

EXTRAORDINARY IS IN SEASON.

10 Day Festival of Creativity

June 8–17, 2012 | luminato.com

Luminato 6

AND **L'ORÉAL**
PARTNERS IN CREATIVITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LUMINATO 2012

THEATRE, OPERA and DANCE

TORONTO (March 14, 2012) – Luminato, Toronto Festival of Arts and Creativity presents a remarkable opportunity to experience four major works from artists who have transformed their disciplines of opera, modern dance, theatre and performance art.

In 1976 director **Robert Wilson** and composer **Philip Glass** broke all the rules of conventional opera and gained worldwide praise when they premiered their five-hour fusion of sound, image and movement, **EINSTEIN ON THE BEACH**.

Masters of osmosis, blending real and virtual imagery, **Michel Lemieux and Victor Pilon** have once again set new standards with their production of **LA BELLE ET LA BÊTE: A CONTEMPORARY RETELLING**. All elements of the presentation — from Belle's paintings to the characters' dramatic metamorphoses — spring to life via virtual holographic imagery.

Any time iconic director **Robert Lepage** launches a new work the world takes notice. Luminato is proud to be the only Canadian co-commissioning partner and host of the North American premiere for his next major piece – the first in a four-part cycle for theatre in the round, **Playing Cards 1: SPADES**.

Batsheva Dance Company headed by choreographer Ohad Naharin has been popularly embraced as one of the most exciting contemporary dance companies in the world. Luminato 2012's presentation of **SADEH21** is a North American premiere and marks the long awaited return of the **Batsheva Dance Company** to Toronto.

"The lineup we have created on Toronto's stages is truly world class. Four shows that could not be more different, from dance to virtual theatre to the most unusual collaboration in opera history and a new Lepage piece," said Jorn Weisbrodt, Artistic Director of Luminato. *"Each of these creations radically demonstrates how artists create their own language, how they find something that we have never heard of or seen before, something that touches us and makes us see the world in a different light. If you like theatre, opera, dance or music and you have not seen Wilson/Glass' Einstein on the Beach in your lifetime, it is like having never heard the Beatles, never having kissed or loved."*

EINSTEIN ON THE BEACH

An Opera in Four Acts

June 8–10, Sony Centre for the Performing Arts

"Einstein remains a masterpiece...an experience to cherish for a lifetime." – The New York Times

Widely credited as one of the greatest artistic achievements of the 20th century, this rarely performed work launched its creators **Robert Wilson** and **Philip Glass** to international success when it was first produced at Festival d'Avignon in France and then later at the Metropolitan Opera in 1976. Now, nearly four decades after it was first performed and twenty years since its last revival, **EINSTEIN ON THE BEACH** has been reconstructed for a major international tour including the first performances in the United Kingdom and the first North American presentations ever held outside of New York City. **EINSTEIN ON THE BEACH** features

choreography by **Lucinda Childs**, a long-term collaborator of Wilson and Glass, who choreographed the opera in 1984 and 1992. She was a principal performer in the original and both subsequent productions of the work.

Blending everything from music and poetry to abstract dance, **EINSTEIN ON THE BEACH** weaves a dreamlike experience that, like any classical sonata or symphony, is based on the idea of theme and variation. But Einstein can also be seen as distinctly, dramatically American. Structured in four interconnected acts and divided by a series of scenes, **EINSTEIN ON THE BEACH** has no traditional intermissions. Instead, the audience is invited to enter and exit at liberty during the performance.

BEFORE EINSTEIN ON THE BEACH

Robert Wilson and **Philip Glass**' landmark collaboration, **EINSTEIN ON THE BEACH**, was hailed as a revolutionary masterwork when it debuted in 1976. Join Luminato artistic director **Jorn Weisbrodt** for an elucidating introduction to **EINSTEIN ON THE BEACH** before each performance.

June 8-10, Sony Centre For The Performing Arts, Lower Lobby Lounge

THE SCIENCE OF EINSTEIN (ON THE BEACH)

How might contemporary scientists at the forefront of research in theoretical physics interpret **Robert Wilson** and **Philip Glass**' revolutionary opera? Top researchers from Waterloo's renowned **Perimeter Institute** will assemble for an exceptionally insightful examination of the opera's themes as they relate to scientific genius.

THE SCIENCE OF EINSTEIN (ON THE BEACH) will immediately follow the June 10 performance of **EINSTEIN ON THE BEACH** and promises to be a lively post-show discussion.

The world renowned **Perimeter Institute** was founded in 1999 in Waterloo, Ontario, uniting public and private partners with some of the world's best scientific minds to foster research, training and outreach in theoretical physics – a field of study that aims to deepen our understanding of the laws of nature.

June 10, Sony Centre For The Performing Arts, Lower Lobby Lounge

LA BELLE ET LA BÊTE: A CONTEMPORARY RETELLING

June 8–12, Bluma Appel Theatre, St. Lawrence Centre for the Performing Arts

"...visually stunning and intellectually intriguing." – The Montreal Gazette

The classic fairy tale *Beauty and the Beast* has inspired countless treatments in every artistic genre, but none more enchanting than the multimedia magic created by **Michel Lemieux** and **Victor Pilon**, whose *Norman* premiered at Luminato in 2007.

