

## THE CULTCH: 2008/2009 35<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SEASON

**Vancouver** — The Cultch announces its 08/09 Season, featuring 21 performances by the most innovative artists working in contemporary dance, theatre and music from the region and around the globe. This is the season of grand openings and celebration: not only is it the 35th anniversary of The Cultch, but also the centennial year for the building. Our state-of-the-art VanCity Culture Lab @ The Cultch will open its doors in late 2008, featuring an intimate studio/creation space. In early 2009, we reopen our renovated Historic Theatre @ The Cultch. The Cultch will be one of the first LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified arts centres in Canada.

### OUR 08/09 SEASON IN BRIEF:

**A Few Little Drops: The Extraordinary Life of Water**  
Volcano Theatre Company (Swansea, UK)  
September 25-28, 2008

**Double-Bill: Jake's Gift / WhaT,?**  
Julia Mackey / Mascall Dance (Vancouver)  
November 11-15, 2008

**Billy Twinkle, Requiem for a Golden Boy**  
Ronnie Burkett Theatre of Marionettes  
(Toronto)  
January 20-February 8, 2009

**Wired**  
Green Thumb Theatre (Vancouver)  
February 5-8, 2009

**Maïta**  
Théâtre de la Vieille 17 (Ottawa)  
February 18-21, 2009

**On the Ice of Labrador**  
Montréal Danse (Montreal)  
March 3-7, 2009

**Diasporama**  
Pierre-Paul Savoie Danse (Montreal)  
March 24-28, 2009

**We Were Here**  
Shane Koyczan / Jordan Nobles (Vancouver)  
April 7-11, 2009

**Don Juan: The Greatest Lover in the World**  
The Old Trout Puppet Workshop (Calgary)  
April 21 - May 3, 2009

**Duplex!** (Vancouver)  
May 7, 9 & 10, 2009

**Les écailles de la mémoire / The Scales of Memory**  
Compagnie Jant-Bi / Urban Bush Women  
(Senegal/NY)  
November 7 & 8, 2008

**Confessions of a Paper Boy**  
Ghost River Theatre (Calgary)  
December 9-14, 2008

**England**  
News from Nowhere (Brighton, UK)  
January 28-31, 2009

**Basic Training**  
Kahlil Ashanti (Vancouver)  
February 10-14, 2009

**Wen Wei Dance** (Vancouver)  
Rio Tinto Alcan Award Winner: Dance 2009  
February 24-28, 2009

**Blackbird**  
Theatre Conspiracy/Rumble Productions (Vancouver)  
March 11-21, 2009

**Leela Gilday** (Yellowknife, Northwest Territories)  
April 3-4, 2009

**Go West**  
Eye of Newt Ensemble (Vancouver)  
April 18

**True Story**  
(r)evolution theatre (Vancouver)  
May 5-17, 2009

**Veda Hille & Her 9 Piece Band of Joy**  
(Vancouver)  
May 8 & 9, 2009

More information about each show may be found on pages 2 - 5. Detailed subscription & box office information may be found on page 6. Subscriptions for the 08/09 Season go on sale Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Single tickets go on sale September 2, 2008

The 08/09 season will also include 2 celebratory grand openings for both the VanCity Culture Lab @ The Cultch and the restored Historic Theatre @ The Cultch, along with post-show artist talkbacks, Cultch Pizza Parties for the Kids Series, opening night soirees, & special events related to The Cultch's 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

## OUR 08/09 SEASON IN FULL:

### **A Few Little Drops: The Extraordinary Life of Water**

INSTALLATION THEATRE

Volcano Theatre Company

WHEN: Sept 25 - 28/08

WHERE: On the field of Britannia Secondary School (William St. @ Woodland Dr.)

We all know that water is important, but *A Few Little Drops* will get you thinking and talking about the world's most precious substance in new and exciting ways. Because water is no ordinary substance, this is no ordinary theatre show. We invite you to step inside a giant inflatable wave, explore a flood-wrecked house, and cross a strange watery landscape... This unique, mind-bending and environmentally topical show will explore the strange properties of water, its awesome power, its fundamental role in maintaining life, its fragile purity and its extraordinary beauty.

