO ROSARIO **Vancouver Premiere**

Vancouver's number one flamenco company, Flamenco Rosario, teams up with Chutzpah! 2006 to present internationally acclaimed Argentinean sensation Marcela Suez in an evening of exciting, authentic and sensuous flamenco dance. Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Marcela Suez has a diverse career in music, acting, contemporary dance, ballet and flamenco in Argentina, Spain and Brazil and has appeared on major Spanish television programs. Marcela will be joined by local dancers Rosario Ancer, Bonnie Stewart, Nanko Aramaki and Afifa Moxness, Montreal singer Jose Luis Perez (originally from Spain) and local guitarist Victor Kolstee.

When: Monday, February 27 at 7pm
Tuesday, February 28 at 9:30pm

Where: Norman Rothstein Theatre, JCC

KINDERTRANSPORT STORIES

Choreographed by Marla Eist

Featuring Amber Funk Barton, Karissa Barry, Shannon Moreno and Vanessa Goodman
World Premiere

Award-winning dancer and choreographer Marla Eist unveils an original multi-disciplinary dance work inspired by the British Kindertransport of 1938, when an estimated 10,000 Jewish children were taken out of Germany, Austria, Poland and Czechoslovakia to Great Britain, while most of their families perished in the Holocaust. Eist worked closely with Kindertransport survivors through the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre to create this powerful fusion of memory, cultural history and movement. *Kindertransport Stories* features three of Vancouver's top professional dancers, Amber Funk Barton, Karissa Barry, Shannon Moreno and Vanessa Goodman, and the work of music and video artist Dave Smith.

When: Wednesday, March 1 at 7pm
Thursday, March 2 at 9:30am & 1:30pm
Sunday, March 5 at 11am

Where: Norman Rothstein Theatre, JCC

DANCE ALL-STARS An evening of extraordinary dance

Emily Molnar and Boris Sichon

World Premiere

Science Friction's *Sweeping the Waiting Room*

Alison Denham and Darcy McMurray

World Premiere

James Gnam and Natalie LeFebvre-Gnam

World Premiere

Emily Molnar and Boris Sichon

Chutzpah! brings together two of the 2005 Chutzpah! Festival's most ingenious performers. Named by *MacLean's* Magazine as one of Canada's new generation of "ballet sensations," **Emily Molnar** is a former member of the National Ballet of Canada, Frankfurt Ballet and Ballet British Columbia. She joins forces with international percussionist/composer and former St. Petersburg Symphony and Israel's Habima Theatre's percussionist **Boris Sichon** for an explosive cross-cultural exploration of dance and percussion.

Science Friction's *Sweeping the Waiting Room*

Founded by **Shannon Moreno** and **Farley Johansson** in 2003, interdisciplinary dance company **Science Friction** creates contemporary dance theatre for outdoor site-specific locations, small stages and full theatre presentations. Their latest piece, *Sweeping the Waiting Room*, is an energetic, humorous and completely delightful look at various waiting room scenarios. Moreno and Johansson are joined by dancers **Jojo Zolina**, **Monica Proenca** and **Vinicius Ferreira**.

Alison Denham and Darcy McMurray

Set to music composed by **John Zorn**, **Alison Denham** has choreographed a new duet for herself and **Darcy McMurray**, celebrating the notion of freedom by way of their powerhouse dancing! Denham danced for many years with the internationally-acclaimed dance company Dancemakers and is currently performing with Wen Wei Dance.

James Gnam and Natalie LeFebvre-Gnam

Choreographer and dancer **James Gnam** has created a new duet for himself and his exquisite wife, dancer **Natalie Lefebvre-Gnam**. Set to the music of Philip Glass and David Bowie, Gnam explores the intimate and superficial workings of partnership. Gnam is in his second season with Ballet BC and has also performed with Les Grands Ballet Canadiens de Montreal, Joe Ink, and dancersdancing.

When: Thursday, March 2 at 8pm
Saturday, March 4 at 9:30pm

Where: Norman Rothstein Theatre, JCC

At Chutzpah! Plus:

DANCE, LITTLE LADY!

Choreographer/Director Conrad Alexandrowicz has incorporated the true essence of "chutzpah" into this much-anticipated re-mount of *Dance Little Lady!*, a critically acclaimed hit in 1999. This satirical theatre/dance cabaret is a comical and frank exploration of women, dance and the patriarchy. The dialogue, spoken at microphones in stand-up comedy style, is drawn from the cast's own experiences and connects the courage and nerve of women in North American society with that of the female performer. Vancouver-based Alexandrowicz is an award-winning director, writer and choreographer, and the artistic director of Wild Excursions Performance. "This is a brave work that makes us laugh but also makes us reflect. Throw in five strong performers and powerful dialogue, and the result is pure success." *The Georgia Straight*

When: Wednesday, March 8 at 7pm
Thursday, March 9 at 7pm

Where: Norman Rothstein Theatre, JCC

Dance Extras:

COMMUNITY YOUTH DANCE SHOW

Featuring dancers from the JCC Israeli youth group JCCGV Or Chadash, Arts Umbrella Dance Company and the 2004 and 2005 Maccabi dancers. A great family show overflowing with the energy of youth.

When: Sunday, February 26 at 11am & 1pm **Where:** Wosk 2nd Stage, JCC

COMMUNITY VOICE AND DANCE SHOW

This year the JCCGV Shalom Dancers share Chutzpah's community show with the JCCGV Women's Choir and conductor Varda Seelig for a wonderful celebration of dance and voice.

When: Sunday, March 5 at 3:30pm **Where:** Wosk 2nd Stage, JCC

Designed to celebrate established and emerging professional Jewish artists and their collaborators from around the world, Chutzpah! has earned an admirable reputation for its innovative and eclectic programming.

Now in its sixth year, Chutzpah! continues to present professional local, national and international Jewish artists and their collaborators creating an exciting multi-cultural celebration of music, theatre and dance of the highest calibre. Single tickets for Chutzpah! performances and workshops, which range in price from \$8 to \$25 (Opening Night Gala - \$36), can be purchased by phone (604 257 5145), online at www.chutzpahfestival.com or in person at the JCCGV (950 41st Ave). Chutzi Packs, which enable patrons to see four shows of their choice (excluding the VanCity Opening Night Gala) at a discounted price, are also available.

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