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April 9, 2008

“[Michael] Trent is blessed in his almost-new company. His dancers are strong individuals, and display...dominant traits that add to the mystique of their interactions.” Paula Citron, Globe and Mail

Double Bill #1 by Ame Henderson and Michael Trent
April 9th – 12th at 8:00 p.m. and April 12th at 3:00 p.m. - Premiere Dance Theatre

TORONTO, ON... *Double Bill #1* is the inaugural project of a three-year cycle of exciting new collaborations between Dancemakers' Artistic Director and Resident Choreographer **Michael Trent** and an invited creator. This edition welcomes **Ame Henderson**, Artistic Director of Public Recordings, whose bold aesthetic thrilled audiences in Toronto, Montreal, St. John's, Halifax, and Italy with her 2006 work */Dance/Songs/*.

How do we decide what to do? What limits to set? When do we come together and when do we step away? Oh, and what adds up to a party? With the collaboration of the **Dancemakers company**, the psychedelic sweet-jazz of **The Reveries**, and an environment by **Trevor Schwellnus** – choreographers **Ame Henderson** and **Michael Trent** create contemporary visions of what it means to be alive and to dance in the early days of the 21st century.

It was a nice party **Ame Henderson's** new work reconstructs a chaotic event by sampling and covering. Sources are reinvented and replayed to find a surprising authenticity in the face of the constructed image.

Michael Trent wonders about tyranny - the large and the small, the self-imposed, the political and the rest. Addressed with moving, breathing bodies, the work questions affinities, methods of control and the dynamics of making choices.

Double Bill #1 is a daring confrontation with the unknown from two of Toronto's most exciting and innovative choreographers.

Meeting on the same stage, in an environment designed and lit by **Trevor Schwellnus**, Henderson and Trent will share an identical space as they forge their explorations with the same collaborative team: the Dancemakers interpreters, musician and composer **Eric Chenaux**, dramaturge **Jacob Zimmer** and company rehearsal director **Bonnie Kim**.

As **Ame Henderson** explains, “This new work takes apart and then reconstructs a chaotic event. Unabashedly appropriating forms and ideas from external sources including film and music, these initial impulses are reinvented and replayed.” She goes on to say, “In constructing a kind of sampling machinery, I search for authenticity in a choreographic landscape where questions of artifice and the construction and power of pop culture loom.”

Artist bios can be downloaded from <http://www.dancemakers.org>

High resolution photos for Dancemakers can be requested by emailing blackwellcommunications@gmail.com

Details of Double Bill #1

Choreographer: Michael Trent

Choreographer: Ame Henderson

Composer: Eric Chenaux

Scenographer: Trevor Schwellnus

Dramaturge: Jacob Zimmer

Rehearsal Director: Bonnie Kim

Interpreters: Clinton Draper, Kate Hilliard, Kate Holden, Benjamin Kamino and Steeve Paquet

DATES: April 9th – 12th, 8:00 p.m., April 12th, 3:00 p.m.

TICKETS: Regular: \$22-\$38; Students/Seniors/CADA:\$20-\$33

Call/Click: 416.973.4000 or <http://www.harbourfrontcentre.com>

LOCATION: Premiere Dance Theatre, part of Harbourfront Centre's NextSteps series;
Harbourfront Centre, 207 Queens Quay West

Michael Trent's Bio

Michael Trent was appointed Artistic Director of Dancemakers and the Centre for Creation in August 2006. Works to date for the company include new versions of *things in between*, *Random Access*, and *Acts of Light* as well as new creations *Dark, Quiet & Cool* and *Constructing Doubt*. Prior to coming to Dancemakers, he was the founding Artistic Director of the *empty collective*, a crucible for collaborative projects involving two or more media. Since its inception in 2000, the *empty collective* produced *The Memory Show* (2001) and *invisible borders* (2004), with works by Trent, Sarah Chase, Laurence Lemieux, Louise Bédard and Doug Varone. Trent's works have been seen in Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Halifax and Vancouver, and include commissions from Toronto Dance Theatre, Mocean, several independent artists and most of Canada's leading professional dance schools. As a performer, Trent has danced for some of Canada's most respected creators including Louise Bédard, Sarah Chase, Sylvain Émard, Sasha Ivanochko, Laurence Lemieux, Jean-Pierre Perreault, Dominique Porte and Julia Sasso and was a member of Toronto Dance Theatre for eight seasons. He has taught across Canada and in Holland and is the co-recipient of the 2004 K.M. Hunter Artists Award in dance. He was nominated for a 2006 Dora Award for Outstanding Performance in Louise Bédard's *Ce qu'il en reste*.

