

October 16, 2007

**HARBOURFRONT CENTRE ADVANCE EVENT LISTINGS
JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2008**

Highlights

- Through to May 5 ***Harbourfront Centre NextSteps*** – Globally-inspired dance from Toronto’s best dance companies. Upcoming performances: ***Dance Ontario’s Dance Weekend 2008, dance Immersion*** and ***CanAsian Dance Festival*** ...
See pp. 3-4
- Through to May ***World Stage 2008 season*** – International performances showcasing provocative, energizing and electrifying performances in theatre, dance, music and multi-disciplinary work*See p. 3*
- January 7 to February 17 ***Learn to Skate: Session II*** – Fun-filled classes for all ages and skill levels. Also, enjoy free skating on ***The Natrel Skating Rink***, Canada’s largest artificially-frozen outdoor rink ...*See p.6*
- February 5 to 7 One of ***School Visits***’ highlights is Behind the Curtain: COBA Collective of Black Artists, a celebration of Black History Month. Students get inspired as they explore rhythms, dance and song rooted in African history!
See p. 4
- February 13 to 17 ***ALoud: a Celebration for Young Readers*** – Young booklovers will be delighted by these high calibre national and international authors for young people ...*See p. 6*

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ALL INFORMATION IN THESE ADVANCE LISTINGS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

PERFORMING ARTS

World Stage 2008 season – International, multi-evening run of performing arts companies, showcasing provocative, energizing and electrifying performances in theatre, dance, music and multi-disciplinary work take part in Harbourfront Centre’s flagship programme. Check www.harbourfrontcentre.com for details and advance ticket sales.

Harbourfront Centre NextSteps – Through to May – Harbourfront Centre brings together the best Canadian dance companies! The performances in this series embrace the incredible diversity of Canadian talent and showcase dance ranging from culturally specific to purely contemporary. Performances take place at the Premiere Dance Theatre, located on the 3rd floor of the Queen's Quay Terminal, 207 Queens Quay West and the Enwave Theatre at 231 Queens Quay West. For information and tickets, the public can call 416-973-4000 or check the Harbourfront Centre website at harbourfrontcentre.com/nextsteps.

Premiere Dance Theatre performances:

January 19 to 20, 1 p.m. **DanceOntario’s DanceWeekend ’08** – Presented in association with Harbourfront Centre – Warm up your winter with Dance Ontario’s weekend of sizzling performances from Toronto’s hottest dance artists. Featuring extraordinary dance companies, world premieres, and hundreds of dancers and musicians – guaranteed to stir your senses and break up the winter blues!

January 23 to 26, 8 p.m. **Danny Grossman Dance Company** – Three decades ago, a man flipped upside down on a ladder and hanging by his feet, levitated himself upwards. A woman in a slinky body suit appeared and they slipped around one another, slithered through the ladder, balancing impossibly on chairs – and the rest, as they say, is history. This January, the Danny Grossman Dance Company celebrates its 30th Anniversary Season with a retrospective programme of cherished Grossman classics.

February 15 to 16, 8 p.m.
February 17, 2 p.m. **Menaka Thakkar Dance Company** – For over 30 years, The Menaka Thakkar Dance Company and its Artistic Director, Menaka Thakkar, have built up a reputation for artistic excellence, presenting works that are visually spectacular and infused with drama. As Canada’s oldest Indian dance company they expose audiences to the stunning beauty of traditional Indian dance, while reflecting other cultures in their creation of new works. Inspired by many choreographic styles, the company re-interprets ancient themes, bridging them with more contemporary concepts.

February 29 to March 2 **COBA (Collective of Black Artists)** present **YEBO** (pronounced yeah-bo) is a Zulu word meaning “yes”, an exclamation of affirmation of success. COBA celebrates its 15th anniversary season with a dynamic

evening of works featuring new and innovative choreography by founding artistic director BaKari E. Lindsay, guest choreographer Sis Robin Hibbert, and the critically-acclaimed Bodika/Sessions by Vincent Sekwati Mantsoe.