Given the innate environmental theme within *A Few Little Drops*, in collaboration with the British Council, The Cultch will host a symposium connected with this production, focusing on human water use, climate change and the interaction between these environmental issues and the arts.

Presented with PuSh+

### **Les écailles de la mémoire (The Scales of Memory)**

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Compagnie Jant-Bi/Urban Bush Women

WHEN: Nov 7 & 8/08

WHERE: Vancouver Playhouse

This unique collaboration is setting the performance world abuzz for bringing together African and African-American dance companies—one all-male and one all-female—and two powerhouse choreographers. Germaine Acogny, the "mother of contemporary African dance," explores community and identity with Brooklyn-based, Bessie Award-winning choreographer Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, of Urban Bush Women.

Presented with DanceHouse

### **DOUBLE BILL: Jake's Gift / WhaT,?**

THEATRE/DANCE

WHEN: Nov 11 - 15/08

Remembrance Day performance Nov 11

WHERE: VanCity Culture Lab @ The Cultch

#### **Jake's Gift (Written and performed by Julia Mackey)**

*Jake's Gift* is a powerful comedy-drama about a cantankerous WWII veteran who reluctantly returns to Juno Beach for the 60th Anniversary of D-Day. While there, Jake meets a precocious 10-year-old local girl named Isabelle, whose inquisitive nature and charm challenges the old veteran to confront some long ignored ghosts.

#### **WhaT,? (Mascall Dance, Performed by Ron Stewart)**

*WhaT,?* traverses a kinetic landscape using video projections to illuminate four stories, four locations and four musical scores. Acclaimed dancer Ron Stewart brings to life the players for the evening: a Canadian paratrooper, a remittance man, a cowboy in a Mid-Western diner and a hip-hop wannabe. *WhaT,?* is the result of creative collaboration between dancer Ron Stewart and choreographer Jennifer Mascall.

### **Confessions of a Paper Boy**

KIDS SERIES/ THEATRE

Ghost River Theatre

WHEN: Dec 9 - 14/08

WHERE: VanCity Culture Lab @ The Cultch

When a 10-year-old paperboy, Christopher Columbus, starts to hear God speaking to him, what should he do? Break out the DaVinci DeCoder ring? Dust off Illuminati for Dummies? Christopher is soon delivering more miracles than newspapers, but why does God want Christopher exposed to the hopes, fears and sorrows of his customers? And could the Devil be subletting that darkened bungalow down the block? A bittersweet fable about the confusion of adolescence, the blush of first love and the power of faith, *Confessions of a Paperboy* is a compelling reminder that though chaos may follow us wherever we go, we all get to choose our own route through this life.

**Ronnie Burkett Theatre of Marionettes in  
Billy Twinkle, Requiem for a Golden Boy**

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Written, created and performed by Ronnie Burkett  
Music by John Alcorn, Lighting Design by Kevin Humphrey

WHEN: Jan 20 - Feb 8/09

WHERE: Historic Theatre @ The Cultch

Billy Twinkle is a middle-aged cruise ship puppeteer who dazzles audiences with his Stars in Miniature marionette nightclub act. His saucy burlesque stripper Rusty Knockers titillates the tourists, octogenarian Murray Spiegelmann invokes side-splitting laughter with the inflatable balloon in his pants, Bumblebear juggles and roller-skates and steals the hearts of every audience, and Biddy Bantam Brewster brings a bit of highbrow hilarity to the high seas with her drunken aria. Billy is the best in the business and on top of the world as he floats along through life.

Until he is fired by the cruise line. Standing at the edge of the ship contemplating a watery demise, Billy is abruptly called back to reality when his dead mentor Sid Diamond appears as a hand puppet.

