

## MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### ***wowandflutter* offers audiences a beautiful soup of otherworldly wonder**

CALGARY, AB... Decidedly Jazz Danceworks Artistic Associate and Resident Choreographer **Kimberley Cooper** will take the audience on an epic groove-laden ride through an otherworldly realm that spans from outer space to the bottom of the ocean with her groundbreaking new creation ***wowandflutter***, playing at The GRAND Theatre from January 31 – February 10, 2008.

Kimberley Cooper's choreography is perfectly matched to the intense, compelling, polyrhythmic music provided by **Amon Tobin**. The show takes as much of its inspiration from the new digital universes of video games and science-fiction as it does from the rich history and early roots of Jazz dance. The soundtrack was created by Amon Tobin from his celebrated music library and includes several powerful new and unreleased tracks. Alberta video artist **David Hoffos** will drape the stage and the show's strange cast of characters in eerie and magical illusions and special effects. The DJD dancers bring their incredible energy and verve to the production, their characters embellished by costumes created by Cooper's long-time collaborator, Vancouver clothing designer **Natalie Purschwitz**. Ontario lighting designer **Kevin Lamotte** was drawn to the production by his enthusiasm for Tobin's music and a renewed interest in lighting dance. He will carve the entire collection of epic dance vignettes from the darkness of the cavernous GRAND Theatre.

"This show has been brewing inside of me since the first time I heard Amon Tobin's music in 1998," says Cooper. "I finally managed to capture his attention and had an amazing experience working with him this summer in Montreal as he created a truly magical score for *wowandflutter*. Amon is a brilliant and internationally renowned musician whose music has appeared in films, commercials and video games. In addition to the collaboration with Amon Tobin, it is exciting to work with Sobey Art Award winner David Hoffos as he creates video elements that will be projected into the show."

*Wowandflutter* features dancers **Sarisa Figueroa, Catherine Hayward, Laura Kleiner, Dinou Marlett Stuart, Ivan Nunez Sequi, Malika Srivastava, Kaleb Tekeste, and Deanne Walsh.**

*Wowandflutter* plays at The GRAND Theatre from January 31 – February 10, 2008. Tickets are now on sale at Ticketmaster, by calling DJD at 245-3533, or by visiting [www.decidedlyjazz.com](http://www.decidedlyjazz.com).

DJD acknowledges the support of the Calgary Arts Development Authority (CADA), the Canada Council for the Arts, the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Suncor Energy, and Swerve magazine.

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## BIOGRAPHIES

### **Kimberley Cooper, Artistic Director & Choreographer *wowandflutter***

Kimberley began dancing with Decidedly Jazz Danceworks as an apprentice in 1989 and has been Artistic Associate/Resident Choreographer since she returned from a sabbatical funded by Canada Council for the Arts in 2000/2001. In 2001 she created her first full-length work, *Popular*, that was produced by DJD for One Yellow Rabbit's High Performance Rodeo. Since then she has co-created *Velvet* and the critically acclaimed cross-cultural mega show *¡BULLA! A Loud Cuban Jazz Experiment*, with DJD Co-Founder Hannah Stilwell. In addition to continuing to dance full-time with the DJD company. Cooper is an important voice in the independent dance scene in western Canada, both as a dancer and as a choreographer. Her work has been produced locally by Dancers' Studio West, the University of Calgary's Program of Dance, One Yellow Rabbit, eko dance projects, Springboard Dance, in Edmonton by Alberta Dance Alliance, and in Vancouver at Dances for small Stages. In 2002 she was named Emerging Artist of the Year by Alberta Dance Alliance. In 2004 she created the dance film *Distemper* with Director John Albanis. Funded by BRAVOFact! and the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, *Distemper* enjoyed success in festivals across North America and Europe. The two recently released their newest short film *Methuselah*, with Jason Stroh as a co-choreographer. In 2006 she created *in Charcoal & Crimson*, a parallactic fairy tale which the company performed at Calgary's newest venue The GRAND Theatre.

### **Amon Tobin, Composer**

Somewhere back in the mid-'90s a fresh faced Brazilian ex-pat living in the UK decided he was going to put down his harmonica, pick up a sampler, and name himself after a Stephen King novel. The resulting album, *Cujo's Adventures In Foam* (released on Ninebar records, later reissued on Ninja Tune) signaled Amon Tobin's entry into the world of music. Ninja Tune signed him up to record as Amon Tobin, and he quickly went to work on his debut *Bricolage*. Although employing a marriage of jazz and beats, Tobin stretched it further by bringing in elements of bossa-nova, batucada, and jungle, and combining it with a sense of song-writing that elevated it above the standards of the day. His next album, *Permutation*, started taking a noticeable turn to a much darker output, and his third release *Supermodified*, marked the point where Amon become more and more obsessed with unheard but felt bass frequencies, and where he allowed a few collaborators into the mix (mainly Chris Morris of Brass Eye & Blue Jam fame, and Montreal beatboxer Quadraceptor). The record where the bossa-nova/jazz Amon Tobin was for the most part laid to rest and the dark/electronic/soundtrack Amon Tobin came into form. In 2002, Amon moved to Montreal and began putting the finishing touches on *Out From Out Where* – a cohesive and banging record, but one with no obvious reference points. It just sounded like Amon Tobin, a sound that is very much recognizable as his own. In 2004 Ubisoft approached Amon to compose all the music for the third instalment of their enormously popular video game Splinter Cell series, which was released in March '05. Composing a proper soundtrack allowed him to be a little more progressively excessive, with the inclusion of extended string arrangements and over the top Hammond organ solos woven into his sounds. A love of soundtracks has always been a key influence in his work, and it clearly showed here. The focus of Amon's most recent work has shifted from the source material altogether and placed squarely on the manipulation of sound regardless of its origin. Armed with a sound engineer (Vid Cousins) and a collection of microphones he set out to find source material in pretty much everyplace possible. Robotics, animals, insects, musicians, utensils, motorbikes, and about a thousand other things that made interesting noises were mic'ed and fashioned into the tracks that make up his new album *Foley Room*.

