



October 6th, 2008

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The Cultch & DanceHouse present

LES ÉCAILLES DE LA MÉMOIRE / THE SCALES OF MEMORY

A collaboration between Urban Bush Women and
Compagnie Jant-Bi (NY/Senegal)



WHEN: NOV 7 & 8, 2008, 8 PM | WHERE: VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSE

“If the body could speak through movement alone, it would look and sound like the dancers of Urban Bush Women and Compagnie Jant-Bi” - CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Vancouver — The Cultch is thrilled to partner with DanceHouse on a co-presentation of African and African-American dance companies—one all-male and one all-female—and two powerhouse female choreographers. Over three years in the making, *Les écailles de la mémoire* (*The Scales of Memory*) unites the seven dancers of New York-based Urban Bush Women with seven members of Senegal’s Compagnie Jant-Bi in an evening of unforgettable dance.

Senegal's all-male Compagnie Jant-Bi has stripped traditional African dance of all its folkloric trappings in a positive way. Through the filter of Western movement, Artistic Director Germaine Acogny has developed a pure dance language that captures the essence of African dance, rituals, and community spirit.

With equal parts compassion, humor, muscle, and grace, Urban Bush Women Artistic Director Jawole Willa Jo Zollar's works have told evocative stories about topics ranging from black women's concepts of beauty and self-esteem to civil rights in the rural American South.

In a unique artistic exchange bridging continents and cultures, Urban Bush Women and Compagnie Jant-Bi collaborate to create *Les écailles de la mémoire* (*The Scales of Memory*)—a work that will be seen across North America, including stops at New York’s Brooklyn Academy of Music and the Kennedy Center. Fourteen dancers join forces for an evening of highly energized dance that explores the importance of place and community. The movement vocabulary created by mixing Acogny's nature-inspired technique and Zollar's brand of contemporary dance forms a compelling cross-cultural exchange. *Les écailles de la mémoire* focuses on the themes of resistance, memory, and love, framing them as the common link between the African and African-American cultures. The production also focuses on gender differences and the differences between dancers who share a common ancestry but are historically, geographically, and culturally divided.

For information on Cultch subscriptions, visit www.thecultch.com.

Single tickets available through Ticketmaster (www.ticketmaster.ca or 604-280-3311).

PRESENTED WITH:



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