(Media contact NextSteps: Manager, Media Relations Bill Bobek, **416-973-4428** or **wbobek@harbourfrontcentre.com**)

LEARNING

School Visits – Through to June, weekdays – Open to school groups, School Visits provides a unique lakefront adventure for students from kindergarten to high school. This year, Harbourfront Centre launches many new programmes to engage students in dynamic and innovative ways. New programmes include ESL arts programming, Urban Dance and cultural explorations in the Visual Arts. Harbourfront Centre continues to be a leader in unique multi-disciplinary programming in performing arts and gallery studies. Harbourfront Centre is the only arts institution offering inspiring trips for students where they can experience work by living contemporary artists, followed by unique workshops which allow for the students to creatively respond to the exhibition or matinee on site. School Visits programming areas: Performing Arts, Gallery Programming, Exploring Contemporary Art, New Media, Literary and Book Arts, Urban Studies, Education Afloat and In-School Programmes. Programme cost for a full day is only \$11 per student or \$9 per student for a half-day.

One of School Visits' highlights is Behind the Curtain: COBA Collective of Black Artists, a celebration of Black History Month, February 5 to 7, part of *NextSteps*, Harbourfront Centre's programme presenting a variety of expressions in contemporary dance. This year at Harbourfront Centre, COBA presents *Danse Belé* (Caribbean Indigenous Folk), a 1995 dance theatre production with traditional drums and chants created by COBA's Choreographer BaKari E. Lindsay. *Danse Belé* is a theatrical representation of the history of Caribbean with Indigenous Folk dances from Trinidad and Tobago. The performance weaves dance, spoken word, music, drumming, chants and period costumes to transport the audience through the life and times of plantation slaves. Programme includes a matinee performance, Roots and Rhythms workshop with COBA dancers and a specially designed Schools Visits creative arts workshop inspired by the performance. Get inspired as you explore rhythms, dance and song rooted in African history! Cost for Behind the Curtain programme: Full day: \$15 per student; Matinee only: \$10 per student.

To book a programme or for information, educators can call 416-973-4091 or visit www.harbourfrontcentre.com/schoolvisits.

(Media contact for Family & Learning: Linda Liontis, **416-973-4381** or **lliontis@harbourfrontcentre.com**)

LITERARY

International Readings – Wednesdays and other selected evenings – Celebrating its 35th season in 2008, International Readings at Harbourfront Centre (IRAH) is one of the oldest and most admired public reading programmes in the world. Since its inception, more than 4,500 of the world's most distinguished authors, including fourteen Nobel laureates, have participated in readings at Harbourfront Centre. IRAH is designed to present the public with the finest international novelists, poets, playwrights, short story writers and biographers, while also providing Canadian writers with an internationally recognized forum to present their work. Regular readings take place Wednesdays and other selected evenings at 7:30 p.m. in the Brigantine Room, York Quay Centre, 235 Queens Quay West (except as noted). Tickets are \$8 (free for members and students with valid ID). Special event locations and admission prices may vary. For information/updates and tickets, the public can call 416-973-4000 or visit readings.org.

International Readings presents ***ALoud: a Celebration for Young Readers*** – February 12 to 16 – Young booklovers will be delighted by these high calibre national and international authors for young people. ALoud gives students a rare opportunity to meet authors and hear them read from their works. Each reading includes a question and answer session with the author-and a book signing! Past Canadian and international guest have included Deborah Ellis, Marie-Louise Gay and David Homel, Susan Juby, Dennis Lee, Katarina Mazetti, Evan Solomon, Melanie Watt and Tim Wynne-Jones. This year's line-up promises to be stellar! For more information and updates the public may visit www.readings.org or call 416-973-4000.

(Media contacts for Literary: Becky Toyne, **416-973-5836** or irahmedia@harbourfrontcentre.com)

MARINE

Marinas – Harbourfront Centre operates Marina Four (100 slips) and Marina Quay West (200 slips). For information on seasonal or visitor dockage for these two mainland downtown marinas, the public can call Marina Four at 416-203-2620 or Marina Quay West at 416-203-1212. For information, the public can call 416-973-4000 or check the Harbourfront Centre website at harbourfrontcentre.com.

