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LOLA Hits All the Right Notes

published by **John Teeter** for radio3.cbc.ca on Sep 24, 2007 |

As a native Londoner and someone who had two brothers in different bands in the early nineties, I've witnessed firsthand how indifferent this city can be. Sometimes it's hard to get people in this city excited about anything, let alone art, so it's easy to get frustrated when you see all these great events thriving in other cities.

Enter **LOLA**, the **London Ontario Live Arts** festival, now in its second year, which takes art out of the galleries and into the streets - right into the faces of people who wouldn't necessarily find themselves in galleries debating the merit of the art they were facing.

LOLA kicked off Thursday with a walking tour of the artwork installations led by event founder **Andrew Francis**. Walkers were treated to multimedia installations projected onto buildings in the downtown core catching the eye of all passers-by, challenging them to look, hear and experience familiar areas of London's core in a completely different context.

No matter what you came to see this weekend, or how many times you saw it, it was never exactly the same. And while having the likes of last year's Polaris Prize winning **Final Fantasy**, perennial faves **The Constantines**, Brooklyn's **Grizzly Bear**, or even London's own **Basia Bulat** playing a free two day concert in Victoria Park along with an incredible line up of bands served notice that the event was a serious affair, the coup d'etat was landing the Canadian premiere of **Brian Eno's 77 Million Paintings**.

The highlight of the festival for me was the dance group **EvoLucidanse** from Montreal who promote contemporary dance through choreographies that step outside today's dance norm. According to festival organizer **Andrew Francis**, the group had to beg to take part in the festival, but with their performance sandwiched between **Basia Bulat** and **Final Fantasy**, they summarized what this festival was all about: **new boundaries**.

The event has come a long way from the last year's cold and rainy one-day affair. If this year's development is an example of we can expect in terms of growth and creative involvement, I am beyond excited to see **LOLA** is next year.

(Radio3 listener John Teeter aka TB3 was kind enough to cover LOLA on our behalf.)

Permanent link at <http://radio3.cbc.ca/blogs/2007/09/LOLA-Hits-All-the-Right-Notes>



Une primeur mondiale au festival LOLA de London

Par Camille Beaulieu – 21 Septembre, 2007

Le festival LOLA (London Ontario Live Arts) s'est tenu dans différents endroits du centre-ville de London du 20 au 22 septembre dernier. Des invités spéciaux, la compagnie **Evolucidanse** du Québec, ont livré une performance vibrante avec la première de « Roots », une chorégraphie créée spécialement pour le festival LOLA et présentée pour la première fois le 21 septembre dernier au parc Victoria.

Les deux co-fondatrices de la compagnie, Geneviève Bolla et Émilie Gratton, ont étudié ensemble à l'École supérieure de ballet contemporain de Montréal. Pour la pièce « Roots », Lila-Mae Talbot, une autre diplômée de l'ÉSBCM, s'est jointe à elles. La base de la chorégraphie a été élaborée par Geneviève Bolla, mais les trois danseuses mis leur créativité à contribution pour concevoir cette pièce ensemble. La création a débuté en juillet. La pièce d'une durée de 25 à 30 minutes n'est pas encore totalement fixée, les trois danseuses travaillent toujours à modifier leur chorégraphie. Leur inspiration provient du Moyen-Orient, principalement de leur culture, de la danse du ventre et surtout de ce qui signifient les éléments de la danse moyen-orientale. « On essaie de faire le lien entre la schizophrénie et l'état de transe, c'est-à-dire de ne plus avoir le contrôle de son corps. » explique Geneviève.

Avec « Roots », une chorégraphie mélangeant la danse contemporaine à la finition classique avec des accents du Moyen-Orient, les jeunes femmes de la compagnie Evolucidanse veulent faire connaître l'art de la danse contemporaine à la population de London. « L'important ce n'est pas que les gens aiment ce que l'on fait, mais surtout de leur faire découvrir cette forme de danse méconnue en Amérique du Nord », soutient Émilie.

« Roots » est aussi une première collaboration entre la compagnie Evolucidanse et Christian Ngabonziza, un artiste de la musique électronique. Ce dernier a utilisé un ordinateur pour expérimenter avec des instruments à consonance plus aiguë, comme le piano et le cello, afin d'imaginer un morceau unique. La musique est ensuite gravée sur un CD qui a été joué durant la performance d'Evolucidanse.

Les trois jeunes femmes commencent à se préparer deux heures avant la première présentation de « Roots ». Maquillage, coiffure et échauffement sont alors au programme. La veille du spectacle, une répétition générale est de mise afin de se familiariser avec les techniciens du son et des éclairages. C'est aussi l'occasion pour les danseuses d'appivoiser la scène. Elles sont nerveuses, mais surtout excitées à l'idée de présenter « Roots » pour la première fois. « C'est un bon stress », concluent-elles.

Après London, Evolucidanse désire présenter « Roots » à plusieurs endroits au Canada et ailleurs, et ce, pour une durée d'environ deux ans.

