

TORONTO, June 2, 2004

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## WORLD PREMIERE OF ALLEN KAEJA'S ASYLUM OF SPOONS

**Asylum of Spoons**, the latest full-length work choreographed by Allen Kaeja and performed by **Kaeja d'Dance**, will premiere at the Canada Dance Festival (CDF) in the National Arts Centre Theatre, Ottawa, on June 10, 2004. Commissioned by CDF, and developed over the past eighteen months, **Asylum of Spoons** marries Allen Kaeja's signature style of "*physically explosive work*" ([Dance International](#)) with theatre of the absurd.

All of us can relate to the comic situations that can ensue in large family gatherings. **Asylum of Spoons** is a double entendre for both the asylum sought within the nurturing family, and the craziness that can ensue at family events. This new work journeys into the bizarre through humour and the use of layered stories.

A cast of seven dancers, featuring Karen Kaeja, takes the stage with thousands of spoons. Intrigues, dramas and hilarious episodes ensue! **Asylum of Spoons** represents a departure for Allen Kaeja creatively. Over the past decade, his work has focused on serious themes, and with this piece, we see a re-integration of humour into his work. Inspired by Allen's own family growing up, and dedicated to the memory of his mother, **Asylum of Spoons** is a deeply personal and joyous piece from this choreographer who has been called, "*brilliant...Kaeja demonstrates a wonderful ability to create powerful images...of poignant beauty full of dignity and humanity.*" [Voir Magazine](#).

The evening will open with "Years Unsettled", choreographed by Allen and Karen Kaeja, and performed by eleven senior students from Canterbury High School. This five-minute piece is a second commission from CDF, as part of an educational residency.

**Asylum of Spoons** will tour nationally and internationally in 2005-2006.

Date:	June 10, 2004	Venue:	National Arts Centre Theatre
Time:	7:30 p.m.		53 Elgin Street
Tickets:	\$32		Ottawa

Box Office: 1-866-850-ARTS Ext 280

**Cast:** Karen Kaeja, Piotr Biernat, Tanya Crowder, Susan Lee, Lincoln Shand, Tim Spronk and Teena Walker. **Dramaturge:** Mark Christmann. **Composer:** Edgardo Moreno. **Lighting Design:** Roelof Peter Snippe. **Costume and Set Design:** Cheryl Lalonde.

**Kaeja d'Dance** is a contemporary dance company led by Co-Artistic Directors Allen and Karen Kaeja. They are known internationally for their choreography, films, teaching, festival direction and performance work. **Kaeja d'Dance** is unique in offering educational residencies in addition to performances when they tour, and the Company has toured and educated students across Canada, and in countries such as England, India, Japan, Mexico, Spain, Sweden, the United States, and Venezuela. In July 2004, Kaeja d'Dance will embark on a four-city tour and educational residency in Portugal, as part of the Festival Internacional de Fringe.

For more information, please call Becky Bays at **Kaeja d'Dance**, 416 516-6030.

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