Presented with the Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad & PuSh International Performing Arts Festival

**England**

INSTALLATION THEATRE

news from nowhere

WHEN: Jan 28 - 31/09

WHERE: Vancouver Art Gallery

Forget thoughts of skinheads or nostalgia, *England* is about an empire of a different kind — one of transigrations and transplantations. It's the story of one thing placed inside another: a heart inside another person's body, a culture inside another country's culture, theatre inside a gallery, a character inside an actor, a play inside its audience. Performed by two guides within an exhibition, *England* travels the trade routes of art and human beings. It's about a sickness and the search for health at any cost. It's a tour through space and across borders: from an art gallery to a jam factory, from Edinburgh to Osaka, from a hospital bed to a hotel room. It's a tour to the end of the world.

Presented with PuSh International Performing Arts Festival & The Vancouver Art Gallery

**Wired**

THEATRE/KIDS SERIES

Green Thumb Theatre

WHEN: Feb 5 - 8/09

WHERE: VanCity Culture Lab @ The Cultch

Damien is unnoticed in his cliquish grade, and that's just the way this shy, self-proclaimed "goof" prefers it. Damien is jacked into a cooler version of himself through online role-playing games, social networking sites, and a multitude of virtual friends. But when he has a seemingly innocent run-in with a girl at school, Damien finds himself in the cross-hairs of a humiliating cyber-bullying campaign. Just because it's virtual makes it no less real. The online, alternate world he created to escape to is now something he needs to escape from.

**Basic Training**

THEATRE

Written and performed by Kahlil Ashanti

WHEN: Feb 10 - 14/09

WHERE: VanCity Culture Lab @ The Cultch

*Basic Training* is Kahlil Ashanti's autobiographical one-man show that chronicles his enlistment in the U.S. Air Force as a member of the elite entertainment troupe called "Tops in Blue." During his time on tour as a comedian, actor, dancer and soldier, a life altering event forces his attention home to face the childhood he was trying so hard to forget. Twenty-three unforgettable characters guide you through this hilarious true tale of survival and redemption, all experienced through Mr. Ashanti's rapid fire talent.

**Maïta**

PUPPETRY/KIDS SERIES

Théâtre de la Vieille 17 and Théâtre de Sable

WHEN: Feb 18 - 21/09

WHERE: Historic Theatre @ The Cultch

*Maïta* is the story of a young Asian girl who is forced to work in a factory in order to pay off her family's debts. In this marionette performance, we follow Maïta as she takes on the challenges of her difficult life. Through laughter, courage and storytelling she breathes life into the factory, and pursues her goal of freedom.

Presented with Théâtre la Seizième

**Wen Wei Dance**

DANCE

WHEN: Feb 24 - 28/09

WHERE: Historic Theatre @ The Cultch

Wen Wei Wang creates startling and provocative performance works of a distinctive trans-cultural sensibility. With an original and highly individual style, Wen Wei Dance fuses precise and subtle choreography with stunning visual design and music, turning each work into a rich and unique world.

Wen Wei Dance's new work for five men and one woman will feature original music by Giorgio Magnanensi, lighting by James Proudfoot and costumes by Kate Burrows.

Winner Rio Tinto Alcan Performing Arts Award - Dance 2009.

**On the Ice of Labrador**

DANCE

Company Montréal Danse, Kathy Casey, Artistic Director

WHEN: Mar 3 - 7/09

WHERE: Historic Theatre @ The Cultch

BC choreographer Sarah Chase creates a new piece for Montréal Danse, known for its captivating repertory and for its exceptional dancers. *On the Ice of Labrador* highlights the magical number of seven: the seven members of Montréal Danse: seven narratives woven into a biographical tapestry. This exploration of seven combines unexpected elements: aviators, trombone players, mortality on railroad tracks, bodies washed in Hotel Dieu, blood sugar cycles of a young diabetic, a woman from England standing in a hut in BC's Interior, the journey of Alzheimer's... Identity and memory are built up, only to collapse into something unnamable at the centre of each of our souls.

