BOLD, ATHLETIC CONTEMPORARY DANCE

Vancouver BC – Chutzpah! is renowned for bringing cutting edge contemporary dance companies to Vancouver and this year is no exception. **Aszure Barton & Artists** return to Chutzpah! with her full company of nine dancers for a breathtaking and explosive repertoire show. **Gallim Dance** with opening guest company **Sidra Bell Dance New York**, both based in New York City, make their Vancouver company premieres. Chutzpah! and the Norman Rothstein Theatre are proud to also nurture local dance as **MOVE: the company** undertakes a creative residency which culminates in two special pre-festival performances of new and legacy choreography.

"It is a testament to Chutzpah! that we are able to bring such high quality dance companies to Vancouver." stated Artistic Managing Director, Mary-Louise Albert. "Aszure Barton & Artists, Gallim Dance and Sidra Bell Dance New York test the boundaries of choreography and technique. In different ways, these companies explore the intense physicality of dance and the passionate ideas and emotions that dance can convey. Josh Beamish and MOVE: the company reflect the vibrancy of the local dance scene and the incredible talent of Vancouver's dancers. It will be impossible not to feel energised after seeing one of these shows!"

ASZURE BARTON & ARTISTS
Performing *Busk* and *Blue Soup*
Choreography by Aszure Barton

The company will be presenting two works.
***Busk* (2009)** The word *busk* comes from the Spanish root word *buscar*, meaning "to seek"; buskers literally seek the fantasy of fame and fortune. By celebrating their bizarre, wondrous lives as performing artists, the dancers explore the sources of self-worth: external group praise or internal affirmation. *Busk* retains Aszure Barton's signature style of precise whole-body expression inflected with an intense and intimate awareness of the fine line between humour and sadness. Original, evocative music by Russian violist and composer Lev Ljova Zhurbin, along with a powerful selection of world sound (including choir music from Sweden's Orphei Drangar), enhance this dynamic piece.

***Blue Soup* (2009)** is a bubbling mosaic drawn from Aszure Barton's notable past creations. This work celebrates distinct personalities and hyper awareness of body, spirit, and sound. Barton creates dense settings, in which each player is an individual and yet all are united by a common language. Defying the idea of dance as simple spectacle, *Blue Soup* invites the audience to visit a self-contained, deeply textured and bizarre universe. Dynamic, physical action and emotional honesty propelled by a score of global sound build a powerful, pulsating environment. This choreography has been hailed by the critics and the public internationally.

Aszure Barton was born and raised in Edmonton, Alberta, and received her formal dance training at the National Ballet School in Toronto as well as at The Royal Winnipeg Ballet and the John Cranko Schule in Stuttgart, Germany. She is the recipient of numerous grants and awards from across North America and overseas, and has choreographed several international film projects. Ms. Barton is currently an artist in residence at The Banff Centre in Canada (2009) and The Baryshnikov Arts Center in New York City ('05|'06|'08|'09) and was recently proclaimed the official Ambassador of Contemporary Choreography in Edmonton, Alberta. She has choreographed new works for many prestigious individuals and companies worldwide including Mikhail Baryshnikov, Fang-Yi Sheu, The National Ballet of Canada, American Ballet Theatre, Sydney Dance Company, The Juilliard School, ABT II, The Martha Graham Dance Company, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, among others. Her choreography has been performed at many internationally renowned venues including The Joyce Theater, John F. Kennedy Center, Madrid's Teatro Espanol and Studio 54. Ms. Barton choreographed the Broadway production of *The Threepenny Opera* starring Cyndi Lauper.

"I thought that the audience was going to explode from its seats….Aszure Barton, where have you been? Where are you going? The art of choreography needs you." *Dance View Times*

"breathtaking, explosive and exhilarating" *Santa Barbara News Press*

Presented by Chutzpah! and The Dance Centre.

When: March 16 at 7pm
March 17 at 9pm

Where: Norman Rothstein Theatre

GALLIM DANCE
Presenting *I Can See Myself In Your Pupil*
Choreography by Andrea Miller

The work Gallim Dance will be presenting, ***I Can See Myself In Your Pupil,*** is a suite of dances set to the vibrant music including the Israeli band, **Balkan Beat Box** (also appearing in concert at Chutzpah! March 18 at 8pm, The Venue on Granville St). In bundles of outrageously combustive energy the dance exposes the accursed but ever-present awkwardness of attempting physical intimacy.

