

Some of Canada's top choreographers and dancers celebrate 80 years of cultural exchange with Japan as **AKA Dance** (**Amy Hampton** and **Keiko Ninomiya**) commissions **Denise Fujiwara** and **Matjash Mrozewski**, among others, to present new works and presents remounts of 2 favoured pieces for its **White Moon Dance Nights** running **Feb. 25-28** at the Young Centre.

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**AKA Dance proudly presents**  
**White Moon Dance Nights**  
**a Dance Celebration of Canada and Japan**  
**featuring new works by**  
**Denise Fujiwara, Matjash Mrozewski and Keiko Ninomiya**  
**as well as ZUKE's Dora-nominated *You see the tree, you don't see the forest* and AKA Dance's larger-than-life *In a Single Bound***

Toronto, January 28 2009 - Celebrating 80 years of cultural exchange and relations between Japan and Canada, **AKA Dance** is pleased to present **White Moon Dance Nights**: four evenings of contemporary dance showcasing both Canadian and Japanese dance forms and their points of interaction. Featuring a range of excellent dancers and choreographers of both Canadian and Japanese heritage, **White Moon Dance Nights** is a fusion and a celebration of these two cultures and runs **February 25-28** at the **Young Centre for the Performing Arts**.

**White Moon Dance Nights** features **world premieres** from **Denise Fujiwara**, **Matjash Mrozewski** and **Keiko Ninomiya** as well as the Dora Award-nominated ***You see the tree, you don't see the forest*** from **ZUKE** and **AKA Dance's** larger-than-life ***In a Single Bound***, inspired by Japanese and North American comic book superheroes.

The highly acclaimed choreographer/dancer **Denise Fujiwara** performs an excerpt of her latest solo work, as yet untitled. Her performance is a sneak peek of a new work that will premiere in 2010. Influenced by her backgrounds in butoh and improvisational dance, the choreography is a quirky and unexpected structured improvisation. On CBC Radio, dance critic Michael Crabb described her performance in *Komachi* as "Rare theatrical magic; a new poetic level of experience..."

The always astonishing **Matjash Mrozewski**, considered one of the most exciting and original voices of his generation in the dance world, spans the worlds of classical and contemporary ballet as well as modern dance. He creates a new contemporary ballet duet entitled ***so go slow*** where East meets West and Boy meets Girl in a sexy and mysterious pas-de-deux for **Juri Hiraoka** and **Joseph Welbes**, dancers from **The National Ballet of Canada**. The piece is set to a cool, ambient electronic score by So Percussion and fluctuates between formality and flirtatiousness as it explores the ambiguous nature of relationships.

**AKA Dance's Keiko Ninomiya** premieres a new piece for six dancers - Zhenya Cerneacov, Amy Hampton, Jennifer Helland, Alanna Kraaijeveld, Sebastian Mena and Masumi Sato - inspired by memories from her Japanese heritage, seen through the prism of her 15 years of living in the west. She worked with mentor Yvonne Coutts through the first phase of creation at Le Groupe Dance Lab. Entitled ***Mirror Bridge***, it is set to an original score by Japanese composer Tetsuroh Konishi.

***You see the tree, you don't see the forest*** (*Kiwomite moriwo mina*) choreographed and performed by **ZUKE** (Tokyo's Kinya Zulu Tsuruyama and Keiko Ninomiya) with original music by Tetsuroh Konishi, was nominated for a 2007 Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding Choreography. This unsettling work explores the nature of perception and dependence. Paula Citron of Toronto's *Globe and Mail* called it a "delicious collaboration."

**AKA Dance's *In a Single Bound***, created and performed by **Keiko Ninomiya** and **Amy Hampton**, is an exciting journey into the larger-than-life world of Japanese and North American comic book superheroes. Featuring a live interactive score by **DJ Gerald Belanger**, this suspenseful and daring work blends outlandish gestures and postures with contemporary dance, contact improvisation, stage combat, hip hop, martial arts and capoeira. "Boom," "pow," and "bam" fuse with live music and sound effects in work that explores both violence and good deeds. ***In a Single Bound*** was originally commissioned by Dance Ontario.

**AKA Dance** was founded by dance artists **Keiko Ninomiya** and **Amy Hampton** in 2007. The company's signature aesthetic is a blend of Japanese and Canadian traditions drawing from diverse forms, from butoh to ballet.

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**Wednesday February 25 - Saturday February 28, 2009 at 8pm**  
**Michael Young Theatre, Young Centre for the Performing Arts, 55 Mill Street, Building 49**

**Tickets: \$30 (\$20 Student/Senior/CADA)**  
**Box Office: 416.866.8666 or online at [www.youngcentre.ca](http://www.youngcentre.ca)**