

MEDIA RELEASE



For immediate release

April 28, 2009

Cultural Olympiad 2010 announces first 20 projects; tickets on sale now at www.vancouver2010.com/culturalolympiad

Vancouver, BC – An explosive love story set in a theatre of ice, a massive hand-painted mural on a downtown Vancouver landmark and a cutting-edge theatrical production by a Québécois visionary are among the exciting Canadian and international artistic works coming to Cultural Olympiad 2010 presented by Bell. With just over 300 days to go until the start of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games, tickets to the first 20 projects are on sale now at www.vancouver2010.com/culturalolympiad.

The 20 projects being announced today include works by Robert Lepage, Alberta Ballet, Vancouver Symphony Orchestra and Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan. The third and final edition of the Cultural Olympiad festivals will start on January 22, 2010 and run throughout the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games concluding on March 21. The extensive program will include more than 600 ticketed and free performances and exhibitions in 50 venues in Metro Vancouver and British Columbia's Sea to Sky corridor.

"With the incredible wealth of talent and outstanding value these shows have to offer, we expect them to sell out and encourage people to go online now and get their tickets," said David Guscott, executive vice-president, celebrations and partnerships for the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC). "This is just the first installment of the hundreds of artists who will participate next year as part of the Cultural Olympiad 2010 lineup. In the coming months, we'll add even more projects to our program with the support of the Government of Canada and the home provinces and territories of the performers."

Burke Taylor, vice-president, culture and celebrations, added, "Cultural Olympiad 2010 is the culmination of a three-year program of developing new work, building partnerships with the national and international arts community and delivering outstanding festivals of arts and popular culture. VANOC has helped create a lasting artistic legacy that will live beyond 2010 by commissioning major projects, such as Robert Lepage's *The Blue Dragon/Le Dragon Bleu*, Compagnie Marie Chouinard's world premiere of a new work and an extended version of Joni Mitchell's ballet *The Fiddle and The Drum*."

Seven of the 20 projects announced today have been commissioned by VANOC or co-commissioned with Arts Partners in Creative Development, indicating a major investment in the arts in Canada. These new works highlight the innovative spirit and diverse character of the Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad – a diversity that stretches beyond the imagined boundaries of an artistic discipline, cultural tradition or geography. "The end result," said Taylor, "is a global dialogue where artists and audiences can connect and embrace the creative spirit we all share."

The first 20 projects of Cultural Olympiad 2010, featuring dancers, musicians, playwrights, and visual artists, are:

Robert Lepage – The Blue Dragon/Le Dragon Bleu

Quebec's Robert Lepage continues his internationally celebrated imaginative and innovative stagecraft with this sequel to his acclaimed series *The Dragon's Trilogy*, set in modern China. Co-commissioned by the Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad.

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Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan – Moon Water

Lauded worldwide for its innovation and grace, Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan's *Moon Water* is a contemporary exploration of ancient tai chi set to Bach's Six Suites for Solo Cello. It will be the troupe's first performance in Vancouver.

NiX

NiX is a frozen fantasy that follows survivors and an arsonist through the fireworks at the end of the world. It includes a flaming tuba, snowman death scene and an explosive love story set in an ice theatre, constructed at Lost Lake in Whistler. Commissioned by Arts Partners in Creative Development.

Kronos Quartet featuring Tanya Tagaq – Nunavut

Performed by Grammy Award-winning Kronos Quartet and featuring Inuit vocalist Tanya Tagaq, the centrepiece of *Nunavut* is *Tundra Songs* – a new work by Canadian composer Derek Charke that paints a mesmerizing Arctic soundscape.

Michael Lin – A Modest Veil

Taipei-based artist Michael Lin will create a massive mural covering the Vancouver Art Gallery's northern facade using the patterns and exuberant colours found in traditional Taiwanese fabric designs and decorative art. It will mark the first presentation of his work in Canada.

Playhouse Theatre Company – Where the Blood Mixes

Emerging Canadian playwright Kevin Loring goes beneath the surface of the Aboriginal residential school system and celebrates its survivors. Co-commissioned by Arts Partners in Creative Development.

Alberta Ballet – Joni Mitchell's The Fiddle and The Drum

This expanded full-length production of the dazzling ballet features four additional Joni Mitchell songs, illuminated by her latest artwork and the choreography of Alberta Ballet's artistic director Jean Grand Maître. Commissioned by the Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad.

Laurie Anderson – Two Sided Plays

Renowned multimedia artist Laurie Anderson will premiere her newest work, a compelling series of 10, two-character plays in which Anderson plays both roles defined through the use of audio and visual effects and set design. Co-commissioned by the Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad.

Catalyst Theatre – Nevermore

Inspired by Edgar Allan Poe, the great master of the macabre, this whimsical, chilling musical fairytale by Edmonton's Catalyst Theatre reveals the psychology of a man whose haunting writings continue to resonate.

Compagnie Marie Chouinard – World Premiere

This newly commissioned group piece by Canada's reigning queen of contemporary dance is based on the notion of time recaptured. For the first time, Marie Chouinard will create an accompanying vocal score. Co-commissioned by the Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad.

Vancouver Opera – Nixon in China

The Vancouver Opera presents the Canadian premiere of John Adams' modern masterpiece about U.S. President Richard Nixon's historical 1972 visit to China. Maestro John DeMain will lead opera greats Robert Orth as Nixon and Alan Woodrow as Mao Zedong.

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day Cultural Olympiad 2010 (January 22 to March 21, 2010), which begins before and continues throughout the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

Partnerships

Bell

Bell is proud to be a Premier National Partner and the exclusive Telecommunications Partner to the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games and the presenting sponsor for the Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad. Bell is Canada's largest communications company, providing consumers with solutions to all their communications needs, including telephone services, wireless communications, high-speed internet, digital television and voice-over IP. Bell also offers integrated information and communications technology (ICT) services to businesses and governments and is the Virtual Chief Information Officer (VCIO) to small and medium businesses (SMBs). Bell is wholly owned by BCE Inc. For information on Bell's products and services, please visit www.bell.ca. For corporate information on BCE, please visit www.bce.ca.

Government

The Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad is grateful for the support of the Government of Canada and the governments of all of Canada's provinces and territories and their respective cultural agencies: British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nunavut, Northwest Territories and Yukon. In addition to the Cultural Olympiad's government and corporate partners, CODE is proudly supported by the Canada Council for the Arts and the National Film Board of Canada. New Media BC and Wavefront Innovation Society are also both active participants in the project. The National Presentation and Touring Program is generously supported by the Canada Council for the Arts.

Arts Partners in Creative Development

Arts Partners in Creative Development (APCD) is a strategic investment partnership to assist BC arts and cultural organizations create and develop new works or further develop existing works, with the intent of producing, presenting or exhibiting them at the highest standard. Organizations can apply for funding to create, commission and develop original work in the performing, visual, media or literary arts. With an initial investment of \$6.5 million over three years, APCD facilitates the creation and development of new work to showcase both locally and worldwide. APCD funding partners include VANOC, the Province of British Columbia, 2010 Legacies Now, the City of Vancouver, the Canada Council for the Arts and the Vancouver Foundation.

About VANOC

VANOC is responsible for the planning, organizing, financing and staging of the XXI Olympic Winter Games and the X Paralympic Winter Games in 2010. The 2010 Olympic Winter Games will be staged in Vancouver and Whistler from February 12 to 28, 2010. Vancouver and Whistler will host the Paralympic Winter Games from March 12 to 21, 2010. Visit www.vancouver2010.com.

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