Choreographer and Artistic Director Andrea Miller's works are simultaneously kinetic and intimate expressions of the self and its inner mosaic of weakness, desires, and struggles. Her use of extreme physicality – movement that shifts between explosive power and contained tension – creates an experience where the dancers appear to exist at the edge of their limits.

Gallim Dance burst onto the New York dance scene in its debut performance at Joyce SoHo Presents, and caught the attention of the New York City dance community bringing momentum to the burgeoning group of artists. The company has gone on to perform in many premiere dance venues including Jacob's Pillow, Joyce SoHo, Dance Theater Workshop, Alvin Ailey Citigroup Theater, and The Juilliard School.

Andrea Miller has been selected as one of Dance Magazine's "25 to Watch" (January, 2009 Issue), was awarded the 2009 Princess Grace Choreographic Fellowship, and is the associate choreographer with Noord Nederlandse Dans, 2009-2011. Her work has been presented in the United States, Canada, Holland, Spain and Israel. Recent commissions include Ballet Bern, Noord Nederlandse Dans, Ballet Hispanico (NY), The Juilliard School, SportMAX, Hubbard Street 2, and Arts Umbrella, among others.

"The impact of this piece is so powerful - and the dancers perform so urgently, so intently about things that, while hard to verbalise, are so essential to our being - that it's hard to leave the show without feeling changed." *Dance Europe*

"..The entire ensemble ... was of the highest calibre and every one of them brought immediacy to his or her performance…visceral and alive." *Tim Martin* - Dance Europe

SIDRA BELL DANCE NEW YORK (Opening for Gallim Dance)
Presenting *Anthology*
Choreography by Sidra Bell

Opening for Gallim Dance is Sidra Bell Dance New York (SBDNY Inc), a New York City based contemporary dance troupe presenting innovative, provocative and kinetic dance theatre works. The company's repertoire features pieces that are simultaneously haunting, emotionally transporting, complex, dynamic, articulate, sensual and highly physical. The company has become known for unconventional, forward-looking works that push past dance's traditional vocabulary, venues, and boundaries with a vocabulary that is risky, elegant, fantastical and darkly romantic. The company began as a community initiative in Harlem, NY. Bell, a graduate of Yale University and native New Yorker, was awarded a grant from the Yale Entrepreneurial Society to found a company that was to be based at The Joseph P. Kennedy Center in Harlem. The company hosted sold-out seasons featuring live jazz ensembles directed by gold/platinum award winning producer and composer Dennis Bell at the Center.

Sidra Bell is a sought after voice in contemporary dance with a strong female vision and her company has attracted a new generation of dancers who have also danced for renowned companies around the world. Her dancers are of the highest technical level with incredible charisma and intellect. Sidra Bell has received recent commissions from Ailey II, Ballet Austin, The Sacramento Ballet, Springboard Danse Montreal, National Choreographers Initiative, Ballet Divertimento (Montreal), Purchase College Conservatory of Dance with the St. Luke's Orchestra, Arts Umbrella (Vancouver), Duo Multicultural Arts Center, Bessie Schonberg Choreographers Residency at The Yard, and The Juilliard School.

"…The polished landscape of Sidra Bell's choreography mesmerized; this choreographer is one to watch... Every movement was impelled from an inner strength, as starkly beautiful and compelling as a prayer." *Pamela Diamond, Orange County Register (California)*

When: March 6 at 8pm
March 7 at 3pm
March 8 at 7pm

Where: Norman Rothstein Theatre

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Special Pre-Festival Performances

MOVE: the company

Presenting the World Premiere of Artistic Director Josh Beamish's new creation along with three remounted works of BC choreographers Cornelius Fischer-Credo, Harvey Meller and Olivia Thorvaldson.
Directed by Josh Beamish and Andrea Gunnlaugson

MOVE: the company will be performing the ***Legacy Repertoire Project***, the culmination of a four week creative residency at the Norman Rothstein Theatre. The Legacy Project presents remounted work from three of BC's most innovative choreographers of days gone by: Cornelius Fischer-Credo, Harvey Meller and Olivia Thorvaldson. Included in the program is a world premiere by Josh Beamish featuring the male dancers from MOVE: the company.