Presented with the Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad & DanceHouse

**Blackbird**

THEATRE

Written by David Harrower

A Theatre Conspiracy/Rumble Productions co-production

*Winner of 2007 Olivier Award for Best New Play*

WHEN: Mar 11 - 21/09

WHERE: Historic Theatre @ The Cultch

Ray confronts a hidden past when Una arrives suddenly at his office in David Harrower's explosive play *Blackbird*. Guilt and raw emotions turn poisonous as they recollect a passionate but disastrous affair they had 15 years earlier. As tensions rise, we are left to question: where is the line between love and abuse? And can we ever break free from the shackles of the past? One of the most talked-about plays to come out of London in years, David Harrower's award-winning play has been featured on many London and New York critics' top 10 lists and recently received the 2007 Oliver Award for Best New Play.

**Diasporama**

DANCE

Pierre Paul Savoie Danse

WHEN: Mar 24 - 28/09

WHERE: Historic Theatre @ The Cultch

Pierre-Paul Savoie Danse will present two duets from *Diasporama*, a cycle of five works created by Quebec and other Canadian choreographers who are living abroad but are still connected by their roots. The assembled works of *Diasporama* focus on displacement, home heritage and identity. Choreographer Luc Dunberry, who resides in Berlin, will present *Mi-unni d'eux (1/2 One Nor To)*. André Gingras, who lives in Amsterdam, will present *...and the air felt like it would burst into flame*.

**Leela Gilday**

MUSIC

WHEN: Apr 3 &amp; 4/09

WHERE: Historic Theatre @ The Cultch

Juno-award winner Leela Gilday was born and raised in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. She is a singer/songwriter from the Dene Nation whose songwriting reflects her northern roots. She sings about identity, death, love and life from the urban Indian perspective. Her unbound and naturally powerful voice transports listeners to a world where freedom and joy balance sorrow and injustice, making you cry and laugh in the same breath. Gilday has been recognized at the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards as Best Female Artist and Best Songwriter, and her CD, *Spirit World, Solid Wood*, was recognized as Best Folk Album.

**We Were Here**

SPOKEN WORD/NEW MUSIC

Shane Koyczan &amp; Jordan Nobles

WHEN: Apr 7 - 11/09

WHERE: Historic Theatre @ The Cultch

*We Were Here* is a cross-disciplinary, concert length collaboration that will explore not only our memories but also the ones we hope to create. Bringing together two hot young BC talents — spoken word artist Shane Koyczan and new music composer Jordan Nobles — *We Were Here* will pose important questions about our history and our future. Through music and poetry, *We Were Here* examines our collective fingerprint. As much as it will demonstrate our guilt, it will ultimately prove our innocence.

**Go West**

FILM/NEW MUSIC

Performed by Stefan Smulovitz and the Eye of Newt Ensemble

WHEN: Apr 18/09

WHERE: Historic Theatre @ The Cultch

Following last season's sold out performance of *The General*, Stefan Smulovitz leads the brilliant Eye of Newt ensemble as they play an original score to *Go West*. For this one-day-only event, Eye of Newt draws upon preeminent musicians from Vancouver's internationally acknowledged improvisational music scene, as well as special guests. The ensemble (known for their Silent Summer Nights evenings of film and music) specializes in playing instant compositions to film. Inspired by the power of celluloid, each and every one of the ensemble's unique shows brings spontaneous audio life to the great films of cinema.

Presented with PuSh+

**Don Juan: The Greatest Lover in the World**

PUPPETRY

Old Trout Puppet Workshop

WHEN: Apr 21 - May 3/09

WHERE: Historic Theatre @ The Cultch

Following the 2006 sold-out hit *Famous Puppet Death Scenes*, The Cultch will present The Trouts' new show, a radical re-imagining of the Don Juan legend, a refraction of the many manifestations of that old ghost, who haunts us in our dreams, anxieties and fantasies. Dedicated to making professional puppet theatre for both children and adults, The Old Trout Puppet Workshop creates original and exuberant art, striving for delightful allegory, joyful tragedy and purity of spirit.

