

Festival Accès Asie in collaboration with **Maison de la culture Frontenac** presents
Vancouver's **Co.ERASGA Dance** with



Photo credit : Tarig Adam

OrienTik / Portrait

A multidisciplinary performance

Choreographed and performed by

Alvin TOLENTINO

Accompanied by

Andrea NANN

With musicians **Jordan RILEY** and **Alison NISHIHARA**

Friday May 21, 2010

8 pm

Maison de la culture Frontenac

2550 Ontario East

Free passes available on May 7th

For information, please contact: 514-872-7882

As part of a Canada-wide tour during the month of Asian Heritage, the contemporary Vancouver-based dance company **Co.ERASGA** will perform **OrienTik/Portrait** in Montreal. Filipino-Canadian choreographer and dancer, **Alvin Tolentino** creates this single signature work with a captivating sensitivity and Asian aesthetic of contemporary dance, Japanese drums (taiko) and classic music. In a series of dynamic portraits, **OrienTik/Portrait** celebrates the marriage of dance and music with an extraordinary ability to transport and explore the ordinary to the imaginary, the emotion and to dreams.

...One the most eclectic dance performances I've seen in the past year... (The Vancouver Sun)

Co.ERASGA, a contemporary dance company

Founded by choreographer and dancer **Alvin Erasga Tolentino** in 2001, **Co.ERASGA** is distinguished throughout the world by a singular vision of hybrid dance that integrates other forms of art and multimedia.

The innovative mandate of artistic integrity and social reflection invites and explores complex themes. **Tolentino** is interested in sexual identity, ethnicity facing modernization and the inherent spirituality in the human experience that is revealed in the act of creation.
www.companyerasgadance.ca

Working regularly with artists from different cultures, **Co.ERASGA** has gained increasing international recognition. **Alvin Tolentino** pays homage to his Asian nationality that is diverse in culture, creating a bridge between the identities of Western Canadians and Asia.

Co.ERASGA has created close to fifteen works of contemporary dance which includes *BODYGlass*, *Field*, *SOLA*, *Adam-Eve/Man-Woman*, *PARADIS/Paradise*, *SheSaid*, *BATO/Stone*, and *OrienTik/Portrait*.

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Andrea NANN, dancer

Trained with a diploma from Toronto's York University, choreographer and dancer, **Andrea Nann** has been with the Danny Grossman Dance Company for the last 15 years where she has created and interpreted principle roles. **Andrea Nann** collaborated as a dancer with numerous Canadian choreographers, novelists and filmmakers creating close to 40 original works before founding her own dance company.

Artistic Director of the *Dreamwalker Dance Company*, **Andrea Nann** celebrates the power of unifying art, by collaborating with creators of different artistic disciplines. These artists include authors and poets such as Michael Ondaatje and Chris Chambers, visual artists Wayne Ngan, Michael Caines and Janet Morton, musician Andrew Cash, many other composers, designers and film directors such as Veronica Tennant.

Alvin TOLENTINO, choreographer and dancer

Filipino **Alvin Erasga Tolentino** settled in Canada in 1983. He studied dance at the Royal Ballet in Winnipeg, art at the University of Fine-Arts in Toronto and at SUNY (The State University of New York) and at Limon Institute in the US. He trains regularly with distinguished dance professors in Canada and internationally.

After years as an independent dancer, **Alvin Erasga Tolentino** founded **Co.ERASGA** in 2000. Two years later, the prestigious *Philippine Ballet Company* invited him to create a work to explore his Asian roots. It is at this turning point that he fused eastern and western aesthetics that were presented to more than 4,000 spectators.

During his travels in his country of origin, **Alvin Tolentino** met important contemporary artists such as filmmaker, Tad Ermitano and choreographer, Dennisa Reyes. In that same year, **Co.ERASGA** presented a work in partnership with the Festival of Dance in Flight in Brussels. European critics were conquered. Tolentino was defined as an upcoming artist to watch out for.

Alvin Tolentino glows with an excellent reputation on the international scene. This innovative choreographer has presented his works in Japan, the Philippines, Belgium, Italy, France, Croatia, United States, Singapore, Switzerland, the Dominican Republic and in Venezuela.



“a dynamic creation”
-*The Georgia Straight*, Vancouver

“a piece to discover, created by an artist to be followed”
-*La Capitale*, Brussels

“an original and captivating creation by Co.ERASGA”
-*L'Union*, France

Jordan RILEY, percussionist

In 1995 at the age of seven, **Jordan Riley** began taiko drumming under the instruction of *Shinobu Homma* with *Chibi Taiko*. Taiko has allowed him to perform at many venues including a commercial for the 2010 Olympic bid, *Taiko Jam* in Seattle, *Powell Street Festival*, a joint performance with California's *TAIKOPROJECT*, and a performance in Onomichi, Japan. His drumming style has western influences, playing drum set, snare drum and other percussion with his elementary and high school band for eight years. Currently, **Jordan Riley** is completing his Bachelors degree with a major in Marketing at the University of British Columbia.

Alison NISHIHARA, pianist

Japanese-Canadian classically trained pianist, **Alison Nishihara**, has been a regular in the Canadian and American scenes for the last 20 years. Collaborating with numerous companies, **Nishihara** explores avant-garde innovation and the boundaries between classical and contemporary repertoires. **Alison Nishihara** teaches piano as well as mathematics and resides in British Columbia.