Premiered in 1990, the *Anatomy of Doubt* by Harvey Meller is a large ensemble piece (a cast of 8 plus an accordion player) that is both highly technical and theatrical, with a history of some of the best dancers in Canada performing in it. *Beauty Machine* by Cornelius Fischer-Credo is a trio for 3 women (originally featuring Kathleen McDonaugh, Cori Caulfield and Caroline Farquar) examining the pressure of physical perfection placed upon women. The idea of what is "beautiful" and the quest to achieve this ideal image are themes explored over the course of this 22 minute work. *Burnt* by Olivia Thorvaldson was created in 1997 for Andrea Gunnlaugson, one of Canada's former top contemporary dancers and co-director of the Legacy Repertoire Project. This piece was only performed once as a premiere at the long-standing *12 Minutes Max Series*.

Josh's new 30-minute work is for four male dancers investigating the grey zones of masculinity. Inspiration for this piece came from the contrast of Beamish's childhood growing up as a male dancer in a small-town hockey focussed environment. This new work examines the base of what it means for four men to be themselves as individual men in a world ripe with very distinct male classifications.

This full evening presentation features a group of exciting, high energy and technically versatile dancers: Kevin Tookey, Mack Green, Matt Waldie, Josh Beamish, Heather Dotto, Erica Trivett, Jacqui Lopez, Angel Jutzi and Jeannie Vandekerkhove. All established dancers with experience and connections in the international dance scene, their skills enrich MOVE:'s repertoire both individually and collectively.

MOVE: the company was founded in 2005, by its Artistic Director Josh Beamish when he was only 17 years old. MOVE: is a contemporary dance company committed to the creation and performance of original choreographic works by both emerging and established artists, while also paying tribute to creations of the past. The company also aims to include collaborators from other arts forms, such as video, music, spoken word and theatre, through involvement in the creative process. Mixing traditional creative practices with atypical collaborative works, MOVE: the company encourages today's audiences to take an interest in the dance of today, while simultaneously promoting appreciation for the foundation of Canadian dance history. Josh is the 2009 recipient of a City of Vancouver Artist Studio Award and a 2008 Globe and Mail Dance Award.

MOVE: the company and the Legacy Repertory Project has been generously funded and facilitated by a Norman Rothstein Theatre Creative Residency Program where the artists are given the use of the Norman Rothstein Theatre in a four week residency with full technical, administrative, marketing and promotional support. This is the second of what will be an annual NRT Creative Residency Program.

When: February 4 at 8pm
February 6 at 8pm

Where: Norman Rothstein Theatre

COMMUNITY DANCE SHOW WITH OR CHADASH, MOVEMENT SPEAKS AND BHANGRA FESTIVAL DANCERS

JCCGV or Chadash will be performing new and established works from their repertoire will also be joined on stage by dancers from the **City of Bhangra Festival Dancers** where they will perform a piece together in a multi-cultural fusion of Israeli and Bhangra dance and music. Also performing this afternoon in the Community Dance Show are members of **Naomi Goldberg Haas' Movement Speaks** dance workshops for Seniors.

Movement Speaks – A Collaborative Performance Residency for older Adults - builds dance from the stories of our lives. Participants will share in the joys of dance for expression, wellness and community led by dance artist Naomi Goldberg Haas, Artistic director of Dances for a Variable Population based in New York City. The week long workshops will culminate in a performance piece performed at the Norman Rothstein Theatre in the Community Dance Show.

Naomi Goldberg Haas is known for choreographing dynamic concert dances with diverse communities and professional dancers. Erasing the border between dancer and non-dancer, her work returns dance to its initial wellspring: joy. Having trained at the School of American Ballet and performed with Pacific Northwest Ballet, she holds an MFA from NYU's Tisch School of The Arts, and a BA from Barnard College, Columbia University. She is currently teaching at University Settlement, the Harkness Dance Center of the 92nd Street Y, New York University and Dance New Amsterdam. Artistic residencies include The Field Artward Bound at the White Oak Plantation and The Yard, where she serves as an Advisory Board member.

JCCGV Or Chadash, are the local youth ambassadors of Jewish and Israeli dance. The company was formed as a direct result of the Vancouver Jewish Community Centre's annual Festival Ha'Rikud, a youth Israeli folk dance festival.

When: March 7 at 12pm **Where: Norman Rothstein Theatre**

Visit the Festival's website at www.chutzpahfestival.com for complete information. Tickets can be purchased by phone at the Chutzpah! Festival Box Office (604-257-5145), online at www.ticketstonight.ca and the Chutzpah! Festival website www.chutzpahfestival.com or in person at the JCCGV (950 W. 41st Ave). Online Tickets for The Idan Raichel Project can be purchased only through Ticketmaster (604.280.3311) www.ticketmaster.ca as well as by phone or in person through the Chutzpah! Festival Box Office (604-257-5145)

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