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## **Kaeja d'Dance launches their 4<sup>th</sup> annual Education & Outreach tour in Winnipeg, Manitoba**

On April 17, 2005, the award-winning, Toronto-based contemporary dance company, **Kaeja d'Dance**, will launch their 4<sup>th</sup> annual Education and Outreach Tour. Running from April 17<sup>th</sup> to May 10<sup>th</sup>, **Kaeja d'Dance** will bring performances, student workshops and master dance classes to Winnipeg for the first time. They will then continue the tour into the Northern Ontario communities of Sioux Lookout, Thunder Bay, Marathon and Nipigon. Over the three and half week tour, **Kaeja d'Dance** will teach and perform for approx 4,000 students and community members

**Kaeja d'Dance, in co-production with the Canada Dance Festival will present the Winnipeg premiere of Kaeja d'Dance's highly acclaimed *Asylum of Spoons* at the Gas Station Theatre on Friday April 22, 2005 at 8 pm.** One of Co-Artistic Director **Allen Kaeja's** most explosive and cutting-edge choreographies to date, ***Asylum of Spoons*** is presently being adapted into an hour-long film licensed by **Bravo!**, co-directed by Allen Kaeja and Mark Adam. It is a compelling contemporary dance work that verges on Theatre of the Absurd, as it journeys through the lives of a truly eccentric family. The piece explores the dynamics between individuals in the asylum of a family gathering and chronicles the underlying absurdity, passion, unspoken desires and impulsive acts that drive typical and not-so-typical families. The stainless steel spoon is the unifying symbol, and over 2000 of them propel the story. 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 R. Biernat, Tanya Crowder, Susan Lee, Tim Spronk** and **Teena Walker** kinetically and poetically portray the other members of this dynamic, dysfunctional household.

During the tour, **Kaeja d'Dance** will perform matinees of ***Tabled Manners***, an adaptation of ***Asylum of Spoons*** for student and family audiences. While Allen and Karen Kaeja provide master workshops to performing arts students at the School of Contemporary Dancers in Winnipeg, and others. The company dancers will also teach EXPRESS DANCE workshops in local schools including Glenlawn Collegiate Institute and Windsor Park Collegiate. Developed by Karen & Allen Kaeja, EXPRESS DANCE is a curriculum-linked method of teaching dance to students with little or no experience. Gleaned from their practice as both powerful dancers and educators, Allen and Karen Kaeja created EXPRESS DANCE in response to a recognized need for better teaching tools for dance in the public schools. EXPRESS DANCE provides a fun and inclusive way to teach dance that has been taught in schools & communities across Canada.

Established in 1991 and founded by Co-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. Allen and Karen Kaeja have been actively educating nationally and internationally over the past 15 years to more than 20,000 learners, including non-dancers and professionals of all ages. After participating in festivals, touring around the world and producing films (their most recent films ***Old Country*** and ***Departure*** recently aired on CBC and BRAVO!FACT television and were nominated for a **Gemini** and **American Choreography Award**), **Kaeja d'Dance** continues to initiate successful educational and outreach programs that reach communities both in Canada and worldwide.

Kaeja d'Dance would like to gratefully acknowledge the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council and The Anonymous Fund at the Toronto Community Foundation, for their incredible support of the 2005 Kaeja d'Dance Education & Outreach Tour, and a special thanks to the community and educational co-presenters who helped make this tour possible.

**Kaeja d'Dance** proudly presents Allen Kaeja's  
***Asylum of Spoons***

**Friday, April 22** at 8pm at the Gas Station Theatre, 445 River Avenue. Tickets \$12 & \$18 (Students/Seniors/CADA \$12)  
**For tickets call the Kaeja d'Dance Box Office at 416-516 6030 OR toll free 1 866 711 1101.**

For more information visit [www.kaeja.org](http://www.kaeja.org)

**"A knife edged brilliance of movement.."** Ottawa Citizen

**"Karen Kaeja .. proves that she is one of the city's most watchable performers."** Now Magazine, Toronto