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**Kaeja d'Dance presents the Toronto Premiere of**  
***Abattoir***

**A multi-disciplinary exploration of innocence and rites of passage**  
Concept & Direction by **Allen Kaeja**  
Choreographed by **Allen and Karen Kaeja**

Featuring dancers **Karen Kaeja, Tanya Crowder, Robert Halley, Ryan Lee, Susan Lee** and **Tim Spronk**, and actor **Aaron Willis**, with guest appearance by **Allen Kaeja**

Collaborators: **Fides Krucker** (New Opera Singer), and **Edgardo Moreno** (Composer)  
Original text: **Jason Sherman**

**MARCH 25-29, 2008**

Harbourfront Centre's **Premiere Dance Theatre**, 235 Queens Quay West, Toronto  
**Performances:** March 25, 27-29 at 8pm (March 26 at 10:30am for school/youth groups)  
**Tickets:** Adults \$24/\$30 (\$18 students/seniors/CADA. \$10 Dance School students)  
**4 for 3 discount:** buy 3 tickets and get the 4th free; or 10% discount before March 1.

**Box Office: 416-973-4000**

**Information:** www.kaeja.org or 416-516-6030 & to book March 26 schools/youth show

Dense with hard-edged kinetics and physical dynamism, two award-winning choreographers converge as **Kaeja d'Dance** presents the Toronto premiere of ***Abattoir***. Compelling dance and bold partnering, developed from Allen Kaeja's past competitive training in the martial arts and Karen Kaeja's lyrical sensitivities, engulf the ***Abattoir*** stage. The first full-evening work they have choreographed together, this new dance creation by life partners **Allen and Karen Kaeja** reflects on the resiliency of the human spirit as it intertwines dance, new opera, music and theatre.

Loosely inspired by Allen's childhood experiences, ***Abattoir*** explores the acute line between the imaginary and realistic world of a young boy working in his father's abattoir. Amidst the complex intimacy of the killing floor, the child's wonderment and beautiful innocence stands in stark counterpoint to his critical role in the life cycle of the animals; instilling in him, oddly at first glance, with a deep respect for life.

***Abattoir*** combines Allen Kaeja's visceral kinetic aesthetic and explosive movement with Karen Kaeja's liquid, sensual athleticism and choreographic lyricism to create a work full of depth and disturbing beauty.

Conceptualized and directed by Allen, this new work pushes the boundaries of dance, incorporating work from award-winning artists in other fields. Writer **Jason Sherman** provides poetic text and new opera singer **Fides Krucker** transforms Sherman's words into soaring arias and soundscapes along with composer **Edgardo Moreno**, who creates a beautiful musical counterpoint.

The lines between artistic disciplines are blurred as dancers **Tanya Crowder, Robert Halley, Karen Kaeja, Ryan Lee, Susan Lee** and **Tim Spronk** also sing and join actor **Aaron Willis** onstage to bring this richly-textured, dark, but ultimately hopeful exploration of humanity, to life. Costume design by **Jorge Sandoval**; lighting design by **Roelof Peter Snippe**.