**Sarisa Figueroa, Dancer**

Sarisa began her formal dance training in classical ballet at the age of seven, graduated from the Edmonton School of Ballet's Professional Program in 1993, and has danced with Decidedly Jazz ever since (apart from a year-long sabbatical during the 2003-2004 season to pursue independent interests in theatre and dance). Her dance studies have taken her to New York, Los Angeles, Montana, Cuba, and Spain and across Canada studying jazz dance and many of its root forms. Apart from dancing with DJD, she has performed with One Yellow Rabbit, Springboard Dance Collective, Theatre of the Living Statue, Sage Theatre as well as for various independent choreographers and directors. She was Artistic Director for DJD's dancer-choreographed evening *Larimer St.* in 2005 and *root 7* in 2006. She also choreographs, acts and teaches in Calgary and throughout Western Canada

**Catherine Hayward, Apprentice Dancer**

Catherine grew up in Winnipeg where she began dancing at the age of 5. Her dance studies led her to Ryerson University where she graduated with honours from the dance program earning her BFA. At Ryerson, Catherine had the opportunity to work with independent choreographers such as Heidi Strauss, Kathleen Rea, and Vicki St. Denys. An interest in jazz dance brought her to Calgary to train in the pre-professional program at DJD. During this time she immersed herself in the Calgary community performing in *Footprints*, the DJD school tour *Live and in Sync*, Alberta Dance Explosions, *Shift* and with eko dance projects. Catherine's love of jazz dance has most recently taken her to Sweden to study Lindy Hop. Catherine is excited to be in her first season dancing with DJD

**Laura Kleiner, Dancer**

Laura didn't always want to be a jazz dancer. She grew up in Red Deer with the dream of becoming a ballerina and attended the National Ballet School. It wasn't until she was 14, when her mom took her to a DJD show, that her love of jazz was born. While attending the University of Calgary, she was also a scholarship student at the School of Decidedly Jazz. In 1998 she performed in an apprentice role in DJD's *Classic Jam*. Later that year, Laura traveled to Chicago to study with Billy Siegenfeld. With his company, Jump Rhythm Jazz Project, Laura performed nationally and internationally for four years. Last year, Laura took a year away to spend more time with her kids as they entered primary school. She is excited to be back and is enjoying her fourth season with DJD. Laura would like to thank her family and especially her husband, for all their support.

**Dinou Marlett Stuart, Dancer**

After dancing for 12 years in Calgary, Dinou traveled to England to attend Performers Dance College where she completed a three-year degree programme and continued to dance professionally throughout England for two years in many lead roles in original productions. Since returning to Calgary in 1994, Dinou has been teaching, as well as producing, choreographing and performing in various projects such as Calgary Cares and Alberta Dance Explosions. She was a guest artist in the DJD school show *Live and in Sync* (2001) and Kimberley Cooper's *Popular* (2001) for OYR's High Performance Rodeo. She understudied roles in *Perched on the Edge of a Quarter Note* (2002) and was a full-time company member from 2002-04. Dinou was blessed with a daughter in October 2004 and since then has had a chance to work with Kimberley Cooper as a dancer and Rehearsal Mistress for the Bravo production of *Distemper* and *in charcoal and crimson*.

**Ivan Nunez Segui, Dancer**

Ivan started dancing at the age of nine. When he was 12 years old he began his formal training at the National School of Art in Havana and after seven years graduated from the school in 1990. Upon graduation, he joined the Folklorico Nacional de Cuba and was principal soloist from 1996 until he left the company in 2001. Since then, he has been a freelance dancer and teacher working in Cuba, Japan, England and Canada. He was a guest dancer for DJD's *¡BULLA!* project in 2004, and returned to Calgary in the fall of 2005 to continue dancing with the company. This is his third season with DJD.

**Malika Srivastava, Dancer**

At the age of 13, Malika discovered jazz music and dance at the School of Decidedly Jazz. In 2001 she traveled to Toronto where she studied contemporary dance at York University, but her love for jazz brought her back to Calgary where she studied at the U of C Dance Program and with DJD in the Pre-Professional Program. During this time Malika immersed herself in the Calgary dance community working with various choreographers and performing in Alberta Dance Explosions, Dance Montage, eko dance projects and the U of C's Mainstage. Apart from studying in Calgary, Malika's love for jazz has taken her to Cuba, New Orleans and Brazil. This is her second season with DJD.

