FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 20, 2011
TORONTO: Please add to listings until August 21
MEDIA CONTACT: Jonathan Heppner, 416.302.1144, info@duskdances.ca

DUSK DANCES 2011

3 Presentations in the Greater Toronto Area
Including Toronto's Withrow Park, August 2-7

Dusk Dances, one of Toronto's most vibrant and popular cultural events, returns for its 17th season, with 3 weeks of exciting dance performances at **Neilson Park, Withrow Park, and Earlscourt Park.**

In August, Dusk Dances returns to **Withrow Park** for our annual downtown event, featuring innovative new works from **Karen Kaeja, Throwdown Collective** (Zhenya Cerneacov, Mairéad Filgate, Brodie Stevenson)**, Michael Caldwell,** Vancouver's **The Contingency Plan,** and **Lua Shayenne and Roshanak Jaberi**. Join us for the event that the Toronto Star calls **"...A national phenomenon."**

Also this summer, Dusk Dances heads to inspired outdoor locations in Toronto's east, north, and west ends. With new performances from **local youth and emerging artists,** including: Jon 'Drops' Reid - Supernaturalz Crew, Raw Energy, Limitless Productions, Irvin Washington and Lua Shayenne, as well as favourites from our past repertoire. The Dusk Dances GTA Initiative promises to animate communities and urban parks throughout Toronto.

Dusk Dances is an outdoor dance festival that brings an array of high quality contemporary and traditional dance to public parks. As dusk descends, a theatrical host ushers the audience - which invariably includes children, dog walkers and local residents - to five eclectic dance pieces that unfold in different areas of the park. Audiences are invited on a pay-what-you-can basis to an innovative site-specific festival, which is not only an artistic event, but a social and cultural one as well.

CATCH THE SPIRIT!

DUSK DANCES 2011
Festival Director Sylvie Bouchard
Neilson Park (Finch and Neilson Road) - July 20-23
Withrow Park (South of Danforth between Logan and Carlaw) - August 2-7
Earlscourt Park (St. Clair Ave West and Caledonia Road) - August 18-21
Performances nightly at 7:00 PM
Admission is **PAY-WHAT-YOU-CAN**
For more information visit http://www.duskdances.ca
416.504.6429 x41

Photo of Roshanak Jaberi, by Gary Mulcahey.

DUSK DANCES 2011 LINEUP

Withrow Park August 2-7 **Nightly at 7:00 PM**
With performances from bluegrass ensemble **Moonshiner's Daughter** and our host extraordinaire, **Ryan Egan**, our production at Withrow Park features:

- **Karen Kaeja**, with *Eugene Walks with Grace*—a poignant duet exploring the charms and challenges of one 'extraordinarily ordinary' couple.
- **Lua Shayenne and Roshanak Jaberi**, with *Bao* – a traditional West African coming of age dance featuring dancers and drummers in a fusion of rhythmic movement and sound.
- **The Contingency Plan,** with *Strathcona High, Class of '56* – a quirky and comedic take on 3 teenage girls, clad in perfect pastel dresses, arriving at their high school prom.
- **Throwdown Collective** (Zhenya Cerneacov, Mairéad Filgate, Brodie Stevenson), with *BoxSet* – a fast-paced and acrobatic dance atop 4 wooden boxes.
- **Michael Caldwell**, with *The Horologium* -- a fantastical journey into the topsy-turvy world of a hapless caretaker, 4 dancers, and a nine-foot tall accordion-playing matriarch.

GTA INITIATIVE:

Each of our **GTA Festivals** are made up of two past Dusk Dances pieces and two new works: one youth commission and one local commission. Traveling to all GTA parks are two Dusk Dances favourites:

Kaha:wi (Santee Smith) and ***Stink*** (Jenn Goodwin)

Neilson Park (Finch Ave and Neilson Road) July 20-23 **Nightly at 7:00 PM**
(Co-produced by Malvern Family Resource Centre and The S.P.O.T.) Hosted by Shannon T. Boodram, with a musical performance by Keith Pascall, and featuring new commissions by dance squad Raw Energy and Tamla Matthews.

Earlscourt Park (St.Clair West and Caledonia Road)
August 18-21 Nightly at 7:00 PM
(Co-produced by Art Starts) Hosted by Ryan Egan with a musical performance by latin ensemble **Maderaz**, and featuring new commissions by Jon 'Drops' Reid, Roshanak Jaberi & Lua Shayenne.

Visit www.duskdances.ca for information on our out-of-town events and one-day-only festivals in the GTA. For additional details, contact Jonathan Heppner at info@duskdances.ca, 416.302.1144.

Top photo by Gary Mulcahey: Zhenya Cerneacov and Mairéad Filgate in Karen Kaeja's *Eugene Walks With Grace.*
Bottom photo by Kevin Konnyu: Santee Smith in *Kaha:wi.*