The lives of three characters—a lovely young painter striving to come to terms with tragedy through her art, a grief-stricken and horribly disfigured young man and the older woman whose love for him ignites a battle between good and evil within her heart—intertwine in a shadowy realm of supernatural creatures, spectacular apparitions, internal demons, and dramatic metamorphoses, all brought to life through a spectacular integration of live performance, music, and dazzling state-of-the-art virtual imagery.

Founded in 1983, **Michel Lemieux** and **Victor Pilon** are the driving artistic forces of Montreal-based **Lemieux Pilon 4D Art**, a multi-disciplinary company with more than 30 original productions to its credit. Combining theatre, film, dance, poetry, visual arts, music, and sound, the Montreal-based company uses virtual reality, allowing the actors to interact with projected scenery, and with other forms of themselves, in a 3D environment. The result is richly immersive experiences that will astound the eye and stir the heart. With **LA BELLE ET LA BÊTE** they have fused performance and technology to create a moving piece of drama, which will receive its English language premiere at Luminato.

Playing Cards 1: SPADES

June 13–17, Joey and Toby Tanenbaum Opera Centre, Canadian Opera Company

"A new work by **Robert Lepage** is always a major event." – San Francisco Bay Guardian

Global conflicts, cultural clashes and personal battles all fuel **Playing Cards 1: SPADES**, Robert Lepage's exploration of war using the structure of a deck of cards as its framework.

SPADES, the first of four parts named for the various suits, explores the theme of war and unfolds in two desert cities, Las Vegas and Baghdad, at the onset of the U.S. invasion of Iraq. The gambling Mecca, fiercely representative of the Western World's values and extremes, brings together a cross-cultural assortment of characters whose affinities are as varied as their origins.

Beyond luck, chance and excess, Vegas is revealed as an empire of illusions where the playing never ceases, even as the country becomes embroiled in war. Mirroring Sin City's glittering ambiguity, the characters fight their private battles as they try to reconcile their own inconsistencies.

SADEH21

OHAD NAHARIN / BATSHEVA DANCE COMPANY

June 14–16, MacMillan Theatre, University of Toronto

"Sadeh21 is a fertile field of contrasts, an enthralling work." – Midnight East

Embraced as one of the world's most exciting contemporary dance companies, the **Batsheva Dance Company** of Israel will perform the North American premiere of **SADEH21**, by Batsheva's Artistic Director Ohad Naharin, in their much anticipated return to Toronto.

SADEH21 is a full-length work featuring a large company of dancers, in solos and groups, exploring the space of an empty stage using the unique movement language developed by Ohad Naharin, called Gaga. In **SADEH21** Naharin is giving us a first choreographic voyage with cinematic character, an epic-dance expedition. The cinematic choreography takes us into time travel - however **SADEH21** is the voyage of the body. The Naharinic Odyssey is an evolution of pleasure. The dance materials are emotional, the music is both paralyzing and captivating, and the women are bursting with sensuality. **SADEH21** is radiant, dangerous and exciting.

Artistic Director since 1990, Naharin has propelled the **Batsheva Dance Company** into a new era with his adventurous curatorial vision, distinctive choreographic voice, and revolutionary movement language. Presented in collaboration with the Israel Festival, Jerusalem, **SADEH21** is co-commissioned by Luminato.

LUMINATO 2012 THEATRE, OPERA and DANCE

EINSTEIN ON THE BEACH An Opera in Four Acts

Sony Centre for the Performing Arts, 1 Front Street East

Friday, June 8 and Saturday, June 9 @ 6:00 PM

Sunday, June 10 @ 3:00 PM

Doors open 20 minutes prior to the performance.

4 hours and 20 minutes, no intermission. Audience may leave and re-enter the auditorium throughout

Tickets from \$49 to \$175

Presented in Association with BMO

With Support From the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund

EINSTEIN ON THE BEACH is produced by Pomegranate Arts, Inc., and was commissioned by: Luminato, Toronto Festival of Arts and Creativity; BAM; the Barbican, London; Cal Performances University of California, Berkeley; De Nederlandse Opera/The Amsterdam Music Theatre; Opéra et Orchestre National de Montpellier Languedoc-Rousillon; University Musical Society of the University of Michigan

See **Robert Wilson, Philip Glass** and **Lucinda Childs** in conversation as part of *Illuminations*

BEFORE EINSTEIN ON THE BEACH Jorn Weisbrodt

Friday, June 8 and Saturday, June 9 @ 5:15 PM

Sunday, June 10 at 2:15 PM

Sony Centre for the Performing Arts, Lower Lobby Lounge, 1 Front Street East

25 minutes

Free with admission

THE SCIENCE OF EINSTEIN (ON THE BEACH)

Top researchers from Waterloo's renowned Perimeter Institute

Sunday, June 10 @ 7:30 PM

Sony Centre for the Performing Arts, Lower Lobby Lounge, 1 Front Street East
Free

