

DANCE St. NEWS

3547 OLIVE ST., #301

ST. LOUIS, MO 63103

T: 314.534.5000

F: 314.534.5001

DANCESTLOUIS.ORG

Press contact: Barbara MacRobie, 314.289.4108 or bmacrobie@dancestlouis.org

DANCE ST. LOUIS and CENTENE CORPORATION PRESENT CEDAR LAKE CONTEMPORARY BALLET AT TOUHILL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, JANUARY 28 & 29

ST. LOUIS, January 14, 2011.....The bold Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet makes its first visit to St. Louis with a program by three of the world's most daring choreographers, when Dance St. Louis and Centene Corporation present the company at the Touhill Performing Arts Center at 8 p.m. on Friday, January 28, and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Saturday, January 29.

Cedar Lake will perform the work that rocketed them into the international spotlight, *Excerpts from Decadance 2007* by Ohad Naharin of Israel, plus the exquisite *Ten Duets on a Theme of Rescue* by Crystal Pite of Canada and the surreally humorous *frame of view* by Didy Veldman of the Netherlands.

Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet thrives on taking chances and is beloved by adventurous audiences worldwide. In just seven years, this New York-based company of international dancers has vaulted into the front ranks. It was named in *Dance Magazine's* 2008 "Top 25 to Watch" and has been hailed as "extraordinarily gifted" (*New York Post*) with "dancing that pulls the viewers right out of their seats" (*New York Times*). "Cedar Lake will stir you with the power, energy, and diversity of new contemporary dance," says Michael Uthoff, artistic & executive director of Dance St. Louis.

Cedar Lake will be featured in the upcoming Universal film *The Adjustment Bureau*, a science fiction thriller starring Matt Damon and Emily Blunt as the Cedar Lake dancer he loves, to be released in March 2011.

Tickets range from \$30 to \$50 for Friday and Saturday evening. All seats are \$30 for the Saturday matinee. Tickets are available at the Dance St. Louis box office at 3547 Olive St. in the Centene Center for Arts and Education in Grand Center, by calling 314-534-6622, and via dancestlouis.org.

Michael Uthoff will host a free program, *Speaking of Dance*, in the Touhill's Terrace Lobby at 7:15 p.m. prior to the 8 p.m. performances and at 1:15 p.m. prior to the Saturday 2 p.m. performance.

Cedar Lake combines classical ballet training with voluptuous physicality and up-to-the-minute attitude. "Cedar Lake dancers are athletic and dexterous, and specialize in integrating ballet into contemporary dance and a host of popular forms," says *Newcity Stage Chicago*.

Ohad Naharin, artistic director of the Batsheva Dance Company in Israel, drew *Decadance* from different dances he has created throughout his prodigious 25-year-career. "It is like telling only either the beginning, middle or ending of many stories and from the way it is organized, and glued together, comes its coherency," he says. It was Cedar Lake's performance of the work at the American Dance Festival in 2007 that began their current renown.

MORE –

In *Ten Duets on a Theme of Rescue* by Canadian choreographer Crystal Pite, each duet is a story on its own, as five dancers in shifting combinations depict different kinds of relationships, from disturbed to tender. “Pite’s ability to delve deep into the human heart reveals her to be a choreographer who truly makes a picture worth a thousand words,” wrote Lauren Kay in *Dance Spirit* magazine. “A palpable hush blanketed the audience...The dance hit home in a quiet, powerful way.”

In *frame of view*, Dutch choreographer Didy Veldman uses nine dancers, a wild mix of music from Nina Simone to Offenbach, and a set with three yellow doors to create a dance that underscores life’s daily absurdities in a way that *The Globe and Mail* calls “wonderfully humorous, ironic and melancholy all at the same time.”

Wal-Mart heir Nancy Walton Laurie founded Cedar Lake in 2003, naming the company after the street in Columbia, Missouri, where she had started a dance school. Since 2005, Cedar Lake has been directed by Paris-born Benoit Swan Pouffer, a seven-year veteran of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Pouffer eagerly searches out innovative choreographers around the world to create dance for Cedar Lake. “They are all different, and the dancers are all eclectic,” Pouffer says. “I’m looking for diversity, personality, and skill.” As summed up by Deborah Jowitt in *The Village Voice*, “Cedar Lake’s artistic director, Benoit-Swan Pouffer, favors pieces that challenge the stupendous dancers to be fierce, athletic, and compulsively sensual.”