

JUDITH MARCUSE PROJECTS

A REGISTERED NOT-FOR-PROFIT PROFESSIONAL ARTS ORGANIZATION ESTABLISHED IN 1979
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JUDITH MARCUSE PROJECTS SENDS *EARTH=HOME* ON NATIONAL TOUR

Vancouver, BC: The staff and directors of Judith Marcuse Projects (JMP) are pleased to announce that the most recent production in Judith Marcuse's trilogy of dance-theatre works for young people, *EARTH=home*, will soon be on the road for a five-week, nine-city Canadian tour, 5 March-25 April 2009.

Based in three years of workshops with young people from diverse communities, *EARTH=home* explores the state of the earth – where we are taking it and each other. This high-energy, multi-discipline, large-scale production incorporates original music, dance, theatre, humour and video to tell the tale of a group of young people struggling to survive in a surreal and endangered world.

The production premiered at Vancouver's World Urban Festival in 2006 to enthusiastic audience response and critical reviews. For the forthcoming tour, the updated production features nine professional performers, drawn from across the country, who are among Canada's most engaging and versatile young artists. The cast includes Montreal-based Joe Danny Aurélien; Ontario-based David Cox, Molly Johnson, Lina Jimenez Nykwist and Marvin Vergara; and Vancouver-based Jennifer Cole, Kathryn Crawford, Alexei Geronimo, Meredith Kalamán and Kara Nolte.

Each performance is followed by a facilitated "talk-back," allowing in-depth discussion of the environmental and social justice issues in play. On this tour, these discussions will be enhanced by Judith Marcuse Projects' partnership with non-governmental organizations including the Sierra Youth Coalition, War Child, SEVA and the David Suzuki Foundation. In addition, a *Teachers' and Students' Guide* is available for download on the company's website at www.icasca.ca/jmp

EARTH=home opens at West Vancouver, B.C.'s Kay Meek Centre on March 5, 2009. Details at: www.kaymeekcentre.com

The other dates

Nanaimo, B.C., Port Theatre, March 9-10. www.porttheatre.com

Surrey, B.C., Surrey Arts Centre, March 11. www.surrey.ca/Living+in+Surrey/Arts/default

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Theatre for Young People, March 18-21. www.mtyp.ca

Regina, Saskatchewan, Dr. W. Riddell Centre Proscenium Theatre, March 24.

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Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, TCU Place, March 27. www.tcuplace.com

Toronto, Ontario, Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People, March 31-April 9. www.lktyp.ca

Vernon, B.C., Performing Arts Centre, April 17. www.ticket seller.ca

EARTH=home's final tour dates are at *Vancouver's* Scotiabank Dance Centre, April 22-25.
www.thedancecentre.ca

Earth=home was conceived and choreographed by Judith Marcuse. Text: Judith Marcuse and Kendra Fanconi. Music: Hal Foxtan Beckett. Set and photographic design: Diego Samper. Videography: Jamie Griffiths. Lighting design: Jonathan Ryder.

Sally Douglas, Chair of the JMP board of directors, recently announced the tour's primary corporate sponsor: "*We are very pleased to be partnering with Vancity Credit Union on this tour. With Vancity as JMP's B.C. tour sponsor, we know it is an excellent fit, and reflects the credit union's concern with the well-being of the community as a whole. In this spirit, using the JMP trademark combination of humor, drama, great performances and cutting-edge technology, **EARTH=home** energizes audiences of all ages, while giving voice especially to the perceptions and dreams of young people.*"

The tour has also received support from the Canada Council for the Arts, the B.C. Arts Council, the City of Vancouver and the Catherine Donnelly Foundation with additional assistance from the B.C. Government and Service Employees' Union and the National Union of Public and General Employees.

Quick quotes from the 2006 production

"[Marcuse's] choreography is pure delight...." Gail Johnson, *The Georgia Straight*
"...the dancing is terrific." Jerry Wasserman, *The Vancouver Province*

Judith Marcuse Projects, established in 1979, has a rich history of creation and performance in Canada and abroad. The two earlier works in the youth-oriented trilogy that concludes with ***EARTH=home***, were ***ICE: beyond cool*** (1997), which explored teen suicide and ***FIRE...where there's smoke*** (2001), which confronted the impact of violence in the lives of young people. JMP has recently entered into a partnership with Vancouver's Simon Fraser University to create the International Centre of Art for Social Change (ICASC). This new centre will be an international hub for communication, training and research in this quickly-developing field. JMP and ICASC share a website: www.icasc.ca

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For additional information, please contact:

- the theatres directly
- or the Tour Director, Brent Belsher, at 604-209-6337 (cell), or brent@belshers.ca
- or the Vancouver JMP contact, Richard Marcuse, at 604-921-8436, or rickmarc@shaw.ca

Press photos will be available for download from the company's website: www.icasc.ca/jmp

Art that moves lives.