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Allen Kaeja & Mark Adam Nominated for a Gemini Award in the category of Best Direction in a Performing Arts Program or Series

On October 26, 2004 the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television announced the nominees for this year's 19th Annual Gemini Awards. Among the nominations, co-directors **Allen Kaeja & Mark Adam** have been recognized for Best Direction in a Performing Arts Program or Series for the film, **Old Country**. The Industry Gala Gemini Awards will be presented December 12th, 2004 from the National Trade Centre, Heritage Court beginning at 8:pm in Toronto.

Adapted by Allen Kaeja from his successful stage work of the same name, **Old Country**, is set in Kutno, Poland in 1939. This 24-minute made-for-television film investigates the complex levels of relationships in a small town torn apart by impending war. **Old Country** is based on the experiences of Allen's father, Morton Norris née Munniac Nossal, during WWII. Shot against vivid period locations in Ottawa, the film is a feast for the eyes of both dance and screen lovers.

Over the last 7 years, Kaeja's films have been widely received at many international and North American film festivals and most recently Allen and Karen Kaeja have also been nominated for the 10th American Choreography Awards in the category of Outstanding Achievement in Choreography of a short film. **Old Country** was also featured at the Palm Springs International Film Festival and premiered on CBC for Opening Night in the spring of 2004. Co-directed by Allen Kaeja and Mark Adam, **Old Country** features Karen Kaeja and Allen Kaeja with performers Tara Butler, Piotr Biernat, Amy Hampton, Susan Lee, Michael Sean Marye, Timothy Spronk and Teena Walker. The film was produced in association with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and supported by Bravo!Fact and the National Capital Commission.

"The gorgeous camerawork and art direction aside, "Old Country" succeeds as cinema largely because it has a story to tell and it's told with honesty and tremendous clarity, both in the movement and in the filmmaking." Kathleen Smith, The Dance Current, Feb 04

"A potently emotional piece of dancemaking. It is a world teetering of the brink of war, tense, anxious, full of foreboding in which people live in shadows. It is a world evoked not only kinetically but through the marriage of (Kaeja's) movement, lighting and music. These things work together to give OLD COUNTRY its atmospheric power." Stage Performance review, William Littler, Toronto Star

"You cannot imagine how lonely I am here all by myself. I am still alone without wife and family. You may have read in the papers and heard from other people about the horrible time we had to go through. You can understand how I am longing to leave this country." Munniac Nossal, letter written from a displaced persons camp, 1946.

19th Annual Gemini Award Ceremony – Industry Gala

Dates: Sunday, December 12, 2004

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Venue: Industry Gala, National Trade Centre, Heritage Court
Toronto

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, running of festivals and performance work. It is their seamless collaborative style that has been captivating audiences across Canada, and in countries such as England, India, Japan, Mexico, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, the United States, and Venezuela.

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



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