

DanceWorks presents the **Toronto premiere** of Vancouver's  
**Lola Dance**  
*Provincial Essays*  
Choreographed by **Lola MacLaughlin**

Toronto, February 6, 2009 - **DanceWorks**, Toronto's leading presenter of independent dance, presents Vancouver's acclaimed **Lola Dance** in the **Toronto premiere** of the award-winning work *Provincial Essays* (2007), **Friday March 6 and Saturday March 7** at Harbourfront Centre's **Enwave Theatre**. Choreographed by dance icon **Lola MacLaughlin**, *Provincial Essays* is an eclectic collection of choreographic landscapes for five dancers, infused with a movement vocabulary inspired by observations of the natural world.

Born out of investigation into our emotional and physical terrain, *Provincial Essays* paints landscapes embedded with persistent and inevitable obsessions. It looks at modern society's relationship with the natural world and highlights the dominance and commodification of nature in contrast with its extraordinary power and beauty.

Performed by company members **Alison Denham, Caroline Farquhar, Susan Kania, Ziyian Kwan and Ron Stewart**, the work integrates video and scenic elements designed by media artist **Andreas Kahre**, lighting by **James Proudfoot** and a collage of found sounds and music.

Established in 1989, **Lola Dance** is known for creating pristine, inventive choreography to shape a language of emotionally driven, poetic movement and resonant imagery. It explores the relationships between visual art, new media, technology and performance, approaching dance creation through the idea of Gesamtkunstwerk - total artwork where movement, music, sets, lighting and costumes all come together to portray themes and ideas. Drawing on a geometric understanding of movement and structure, Artistic Director **Lola MacLaughlin** translates the complexity of inner life with wry, ironic wit.

In a career that spans over 25 years, **MacLaughlin** has earned an enviable reputation for her original and distinctive style, and close collaborations with composers, artists and designers. The recipient of the Banff Centre's Clifford E. Lee Award and The Canada Council's Jacqueline Lemieux Prize, she recently won the 2008 Isadora Award for Excellence in Choreography for *Provincial Essays*. The annual award, instituted by Vancouver's Dance Centre, recognizes and celebrates the achievements of the dance profession in British Columbia.

Critical response from its May 2007 premiere in Vancouver:

"*Provincial Essays* is all over the map in a good way...the artist's movement is so sophisticated and compelling, and delivered by such a strong group of five dancers, that the piece is a memorable trip. The dance lingered like fond recollections of a rejuvenating getaway." - *The Georgia Straight* (Vancouver)

"It's a quietly mesmerizing unraveling that takes you to the core of the thing. spare and pure in the MacLaughlin tradition." - *The Vancouver Sun*

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*Provincial Essays*

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Performed by **Caroline Farquhar, Susan Kania, Andrea Keevil, Ziyian Kwan and Ron Stewart**

Lighting by **James Proudfoot** and Scenography by **Andreas Kahre**

**March 6 & 7, 2009 at 8pm** at Harbourfront Centre's Enwave Theatre, 231 Queens Quay West

Tickets: \$28 (\$18 students/seniors/CADA/WIFT/SCDS)

**Box Office: 416-973-4000** or online at [www.harbourfrontcentre.com](http://www.harbourfrontcentre.com)

Information: [www.danceworks.ca](http://www.danceworks.ca) [www.loladance.org](http://www.loladance.org)

DanceWorks 2008/09 Mainstage Season; part of Harbourfront Centre's *NextSteps* Series