Ame Henderson's Bio

Ame Henderson is a choreographer, theatre maker and performer originally from Vancouver Island and currently living in Toronto where she is the Artistic Director of Public Recordings. Her works *Blue* *Disco* (2002), *memories and statements* (2004), *Manual for Incidence* (2005), *The Instruction Project* (2006) and */Dance/Songs/* (2006) have been presented in The Netherlands, Croatia, Italy and across Canada. Most recently, Ame presented *Open Field Study (all together now)*, a durational, site-specific choreography for 50 performers, at Nuit Blanche (September 2007). She has developed work in residence at Le Groupe Dance Lab, Studio 303 and Tangente (Montreal) as part of *Clash* (2006-2007), a choreographic research project initiated by Lynda Gaudreau / Compagnie de Brune.

In addition to her own initiatives, Ame has been a guest director for Theatre Revolve and One Reed Theatre Ensemble. As a performer, Ame recently appeared in the work of Tino Sehgal at The Art Gallery of Ontario. She collaborates regularly with Jacob Zimmer and his company Small Wooden Shoe and will appear in their upcoming production *Dedicated to the Revolutions* (Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, Spring 2009). Ame was an invited participant in the panel discussion "*Fragile Positions: Performance in the 21st Century*" in Halifax (2004). She is a co-director of Hub 14, a performance and research space in Toronto.

The Reveries play sweet-jazz standards and the music of artists Nick Cave, Willie Nelson and Sade (to date). Comprised of Toronto-based multi-instrumentalists Eric Chenaux (guitar, harmonicas, vocals), Ryan Driver (street-sweeper bristle bass, thumb reeds, vocals), Doug Tielli (saw, guitar, nose-flute, vocals) and often Jean Martin (electric and acoustic drums), The Reveries perform with small, adapted cell-phone speakers inside their mouths. The speaker signal is filtered in a wild array of wah-wah effects caused by the changing shape of their mouth cavity. The mouth speakers also re-route the sounds of one another's instruments. For example, Eric's guitar is heard through Doug's mouth and Ryan's thumb reeds/vocals are heard through Eric's mouth.

Mark the Date!!

Upcoming at Dancemakers and the Centre for Creation:

Unless otherwise noted, all performances take place at Dancemakers' Centre for Creation, The Distillery District, 55 Mill Street, The Cannery, Bldg. 58, Studio 313.

May 22-24, 8 p.m.

Dancemakers Presents: Mélanie Demers

Tickets: Regular \$22; Students/Seniors/CADA \$18

About Dancemakers

In 1974, a group of Toronto independent dancers ventured out to create contemporary dance with a clear Canadian voice. The result was electric and Dancemakers was born. Three decades later Dancemakers remains on the leading edge of contemporary dance in Canada with its reputation spreading throughout the Americas and Europe. 2002 was a monumental year for Dancemakers, with a major move to the new Dancemakers Centre for Creation in the Distillery Historic District. Establishing the Centre gave the company permanent physical roots in one of Toronto's newest and most dynamic cultural settings.

In August 2006, award-winning dancer/choreographer **Michael Trent** was invited to take the lead as the Company's and Centre's Artistic Director and Resident Choreographer. At the core of Dancemakers and the Centre for Creation's re-envisioned philosophy is the desire to promote and facilitate new creation and provide professional and audience development activities that are rooted in **contemporary** aesthetics, **cross-disciplinary** dialogues and **collaborative** engagement. The Dancemakers Centre for Creation offers dancers and other artists a rich working environment — a home devoted to the act of creation where different art forms collide and co-exist. Beautifully designed with state-of-the art features, the Centre is a place of encounters between artists and the public, a place that puts engagement with multiple communities at the heart of its mission.

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For further media information and artist interviews please contact **Kim Blackwell** at 416-346-4709, 416-686-0982 or blackwellcommunications@gmail.com

The Dancers

Clinton Draper

Clinton Draper began his dance training in Victoria, B.C in 1999. He continued his training in Toronto and graduated from Ryerson University's Dance program in 2005. While at School he had the pleasure of working with D.A Hoskins, Bill James, Justine Chambers and Andrea Nann. Since graduating he has had the opportunity to be a company member of Tilt Sound+Motion for two years and a guest artist with Danny Grossman Dance Company, Dance Theatre David Earle and Menaka Thakkar Dance. He has also performed works by Sasha Ivanochko, Darryl Tracy, Meghan MacNeil, Marie-Julie Asseline, Rob Abubo and Meaghan O'Shea.

Clinton teaches dance to beginners through to pre-professionals and has taught extensively throughout Ontario and British Columbia. He also teaches pilates in downtown Toronto.

This is Clinton's first season with Dancemakers and he is excited to be part of such a great group of people!