**True Story**

THEATRE

Based on a fictional account

Written and directed by John Murphy

(r)evolution theatre

WHEN: May 5 - 17/09

WHERE: VanCity Culture Lab @ The Cultch

Twenty years after the disappearance of her daughter, a desperate mother, torn between hope and doubt, clings to the belief that her child is still alive. In the course of an hour, several truths will be told, but only one of them can be the true story. (r)evolution theatre brings you a play that is both a theatrical romp and a dark tragedy. As the story unfolds, the audience is constantly reminded that they are in the theatre, and yet somehow, because of this, the events portrayed take on a hyper-real quality. Blurring the line between what is real and what is theatre; what is true and what is not, *True Story* cleverly exploits this dynamic to its thrilling climax.

**Duplex!**

KIDS SERIES/MUSIC

WHEN: May 7, 9 &amp; 10/09

WHERE: Historic Theatre @ The Cultch

It's Indie rock for the little folks and their grownups made by families for families with songs about pets, counting, and sandwiches. This show will see the release of a new album by Duplex!, following the cult hit *Ablum* from 2005. Veda Hille on keyboards & vocals | Justin Kellam on drums & vocals | Matt Caruso on guitar & vocals | Annie Wilkinson on bass & vocals | With special guests TBA

**Veda Hille and her 9 Piece Band of Joy**

MUSIC

WHEN: May 8 &amp; 9/09: 8 PM

WHERE: Historic Theatre @ The Cultch

**May 8:** Best known as a songwriter, Veda has a long history of performing startling renditions of songs by other writers. This performance will feature songs from the works of Buffy Saint-Marie and Neil Young with arrangements by the band and Giorgio Magnanensi.

**May 9:** An evening of pure Hille. Drawing from her collected works, Veda and the band will perform gems and highlights from 17 years of songwriting featured on a dozen recordings. The songs have aged well and in the hands of her large ensemble take on renewed life.

## SUBSCRIPTION BOX OFFICE

Subscriptions go on sale Tuesday, June 24, 2008.

Phone: 604-251-1363 | Fax: 604-251-1730 | [www.thecultch.com](http://www.thecultch.com)

Monday to Friday, 10 am - 5 pm

1895 Venables Street

Vancouver, BC

### The TELUS Youth Pass

Every year, the very best in local, national and international contemporary performing arts is presented on stage at The Cultch. Youth between the ages of 12 and 19 can access any of these performances for only \$2. Even sold-out shows will have 10 seats reserved especially for Telus Youth Pass holders. Drop by The Cultch's box office to pick up your free pass. The 2008/2009 Telus Youth Pass is valid for the entire season.

## SUBSCRIPTION DETAILS

Subscriber rate for Special Presentations: \$45!

### New! Cultch Flex/Gift Voucher

\$25/VOUCHER (MIN. 4 VOUCHERS)

Ultra-flexible and affordable! The Cultch Flex/Gift Voucher can be used for performances from our season — anytime and in any way. *Special Presentations excluded.*

### Build Your Own

FOR ADULTS: \$23/SHOW (MIN. 3 SHOWS)

**New!** FOR YOUTH AGES 19 AND UNDER W/ ID: \$19/SHOW (MIN. 3 SHOWS)

Choose 3 or more shows from our season and save a minimum of \$8 on each ticket!

### Wednesdays

\$17/SHOW (MIN. 5 SHOWS)

Come on designated Wednesday nights and save even more! Choose 5 or more

Wednesdays from a selection of 8 shows:

- *Basic Training*: Feb 11
- *Wen Wei Dance*: Feb 25
- *On the Ice of Labrador*: Mar 4
- *Blackbird* (preview): Mar 11
- *Diasporama*: Mar 25
- *We Were Here*: Apr 8
- *Don Juan*: Apr 22
- *True Story* (preview): May 6

### Kids Series 5 Show Packages (SUGGESTED AGE: 6 AND UP)

ADULTS: \$60/PACKAGE

KIDS: \$40/PACKAGE

Experience the satisfaction of providing treasured memories — at an affordable price! Package includes tickets to:

- *Confessions of a Paper Boy*
- *Wired*
- *Go West*
- *Maïta*
- *Duplex!*

## SINGLE TICKET DETAILS

Available through Ticketmaster: 604-280-3311 or [www.ticketmaster.ca](http://www.ticketmaster.ca)

Single tickets go on sale September 2, 2008.