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OPINION COLUMNISTS



LOLA on a roll

By JAMES REANEY

Midway through its second edition, the category-defying London Ontario Live Arts (LOLA) fest already has two things going for it that definitely did not bless it last year.

One is beautiful weather. The other, surprisingly, is the sound at the Victoria Park Kiwanis memorial bandshell, which was apparently designed for small, textured genre-busting ensembles favoured by the multi-disciplinary LOLA fest.

LOLA continues in full swing today at various downtown venues and ends with a late-night rock show at the Alex P. Keaton tomorrow.

"It's free. It's great. We love playing free shows," said Kevin O'Meara of the Baltimore duo Video Hippos, who were a bit out of place with an afternoon set in the outdoors.

"Thanks for waiting around. I don't know why we're on after Final Fantasy," said a member of Brooklyn's Grizzly Bear. Toronto's Final Fantasy, the Polaris prize winning project for Owen Pallett, had pulled a LOLA record crowd estimated at more than 4,000 fans. Thousands were still at the park to cheer on Grizzly Bear's textured sounds, guitar, autoharp and clarinet interplay and lovely vocals.

It was all good after last year. In 2006, LOLA was a one-day affair in late October and was cursed with bleak, cold weather and the sound of alt-rock blowing away up and down Dundas Street where the fest had a temporary stage.

This year, things started off beautifully -- if 35 minutes late -- with London band the Two-Minute Miracles.

"One song and he's gotta change guitars. That's a bandshell move," Miracles' leader Andy Magoffin joked early in a set filled with fine songs from the band's upcoming album, *The Lions of Love*.

The bandshell must have liked the move because it provided fine sounds for the Miracles' delicate, passionate tunes and almost everyone else.

Another delight was Quebec's *EvoLucidanse*, a late addition to the fest bill. The cheers for the three dancers and their combination of techno sounds, expression and movement -- all reinforced by video of the performance screened behind them -- confirmed that LOLA 2007 is truly a multi-disciplinary festival.

London's Basia Bulat played a fine set, bringing a multitude of friends from on stage for some numbers and relying on her three-piece string section for others. Bulat sold the most CDs -- 60 -- at the Grooves record store booth.

For all that went so well, it may be that the night time is the right time for the Video Hippos and others who had visuals they couldn't use.

The afternoon slot meant the Video Hippos' video arsenal was not going to be effective at Victoria Park. That is

something LOLA needs to address when it comes to programming for 2008.

Still, if the Video Hippos were blinking a bit in the bright light, LOLA's visual attractions are a smash in the dark.

The music in Victoria Park shouldn't obscure LOLA's visual arts delights elsewhere in downtown London. Justly famous is British artist Brian Eno's 77 Million Paintings at the Wolf Performance Hall.

There's much more than the Eno -- which runs indoors -- to LOLA's visual arts. For instance, Laura Kavanaugh and Ian Birse's Instant Places twists and enlarges and reshapes many London vistas including a stretch of Clarke Road and a Sammy Souvlaki's outlet. The Canadian artists' work is projected at the London Public Library's Rotary reading garden.

Generator woes on Thursday night caused unwanted flickers for London artist Kevin Curtis-Norcross. He expects to continue to project images on the east side of the John Labatt Centre and the Dundas Street court house and other sites nearby. His work is to be accompanied by the recorded sound of buzzing bluebottle flies. Curtis-Norcross expects to be in action at the courthouse about 9 p.m. and then move on to other sites.

Images of Toronto artist Michelle Gay can be seen in her Compiler, projected in three window areas at 123 Queens Ave. (the old Cities Heating building.) As the human figures seen in Compiler toss and catch big pieces of wood, a projected number just keeps going up and up to infinity with each toss.

Compiler is guaranteed to make you pull over and look up way up if you're driving or wandering along Queens just west of Richmond. The parking lots near the old Club Phoenix never felt more like a peaceful oasis. It's a LOLA thing.

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Modern moves

By **Julia Gerke, The Suburban**

Montreal's contemporary dance scene is jumpin' — or at least it seems to be alive and well.

Acclaimed dancer Margie Gillis was just featured as one of the main performers during the Montreal High Lights Festival, and there are various schools and companies dedicated to the discipline. But local dancers Geneviève Bolla and Émilie Gratton want to give it a bigger push and recently launched their dance company Evolucidanse.

Both Bolla and Gratton studied at the École Supérieure de Ballet Contemporain de Montréal and are former members of the Jeune Ballet du Québec.

"Contemporary dance in Montreal is growing, and that is great," Bolla, 22, said in a recent interview. "But there are not a lot of jobs out there. We want to promote it even more and have a bigger public exposed to it."

They describe their dance style as a fusion of classical ballet with Middle Eastern culture and contemporary ideas. "We worked with a lot of contemporary choreographers then," Bolla said.

"I couldn't get into ballet [professionally] because I don't have the physique... but I love contemporary dance; it's more aesthetic, more grounded."

