



**2009 CanAsian International Dance Festival**

**6-9 May 2009**

**Fleck Dance Theatre (formerly Premiere Dance Theatre)**

**207 Queens Quay West, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Toronto**

Known for the presentation of world-class, pan-Asian dance that ranges from rarely seen traditional dances, to cutting edge contemporary forms, striking design and live music, the CanAsian International Dance Festival showcases outstanding artists from across Canada and around the world.

**Programme A: Wednesday, 6 May and Friday, 8 May at 8pm**

Featuring performances by:

- Ko Murobushi (Tokyo)
- Jung-Ah Chung (Vancouver)
- princess productions (Toronto)

**Programme B: Thursday, 7 May and Saturday 9 May at 8pm**

Featuring performances by:

- Post Ego Dance Company (Seoul)
- Mira Hunter (Vancouver)
- Andrea Nann (Toronto)

For tickets call Harbourfront Centre box office: 416-973-4000

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*"...every piece on the program is supremely satisfying in some way...a terrific show all around."* –  
Globe and Mail

*"The annual CanAsian International Dance Festival is proof positive of the stunning works, both traditional and fusion, emerging from Canada's multicultural mosaic."* - Classical 96.3FM

*"If you haven't seen it, you need to go..."* - The Toronto Star

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**[www.canasiandancefestival.com](http://www.canasiandancefestival.com)**

## **Bios of performers**

Programme A: Wednesday, 6 May and Friday, 8 May at 8pm

### **Ko Murobushi (Tokyo, Japan)**

Ko Murobushi is one of the best known Butoh artists in the world and recognized as a leading inheritor of Hijikata's original vision of Butoh. Since his base moved to Europe, he founded two butoh companies, the female company "Ariadone" with Carlotta IKEDA in 1974 and the male company "Sebi" by himself in 1978. His work has led him around the world. In 2000, he came back to Japan and awakened Japanese audiences by his solo "Edge". After he founded his company "Ko & Edge", his works both solo and company, have been continuously acclaimed worldwide.

### **Jung-Ah Chung (Victoria, BC)**

Jung-Ah graduated from the Ewha Women's University in Seoul, Korea. Appearing in Empty Space at the 4th Recontres Choreographiques Internationales De Seine-Saint Denis, she was awarded a Best Dancers Prize. She also performed for Ae-Soon Ahn in 1998 in the Grand Prize of the Centre Internationales De Bagnolet in Paris. Her own choreography has included *Shape, A shout of Joy, Woman in the House, beginning and Being*, and *Duet*. Since moving to BC she has worked with Constance Cooke, Ballet Victoria, Tripod Dance Collective, Out of the Box Productions, Suddenly Dance Theatre, Wen Wei Dance and Battery Opera. Recently Jung-Ah's solo Connection has been invited to Tangente in Montreal which she created for Pulse at the Dance Centre and Dancing on the Edge, ROMP 2006. She also participated in Suddenly Dance Theatre's film *Nature ecstasy*, and *Opium and Aisling* for Bravo and directed, choreographed and performed in her first film *Drive* in 2005. She toured with Suddenly Dance Theatre to three cities in Korea in summer 2008 and was invited for The 10<sup>th</sup> Next Wave Dance Festival. With her non stop versatile performances she was chosen as Victoria's Favourite Choreographer in 2006 and favourite Dancer in 2004 by M-Awards, Monday Magazine. She will continue to dance in gratitude with the mind of infinite possibility.

### **princess productions (Toronto, ON) – [www.princessproductions.ca](http://www.princessproductions.ca)**

princess productions was founded in 1995 by Yvonne Ng. Since 1995, princess productions has commissioned, produced and presented over thirty works, including dancefilms. These works have been shown across Canada, in Australia and Singapore and have received critical and commercial acclaim. Five of the works: *Language, Treehouse, My past follows like dragon's tail, Stone Velvet* and *Fading Shadows/Returning Echoes* garnered seven Dora Mavor Moore Award nominations for performance and choreography in 1998, 2000 and 2005.