**Kaleb Tekeste, Dancer**

Kaleb is a local dancer, choreographer and teacher. He began dancing when he was 10 years old and at the age of 16 was introduced to street styles of dance which inspired him to take dancing more seriously. He joined the dance program at his high school, Crescent Heights, and upon graduation continued dancing and teaching Hip Hop at various studios in and around Calgary, including at The School of Decidedly Jazz. He has choreographed for shows such as Calgary Cares, Dance Montage, and Alberta Dance Explosions. In 2004, Kaleb joined the Pre-Professional Program at DJD and was brought on as understudy for last season's *Charcoal and Crimson*. As destiny would have it, he found himself jumping into a role a few days before opening thus marking his debut with DJD.

**Deanne Walsh, Dancer**

Deanne is thrilled to be dancing with DJD, a company she has long admired. Growing up in Calgary, as a teen she danced with eko dance projects (formerly Youth Dance Unlimited) and later returned as a dance captain. In 2003, Deanne completed her B.A. Dance degree with distinction from the University of Calgary. She has choreographed for many years in Alberta including for U of C's Dance Montage, Alberta Dance Explosions, The F.E.A.T.S. Festival and eko dance projects. The pursuit of the roots of jazz has taken her to New York, California and frequently to West Africa. Her travels to Guinea have been a great source of inspiration and personal growth. Deanne teaches around Calgary and in the School of Decidedly Jazz. She is very much enjoying her fourth year with the DJD Company.

**David Hoffos, Set and Projections**

Through his installation work David Hoffos has sought to reveal and examine the sources of illusion found within genre movies, stage magic, theme park attractions, 19<sup>th</sup> century parlours, museum displays and 20<sup>th</sup> century living rooms. Since 1992 Hoffos has maintained an active exhibition schedule - with over 30 solo exhibitions, including *Catastrophe*, 1998 (Illingworth Kerr Gallery, Calgary; Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona; Or Gallery, Vancouver; and Blackwood Gallery, Mississauga) and *Another City*, 1999-2002 (Southern Alberta Art Gallery, Lethbridge; Trépanier Baer, Calgary; Joao Graça, Lisbon; The Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto; and Musée des Beaux-Arts, Montréal). In 2003 Hoffos (with Trépanier Baer) launched the first phase of *Scenes from the House Dream*, a five-year series of linked installations set to begin its national tour in October 2008. His single-channel work has been shown in festivals in over 20 countries, and he recently represented

Canada at the 48<sup>th</sup> Oberhausen Short Film Festival, Germany. A survey of his installation work debuted at the Edmonton Art Gallery in December, 2003. His first work for the stage – *Hoffos/Clarke Conspiracy* (with Denise Clarke/One Yellow Rabbit) – debuted at Calgary's High Performance Rodeo in 2006. Hoffos has been invited to several residencies, including two at The Banff Centre. The artist has received awards including 2<sup>nd</sup> prize in the inaugural Sobey Art Award, December 2002; and the 2004 York Wilson Endowment Award. David Hoffos lives and works in Lethbridge, Alberta. He is represented by Trépanier Baer, Calgary.

**Natalie Purschwitz, Costume Designer**

Natalie Purschwitz is an independent costume designer based in Vancouver. This is her sixth show with DJD after *Velvet (2003)*, *Pivoting Echoes (2004)*, *20th Anniversary Jam (2004)*, *¡BULLA! (2005)* and *in charcoal and crimson (2006)*. She has been awaiting this show for a long time and is now very excited to be working alongside such renowned artists as Amon Tobin, David Hoffos and of course, Kimberley Cooper. Besides costuming, Natalie is a clothing designer and an interdisciplinary artist and has exhibited her work internationally. She opened a small boutique called *Hunt & Gather* in Vancouver's Gastown in 2005 and continues her practice from her studio there.

**Kevin Lamotte, Lighting Designer**

Kevin Lamotte is well known to Calgary audiences for the work he has done at Theatre Calgary including: *The Wars*, *Of Mice and Men*, *Saint Joan*, *Macbeth*, *A Christmas Carol (2000-06)*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *The Philadelphia Story*, *True West*, and *Candida*. Other credits include: *Saint Joan*, *The Cassilis Engagement*, *Tristan*, *The Crucible*, *Rosmersholm*, *The Invisible Man*, *Major Barbara*, and *Belle Moral* for the Shaw Festival; *An Italian Straw Hat*, and *The Contract* for the National Ballet of Canada; *Three Sisters*, *King Lear*, *The Wild Duck*, *Fool For Love*, and *Uncle Vanya* for Soulpepper; and *Translations* for Milwaukee Rep Theatre. Mr. Lamotte has been nominated and awarded nationally many times for his lighting designs, including Calgary's Betty Mitchell Award. Mr. Lamotte is one of Canada's leading lighting designers and has worked for most of the country's major theatre, dance and opera companies. He is Director of Lighting Design for the Shaw Festival, and a member of Associated Designers of Canada.