Bolla choreographed the company's first creation, *Roots*, which is based on the theme of hysteria and which was performed last week at the dance company's official launch. Bolla also dances in the piece, alongside Gratton and Ingrid Proulx. Electronic musician Christian Ngabonziza (Ngabo) created the sound. "It's very physical," Bolla said about the 30-minute performance, which includes solos, duos and trios in quick succession. "We're throwing ourselves everywhere; it requires a lot of energy."

The piece was first performed at the London Live Arts Festival this past September in Ontario. Evolucidanse plans to turn *Roots* into a full-length piece starting this spring and to promote contemporary dance through various collaborations with other artists.

More info: myspace.com/evolucidanse.

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Geneviève Bolla (left) and Émilie Gratton during rehearsal.

By **The Suburban.com**



Newsire RUSH PR NEWS

LOLA 2007 Legendary Brian Eno, Canadian Premiere of 77 Million Paintings

Brooklyn's Grizzly Bear, Beach House, Final Fantasy, Constantines, Prefuse 73, and Akron/Family are among the artists to perform Sept 20-23.

LONDON, ONTARIO (RUSHPRNEWS) September 10, 2007- London Ontario Live Arts Festival (LOLA) taking place September 20-23 is promising to transform downtown London into a massive public art gallery and concert space. With legendary artist Brian Eno displaying his artwork, see Eno's generative art exhibition 77 Million Paintings. Grizzly Bear, Beach House, Final Fantasy, Constantines, Prefuse 73, and Akron/Family are among the artists who will play free shows as part of this year's **LOLA Festival**.

The festival takes place from September 20-23 at various venues across London, Ontario, though not all shows are free.

The rest of the LOLA's lineup includes Holy Fuck, the Acorn, Videohippos, Basia Bulat, Carolyn Mark, Hylozoists, Wooden Stars, and Sandro Perri (aka Polmo Polpo), and others from the alternative music and art scene. LOLA is setting the stage for an event with great artistic impact to the community with events taking place in popular venues.

Artists positioned at high visibility locations and giant projections will adorn select high-rise buildings and wall spaces throughout the core area. Major concert events will take place in the daytime and evenings, starting with Eno's 77 Million Paintings September 20 and concluding with The Constantines at Victoria Park on Sunday, September 23rd.

Special guest, contemporary dance Troup *EvoLucidanse* from Quebec will perform its premiere of *Roots*, a choreography blending the element of classical dance with a middle-eastern flavor.

-end-

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EVOLUCIDANSE présente

OTHERS



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“Others” Marks Emergence of a Dance Company to be Reckoned With

May 30, 2009

By Janine Theriault, staff writer

MONTREAL (RPRN) 5/30/2009--Montreal's world premiere of “Others”, presented this week at Sala Rosa, the newest creation from choreographer Genevieve Bolla and her fledgling company Evolucidanse, was anything but novice. In fact, the work – only the third creation by the 23 year-old Bolla and Evolucidanse – heralds the fully realized execution of a remarkably mature creative vision.

Bolla shows her wisdom not only in the all-important movement vocabulary and judgment of an

audience's attention span, but equally in her innovative use of an actor – a comic, really – to provide a needed counterpoint, foil, and some comic relief to a medium that is often given to dramatic over-indulgence.

“Others” - ostensibly exploring the image we project versus the reality of ourselves that we hide – seems to grapple just as much with the relationship between the sexes as any more intimate inter-personal relationship.

With a cast of five excellent female dancers - and one lone, baggy-panted, ball cap-sporting (and woefully boyish) male actor – the group explores first the difficulties inherent in true interconnection between (in particular) young men and women, and then delves into the equally fraught relationship between women themselves.

The device of the young male actor, who rambles monologues about his telemarketing job and how he likes summer – and seasons, for that matter – when

confronted with the confounding image of a dirt-smeared bare-chested woman, beautifully evokes the tragic-comedy of young men simply not up to the task of dealing with their often more-complex female counterparts; of creation's little in-joke of leaving them at a natural disadvantage.

But even the women, whether friends or lovers, don't really support each other; they may provide a temporary shoulder to lean on, or a body to cling to, but the eventual disentanglement is inevitable.

Motivated by breathe (not just as all dance is, but as rhythm and psychological insight), the women pant and puff, somewhere between labor and orgasm, spanning the entire active sexual life of young females in movement. It was truly poignant; showing both the painful vulnerability and amazing strength of the wonderfully communicative dancers and the female sex they represented. This was powerful dance and powerful choreography; you'd have to have been made of stone not to react with strong visceral emotion to the piece.

With the 250-300 people packed in anticipation into the Sala Rosa – that with no advertising to speak of – it won't be long before the momentum felt at this show spills out and catches more supporters in its captivating net.

EvoLucidanse in collaboration with Ngabo Music presents "Others", May 27 at 8 pm at Sala Rosa, 4848 blvd. St-Laurent, Montreal, QC. Featuring Genevieve Bolla, Emilie Gratton, Ingrid Proulx, Sarah Desrosiers, Isabelle Arcand and Vincent Dostalier-Tarte. Check www.myspace.com/evolucidanse for upcoming shows and events.

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