Kate Hilliard

Kate Hilliard completed eight years of classical ballet training at the Quinte Ballet School in Belleville, Ontario and later joined the Professional Training Programme in Modern Dance at The School of Dance in Ottawa. She trained with Peter Boneham at Le Groupe Dance Lab and performed with the company during Shauna Elton's 2003 residency. Kate was one of six emerging artists to work with Paul-André Fortier in his creation *Risque*, which toured across Canada and to France. She performed in Sylvie Desrosiers's premiere of *Flots*, at the 2006 Canada Dance Festival in Ottawa. Kate has been a long time member of the Grasshoppa Dance Exchange, and is a full time company member of Dancemakers in Toronto under the directorship of Michael Trent.

In addition to her strong love of performance, Kate has enjoyed teaching the Ontario Provincial Arts Curriculum to children of all grades. She has also worked closely with professional students choreographing and directing rehearsals.

Kate has performed her self-choreographed work *Beside Me* with partner Jean-Françoise Légaré at The Guelph Contemporary Dance Festival, in Winnipeg, Ottawa, New York City and within the Ontario and Quebec public school systems. Recently Kate has embarked on a new creative process entitled *The Brutes*, under the mentorship of Margie Gillis and the faculty of the Stella Adler Studio of Acting. The piece was developed for six dancers in Montreal and has been presented in New York City.

Kate Holden

Born and raised in Toronto, Kate Holden is a graduate of the School of Toronto Dance Theatre and Etobicoke School of the Arts. Concurrent with her professional training, she performed frequently with PBJ Dance and Gabby Kamino. A member of the Danny Grossman Dance Company from 2001-2003, Kate has recently been splitting her time between Montreal and Toronto; interpreting the works of many esteemed Canadian choreographers, including Peggy Baker, Robert Desrosiers, David Earle, Sylvain Emard, Sasha Ivanochko, James Kudelka, Michael Trent, Andrea Nann, and Yvonne Ng. In 2005 she was the winner of *Le Grand Prix de l'Excellence* and *Le Coup de Coeur*; at the *Mondor Challenge*, in Trois Rivières Quebec for her interpretation of Roberto Campanella's *Flotsam* and *Jetsam*. Kate has been a board member of the Canadian Alliance of Dance Artists since 2004.

Kate is Co-Artistic Director of *firstthingsfirst* productions with Kate Franklin, The company made its successful debut in January of 2007 with its sold out run of *Namesake*; featuring choreography by Kate Alton, D.A. Hoskins, Laurence Lemieux, Claudia Moore and Matjash Mrozewski.

Kate is thrilled to be joining the Dancemakers team.

Benjamin Kamino

Benjamin Kamino started his dance training in Toronto Canada with the PBJ dance company and the Etobicoke School for the Arts, where he was under the guidance of Shari Wolfson, Laurie Raymond, Colleen Freidman and his mother Gabby Kamino. While in Toronto, Benjamin was fortunate to have worked with choreographer Peter Chin in his award winning film *Streetcar*. After moving to New York Benjamin worked with choreographers Alethea Addsit, Charlotte-Boye Christenson, Tracy Lang, Emily Pope-Blackman, Sho Ikushima, Danielle Russo, Ashley Brown and Emily Harper as well as creating and

performing his own work. Benjamin completed his BFA in Dance at NYU's Tisch School of the arts in May 2008. Most recently Benjamin has been on tour with Edisa Weeks and her company Delirious Dance Co. Benjamin would like to especially thank Kay Cummings, Phyllis Lamhut and Gus Solomons for their guidance and support.

Steeve Paquet

Steeve Paquet was born in St-Raymond-de-Portneuf, in Quebec, where he discovered a passion for movement through the practice of karate, having won two junior championships.

It was in Montreal where dance revealed itself as his calling, when Steeve was accepted into L'École Supérieure de danse du Québec; he subsequently brought his new skills to a greater level when he joined Canada's only professional jazz dance company, Decidedly Jazz Danceworks. Six years later, Steeve was invited to join Dancemakers, where he has had the opportunity to further develop his strengths in creative interpretation.

Independently, Steeve has been thrilled to work with various established Toronto choreographers and has also participated in the creation of new media projects.

This is Steeve's fifth season with Dancemakers

La dolce vita



La dolce vita (Italian for "The Sweet Life") is a 1960 film directed by Federico Fellini. It is usually cited as the film that signals the split between Fellini's earlier neo-realist films and his later art films.

Set in Rome in the 1950s where Marcello (Marcello Mastroianni) covers the more sensational side of the news; movie stars, religious visions, and the decadent aristocracy. The film shows seven days and nights in the life of the reporter. Marcello is living with Emma (Yvonne Furneaux), a woman who loves him and wants a traditional marriage, but she is possessive and shows little ability to understand his unarticulated search for value and meaning in his life. He has encounters with other women – Maddalena (Anouk Aimée), a beautiful, wealthy, and jaded friend/lover, and Anita Ekberg as an American movie star named Sylvia. Marcello also briefly meets an unspoiled and charming girl working at a beachside restaurant.