

# guelph contemporary **dance** festival

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 13, 2011

### **2011-12 Season Launches with Offsite Series, *This Side of Light***

**Guelph, ON** (September 13, 2011) – The **Guelph Contemporary Dance Festival** is pleased to commence its exciting 2011-12 season with an **Offsite Series** performance featuring **Portal Dance Projects** in the premiere of *This Side of Light*. The 45-minute performance takes place on September 22 and 23, 2011 at 8 PM (rain date: September 25, 2011 at 8 PM) at Goldie Mill, behind Guelph Youth Music Centre.

*This Side of Light* is a physically charged, intimate full-length work by local choreographer **Janet Johnson**. It is inspired by the role light plays in our lives: how we crave it, are bound to it, but that it also has a shadow in which we breed destruction and cyclical damage.

The production is a first for Portal Dance Projects, a new dance company founded by Janet Johnson, who also serves as the Co-Artistic Director of the dance festival. It features dance artists **Robert Kingsbury, Susan Lee, Lisa Prebianca, Lynette Segel, Kelly Steadman** and **Tanya Williams**, and is highlighted by the music of **James Gordon** with musical accompaniment by **Louisa Krátká**. Ms. Johnson on establishing Portal Dance Projects: "I am incredibly keen and excited about the artistic movement in Guelph (particularly dance) and wanted to find new ways to keep celebrating this art form and its expression as well as giving audience members new ways to take in an art experience."

Innovatively staged inside Guelph's historic Goldie Mill, *This Side of Light* is sure to delight and inspire audiences of all ages. Ms. Johnson on selecting this unique performance venue for her new work: "I really wanted this work to be accessible, right down at an easy to view level in a place where many Guelphites already have memories and associations. Goldie Mill is a profoundly powerful space which creates a rugged, old yet visually stunning backdrop for art to unfold itself. *This Side of Light's* main aim is finding a relationship to light and the Mill has this distinct energy to it."

Tickets for *This Side of Light* are only \$15 and can be purchased at the door or the GCDF office, 123 Woolwich Street, Guelph. Children under 12 are free. Audience members are encouraged to bring their own blanket and mug; hot cider will be served. For more information, contact the GCDF at **(519) 780-2220** or **gcdf@bellnet.ca**.

### **About Guelph Contemporary Dance Festival**

Established in 1998, the Guelph Contemporary Dance Festival is committed to providing Canadian contemporary dance artists with the opportunity to perform outside major metropolitan areas as well as providing our audience with challenging, state-of-the-art contemporary dance from across Canada.

### **About Portal Dance Projects**

Portal Dance Projects is a new dance company comprised of professional dance artists from the greater Guelph area. While drawn from a variety of experiences and vocabularies, company members aim to achieve a singular vision: to fearlessly gaze at human nature, to provoke emotion from our audience, and to use a physically charged dance language that is expressed in spirited works. PDP is passionate about helping to stimulate the artistic fabric of Guelph through the means of presenting dance in unusual settings.

*This Side of Light* is supported by the Ontario Arts Council, Dancetheatre David Earle and Temple Studios.

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