MUSIC

Toronto All-Star Big Band presents ***They're Playing Our Song *dance**** – January 27, 2 to 5 p.m. – York Quay Centre – Dance and romance to the fascinating rhythms and unforgettable tunes of Benny Goodman, Glenn Miller and the Dorsey brothers, performed by the award-winning and youth-filled Toronto All-Star Big Band – Pay-what-you-can, suggested minimum donation \$15. For information, the public can call 416-973-4000 or check the Harbourfront Centre website at harbourfrontcentre.com.

RECREATION

The Natrel Skating Rink at Harbourfront Centre – through to March 9, 2008 (weather permitting) – daily, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday and Saturday to 11 p.m. – A popular skating destinations in the heart of the city! Visitors can enjoy Canada's largest artificially cooled outdoor rink while skating to music and taking in the beautiful surroundings of Lake Ontario and Toronto Island. The rink is easily accessible by Toronto Transit and by car. Parking is available. There are also on-site skate rentals, change rooms, rental lockers and skate-sharpening. Off-site bulk skate rentals are available. For information, the public can call The Natrel Rink Info at 416-973-4866 or check the Harbourfront Centre website at harbourfrontcentre.com.

RECREATION cont'd

The Natrel Skating Rink Learn to Skate: Session II – January 7 to February 17 (weather permitting) – Harbourfront Centre offers convenient and fun-filled skating classes for all skill levels and ages by qualified staff members. The classes are offered on Canada's largest artificially cooled outdoor rink in the heart of the city. Small classes are offered providing a comfortable setting for learning new skills. Classes available for adults are: Absolute Beginners, Refresher, Advanced and Learn at Lunch. For children: Parent and Tot, Kinderskate, Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced. Classes cost \$55-\$95. The rink is easily accessible by Toronto Transit and by car. Parking is available. To register or for more details the public can call 416-973-4093 or visit harbourfrontcentre.com.

The Natrel Skating Rink DJ Skating Nights – Harbourfront Centre's popular ***DJ Skating Nights*** presents four exciting events beginning with **Promise** DJs spinning Disco and House on Friday January 11, 2008. **Nocturnal Magazine** returns on Friday January 25 with Techno and House DJs while **CKLN Radio** has DJs spinning Funk and Soul on Friday February 8. The series ends on Friday February 29 with Earwax's Hip-Hop DJs taking over the Natrel Rink! All ***DJ Skating Nights*** begin at 8 p.m. and end at 11 p.m. (Media contact for Recreation: Shane Gerard, **416-973-4518** or sgerard@harbourfrontcentre.com)

THE POWER PLANT

The Power Plant is Canada's leading public gallery devoted exclusively to the art of our time. A prominent, non-collecting exhibition facility, it is on a par with the finest international institutions and features new work by today's best artists. Power Plant exhibitions celebrate the diverse tendencies of visual art practice as it evolves, including painting, sculpture, photography, film, video, installation and other media. Public programmes designed to complement the year-round exhibition programmes include gallery tours, lectures and artist/curator talks.

Regular Power Plant hours: Open Tuesday to Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. and Wednesday till 8 p.m. Closed Mondays except holiday Mondays, noon to 6 p.m. Regular admission is \$5; \$3 students/seniors; children and members free. Admission free on Wednesdays from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Located at 231 Queens Quay West. For more information: 416-973-4949 or visit www.thepowerplant.org.

The Power Plant: Tours – Exhibition tours are conducted by gallery staff every Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. The tours last approximately 20 minutes. Group tours can also be arranged. For more information, the public can call 416-973-4949.

Winter Exhibition – December 1, 2007 to February 3, 2008

Exhibition Opening: Friday, November 30, 7-11 p.m.:

Steven Shearer – In collaboration with the IKON Gallery in Birmingham, UK, this exhibition is the first survey of the work of Steven Shearer (Vancouver). The exhibition includes photography, painting, drawing, collage and sculpture that probe Heavy Metal and other facets of masculine adolescent culture. Despite the artist's rapidly developing international reputation, his work has not been widely exhibited within Canada.

THE POWER PLANT cont'd...

The Power Plant's International Lecture Series – York Quay Centre – Artists, curators, critics and architects from around the world explore the critical issues, ideas and theories that inform leading-edge contemporary culture. Admission to the lectures is free for Power Plant members; individual Power Plant memberships start at \$50. For more information call 416-973-4949 or visit thepowerplant.org. For tickets and memberships the public can call the Harbourfront Centre Box Office at 416-973-4000.