LA BELLE ET LA BÊTE: A CONTEMPORARY RETELLING

Starring **Bénédicte Décary** as "La Belle," **Diane D'Aquila** as "La Dame" and **François Papineau** as "La Bête"

Friday, June 8 and Saturday, June 9 @ 7:30 PM

Saturday, June 9 @ 2pm, Sunday, June 10 @ 3:00 PM

Monday, June 11 and Tuesday, June 12 @ 7:30 PM

Bluma Appel Theatre, St. Lawrence Centre for the Performing Arts, 27 Front Street East
1 hour and 30 minutes, no intermission

Tickets from \$49 to \$99

English Language Premiere

Commissioned by Luminato, Toronto Festival of Arts and Creativity, **LA BELLE ET LA BÊTE**, was co-produced by Lemieux Pilon 4D Art with Montréal's Théâtre du Nouveau Monde and premiered in Montreal in January 2011

See **Michel Lemieux** and **Victor Pilon** in conversation as part of *Illuminations*

Playing Cards 1

SPADES

Directed by Robert Lepage

June 13–16 @ 7:30 PM

Sunday, June 17 @ 2:00 PM

Joey and Toby Tanenbaum Opera Centre, Canadian Opera Company, 227 Front Street East

3 hours, without intermission

Tickets from \$45 to \$90

North American Premiere

Playing Cards 1: SPADES is an Ex Machina production initiated by the 360° Network and commissioned by Luminato, Toronto Festival of Arts & Creativity, in co-production with: Teatro Circo Price – Madrid°; Scène Nationale de Sénart – La Coupole°; La Comète – Scène Nationale de Châlons-en-Champagne°; Cirque Jules Verne & Maison de la Culture – Amiens°; The Roundhouse, London°; Østre Gasværk Teater – Copenhagen°; Norfolk & Norwich Festival; Gasverket, Stockholm°

° Members of the 360° Network, an international group of theatre-in-the-round venues.

This production includes mature content. Parental discretion is recommended

See **Robert Lepage** in conversation as part of *Illuminations*

SADEH21

By Ohad Naharin in collaboration with Batsheva dancers (season 2010/11)

BATSHEVA DANCE COMPANY

June 14–16 @ 8:00 PM

MacMillan Theatre, University of Toronto, 80 Queen's Park

1 hour and 15 minutes, no intermission

Tickets from \$25 to \$85

North American Premiere

Commissioned by Luminato, Toronto Festival of Arts and Creativity,

Presented in collaboration with the Israel Festival, Jerusalem

Supported by the Consulate General of Israel in Toronto

Batsheva Dance Company is also featured as part of Luminato's Education and Community Outreach Program

See choreographer **Ohad Naharin** in conversation as part of *Illuminations*

Gala Opening Night Performance

Thursday, June 14, 2012

Join Luminato and the Koffler Centre of the Arts for this exciting Opening Night Gala celebrating the Koffler Centre of the Arts on occasion of its expansion to Artscape YOUNGplace and the launch of its New Art Insider program. The Koffler together with Luminato will present an award to Senator Linda Frum and Howard

Sokolowski for their contributions to the arts in Canada and Israel.
Proceeds to benefit the Koffler Centre of the Arts

For Opening Night Gala tickets and information, please visit kofflerarts.org or call 416-638-1881 X4022

EINSTEIN ON THE BEACH, Playing Cards 1: SPADES and SADEH21 have been financially assisted by The Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund, a program of the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, administered by the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund Corporation.

The sixth edition of Luminato takes place from June 8–17, 2012. Tickets for all Luminato 2012 programs will be available for sale on April 14. For details, please visit luminato.com.

ABOUT LUMINATO

Luminato is Toronto's fifth season when the festival stages the best of our city and invites the world to celebrate and transform it with us. Luminato is an annual multi-disciplinary celebration of theatre, dance, music, literature, food, visual arts, film, magic, and more. For more information, please visit luminato.com.

Luminato gratefully acknowledges the generous support and vision of its Founding Luminaries, SuperNova donors, and Patron Circle Members. The Festival would not be possible without the support of our Partner in Creativity, L'Oréal Canada. Luminato also acknowledges the support of its Founding Government Partner, the Province of Ontario, the Government of Canada, and the City of Toronto.

Luminato Partners: L'Oréal Canada, TELUS, Kia Canada, President's Choice, National Bank, Manulife Financial, VISA Infinite.

Major Media Partners: Toronto Star, CBC, The Globe and Mail, Cineplex Media, St. Joseph Communications.
List represents commitments as of March 14, 2012.

Media Contact: FLIP Publicity & Promotions Inc., 416-533-7710, www.flip-publicity.com
Grant Ramsay X222, grant@flip-publicity.com, Carrie Sager X224, carrie@flip-publicity.com or
Danyel McLachlan, Coordinator, Luminato Public Relations, 416-368-3100 X242, pr.coordinator@luminato.com

Media Downloads: www.luminato.com/media-downloads