During the first six years of the company's existence, the focus was primarily on the creation of a repertoire commissioned from Canadian choreographers. Now, the focus has migrated to the national and international touring of the repertoire, choreographic creation by the artistic director through tiger princess dance projects and presenting dance: made in canada/fait au canada (d:mic/fac), a bi-annual festival presenting both established and emerging artists on the same platform.

Programme B: Thursday, 7 May and Saturday, 9 May at 8pm

### **Post Ego Dance Company (Seoul, Korea)**

Post Ego Dance Company led by Chung Yeun Soo, was founded in 2006. The company embodies the concept of transcending the ego to create works to better understand the identity and reality of the future.

The company focuses on Asian physical dance, employing demanding techniques featuring strong physicality and mind-control. As the company creates works that are exceptionally intense in terms of physical strength, its cast is usually all-male, with guest female dancers occasionally invited to participate, depending on the nature of the work. Post Ego Dance Company also works towards having a firm and open relationship with its audiences by sharing the energy of dance with them, and journeying with them in search of the real souls of individuals.

The company has performed in Japan, Macau and Singapore. Its works includes *The Way of Air - Window*, *The Way of Air - Empty*, *The Way of Air - The Metempsychosis of Object* and *Rite of Spring - Turbulence*. The full length version of *The Way of Air* was presented in Macau and Singapore. In 2008, the company was in residence in Singapore for six weeks and created the critically acclaimed *Yellow Monkey* in collaboration with three female dancers and the artists collective, COLLECTIVE mayhem.

**Mira Hunter (Vancouver, BC)** – [www.mirahunter.com](http://www.mirahunter.com)

It can be argued that Mira Hunter has been whirling for most of her life. A visual artist and second-generation Sufi Mevlevi whirling dervish, she began her traditional training at the age of 16 with her father Raqib Burke. As a visual artist, she studied at NSCAD and Yale, graduating with a BFA in 2001. For the past 10 years she has collaborated with Turkish born, Canadian producer/musician/DJ Mercan Dede, performing all over the world, from New York to Japan. She was recently featured in David Michalek's *Slow Dance* project that was exhibited at the Venice Biennale in 2008. Mira continues to challenge the fundamental forms of whirling by incorporating innovative movements and concepts, coaxing the 13th century practice into a contemporary context.

**Andrea Nann (Toronto, ON)** – [www.dreamwalkerdance.com](http://www.dreamwalkerdance.com)

My professional career has been about creating, inspiring and bringing different people together. My art form is dance. I find joy and challenge in exploring the expressive transcendental beauty, dynamism and connectivity of movement and physical expression. Growing up as a female member of a visible minority in Canada I spent my time searching for ways to fit in, to feel included. I have been a member of the Canadian arts community since 1988 when I received my BFA from York University and began a professional career that would include a fifteen year engagement with one of Canada's most prominent dance companies, the Danny Grossman Dance Company. During that time I also had the unique experience of maintaining a parallel dance career, creating and premiering over 45 new roles for some of Canada's most influential independent choreographers. In 2005 I created Andrea Nann Dreamwalker Dance Company (ANDDC) a company mandated to create and produce work that explores the human experience through artistic collaboration with artists from all disciplines. ANDDC facilitates opportunities for artists to observe, discover, create, reflect, expand and share; and actively reaches out to diverse community groups through workshops, master classes, presentations and cultural exchanges. Through these extraordinary dance opportunities, I have had the great privilege of sharing some of my life experiences in performances and workshops across Canada, and in parts of the US, Europe and Asia. As an arts educator I have engaged students and participants of all ages and backgrounds in artistic explorations that foster creativity, imagination and emotional expressiveness. My process involves empowering students as thinkers, evaluators, interpreters and creators. It is my ambition to create opportunities to inspire and transform lives through creative experiences because I believe that as a society we need to work hard and work together to cultivate and nurture an appreciation for the impact that creative expression can have on daily life.