VISUAL ARTS

Visual Arts at York Quay Centre is made up of 10 exhibition spaces which are both traditional and unique. These venues are located within and outside York Quay Centre proper and range in size from a 1400 square foot exhibition gallery to individual vitrines which are 9 feet square. York Quay Centre exhibits the works of contemporary artists creating new works in fine art, craft, new media, design, architecture and photography. The exhibition schedule changes six times a year in all of the venues except the site specific spaces. For more information please contact 416-973-5379.

Winter Exhibitions – January 18 to March 9 – Opening reception: Friday, January 17, 6 to 9 p.m.

Service Canada at Harbourfront Centre – Art installations are viewed from the building's exterior. For more information on Government of Canada programs and services, please visit their website at www.servicecanada.gc.ca or call 1-800-O CANADA. For information on the exhibitions, the public can call 416-973-4000 or check the Harbourfront Centre website at harbourfrontcentre.com.

Premiere Dance Theatre Upper Lobby – An exhibition space on the second floor mezzanine displaying paintings, photography and prints. Access to this exhibit is by paid admission by Premiere Dance Theatre event patrons.

CRAFT

Craft Courses – ongoing – Classes in glass blowing, ceramics, jewellery and textiles. Taught by the Craft Studio artists-in-residence, these beginner courses are an excellent creative challenge. Courses take place in the Craft Studio, York Quay Centre, 235 Queens Quay West. **Please note:** Pre-registration is required. Classes and fees can be obtained by calling 416-973-4963 or by visiting www.harbourfrontcentre.com

Exhibitions:

January 19 -March 9

Canadian Craft Pioneers

An exhibition of work by eight craftspeople profiled in the February symposium, *Canadian Craft Pioneers*. The aim of Craft Pioneers is to document, interpret and discuss the careers, accomplishments, and influence of early and contemporary pioneers within the craft field.

Craft Artists-in-Residence Biennial Exhibition

January 19 – March 9

Artists in the Craft Studio respond to ideas about what is sacred in a contemporary world.

January 19

viva voce: An afternoon session of talks by the artists-in-residence. They will lecture about the development of their work and ideas.

Canadian Craft Pioneers – February 22 to 24 –a weekend symposium in preceded by publication of symposium papers and research. The aim of Craft Pioneers is to document, interpret and discussing the careers, accomplishments, and influence of early and contemporary pioneers within the craft field.

York Quay Centre – For details call 416-973-4963 or visit our website at www.harbourfrontcentre.com

Bounty: Contemporary Canadian Craft Shop – Toronto’s leading store for quality, one-of-a-kind contemporary Canadian craft. Visitors can shop from a dazzling array of Canadian-made evolving selection of functional fine craft, including work by Harbourfront Centre’s own Craft Studio residents, choosing from blown glass, wheel-thrown ceramics, lathe-turned wooden bowls and a generous selection of contemporary handmade jewellery. The shop is located in York Quay Centre, 235 Queens Quay West. For more information the public should call 416-973-4993.

(Media contact for The Power Plant, Visual Arts and The Craft Studio:
Shane Gerard, **416-973-4518** or sgerard@harbourfrontcentre.com)

SPECIAL INTEREST

View Points – February 7 – York Quay Centre – 7 p.m. – A series of points of view about contemporary culture, focusing on current affairs and issues in culture-making locally, nationally and internationally. Some discussions will integrate music, theatre and visual arts. Participating guests will include writers, editors, artists, intellectuals, filmmakers and political activists. For information and tickets, the public can call 416-973-4000 or check the Harbourfront Centre website at harbourfrontcentre.com.

(Media contact for View Points: Shane Gerard, **416-973-4518** or sgerard@harbourfrontcentre.com)

THEATRE

Obsidian Theatre Company

(Media contact for Theatre: Bill Bobek, **416-973-4428** or wbobek@harbourfrontcentre.com)

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For general inquiries please call: Bruce Hutchinson, Director, Marketing and Media Relations
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For information and tickets, the public can call **416-973-4000** or check the Harbourfront Centre website at **harbourfrontcentre.com**

Media please note: Visit the “media” page at harbourfrontcentre.com for media releases and photos!