

Kaeja d'Dance in co-production with the Canada Dance Festival, presents

Asylum of Spoons

Choreographed by Allen Kaeja

Kaeja d'Dance, in co-production with the **Canada Dance Festival**, is pleased to present the Toronto premiere of its highly acclaimed *Asylum of Spoons*. One of **Allen Kaeja's** most explosive and cutting-edge choreographies to date, *Asylum of Spoons* is a full-evening contemporary dance work that verges on Theatre of the Absurd as it journeys through the lives of a truly eccentric family, exploring the dynamics between individuals in the asylum of a family gathering and chronicling the underlying absurdity, passion, unspoken desires and impulsive acts that drive typical and not-so-typical families. *Asylum of Spoons* runs **March 1, 3-5 at 8pm** at the **Premiere Dance Theatre. (No performance March 2.)**

Asylum of Spoons is a double entendre for both the asylum of unconditional love sought within a nurturing family and the craziness of the warped relationships it can engender. *Asylum of Spoons* candidly and humorously plays out the events of a truly outrageous family gathering.

Set in a turn-of-the-century atmosphere and filled with layered narratives, *Asylum of Spoons* features **Karen Kaeja** in a stunning performance as the domineering matriarch. Kaeja d'Dance company members **Allen Kaeja, Piotr Biernat, Tanya Crowder, Susan Lee, Blake Martin, Tim Spronk** and **Teena Walker** round out the other members of this dysfunctional household. Music is composed by **Edgardo Moreno**, lighting is by **Roelof Peter Snippe**, and costumes are by **Cheryl Lalonde**. The company apprentice is **Kate Franklin**, and stage management is by **Janelle Rainville**

The stainless steel spoon is the unifying symbol, and over 2000 of them propel the story. As vessels of giving and receiving, spoons are nurturing and accepting. In *Asylum of Spoons*, they are also used as tools of aggression: the spoons become currency, bait and jewelry. Along with the ever-present family dinner table, they are objects of desire through which the conflicts and hierarchies within the family are resolved or displaced.

Asylum of Spoons premiered at the 2004 Canada Dance Festival where Jenny Jackson of the Ottawa Citizen raved:

“Kaeja d'Dance was hot to the touch...in a work that evoked sex, violence, hunger and cruel domination, all in the arms of good ol' Mom.... Kaeja's choreography is brilliantly creepy.... crisp, quick and tight, and the counterbalance on the stage between groups of dancers was taut to the breaking point.... It never flinched from the darkest lusts and cruelties, and the dancers saturated each gesture with passion.... [The spoons'] clatter as they fell became part of the score and their glittering cascade gave the entire piece a knife-edge brilliance of movement.”

Established in 1991 and founded by artistic directors and life partners Allen and Karen Kaeja, **Kaeja d'Dance** has received international recognition for its vividly original dance creations that simmer with athletic intensity and theatrical imagery. After participating in festivals, working in film (their most recent films *Old Country* and *Departure* recently aired on CBC and BRAVO!FACT television as well as being nominated for a Gemini and American Choreography Award), developing growing educational programs and touring around the world, *Asylum of Spoons* is a long-awaited welcome return of Kaeja d'Dance to a Toronto stage for its first full-length evening of dance since *Resistance* five years ago. In the spring, *Asylum of Spoons* will be adapted into an hour-long film licensed by **Bravo!** co-directed by Allen Kaeja and Mark Adam.

Kaeja d'Dance in co-production with the **Canada Dance Festival** proudly presents **Allen Kaeja's *Asylum of Spoons* March 1, 3-5** at 8pm (no performance March 2) at Harbourfront Centre's Premiere Dance Theatre, 207 Queens' Quay W.
Tickets \$22 & \$28 (Students/Seniors/CADA \$18)

For tickets call the Harbourfront Centre Box Office at 416-973-4000 OR book online at www.harbourfrontcentre.com. For more information visit www.kaeja.org