

KINETIC STUDIO

Award Winners & Upcoming Events

It's summer time and Kinetic Studio is swinging into the season with a talented cast of dancers and choreographers - events and programs!



Kinetic Studio is delighted to announce that **Jacinte Armstrong** has been selected as the third annual recipient of the **Kinetic Explorations Award** for the 2009-2010 season. Kinetic Explorations is a tailor-made program of assistance to professional dance artists in Nova Scotia to help them realize their choreographic projects. We work with the needs of individual choreographers, on a project-by-project basis, to help foster creative excellence.

Jacinte is working on an exciting project called **Edge** that combines calligraphy and dance, which will be staged both on film and in performance. Exploring the “edge of the frame” both on film and choreographically, it's sure to be a project that will keep audiences on the edge of their chairs. **Jacinte** will take part in the Grafton Studio Series throughout the 2009-10 season, and will present her work as a part of a future Mainstage production.

Jacinte trained at Halifax Dance and went on to study at the New World School of the Arts in Miami, Florida. In 2002 she co-founded the Verve Mwendo Dance Company, currently in-residence at Halifax Dance. She has worked with choreographers such as Véronique MacKenzie, Ruth-Ellen Kroll Jackson, Barbara Mavro Thalassitis and works regularly with Cory Bowles. As a member of the SINS (Sometimes In Nova Scotia) dance collective, Jacinte has performed across the country. She recently made her first film, about Pilates (which she loves), through the Atlantic Filmmakers Coop One Minute Film scholarship program.

Previous recipients of Kinetic Explorations have included Susanne Chui, who in 2008 created *Invidia*, performed to a musical score composed by Asif Illyas and Shehab Illyas, the musical team at the centre of the internationally renowned Halifax band, MIR; and Lisa Phinney, who this spring presented *The World From a Place*, a choreographed world of unspoken trysts, unraveling instincts, and lingering desires.

Kinetic Studio is also delighted to announce the winners of this year's **Taking Steps To Fly Awards**. Taking Steps to Fly is a program designed to foster choreographic ability in the up-and-coming generation of Nova Scotia dancers. This year, twelve young choreographers from Fall River School of the Performing Arts, Coastal Dance Theatre, Halifax Dance, the Maritime Dance Academy, the Maritime Conservatory of the Performing Arts, and the Digby Dance Academy participated. During the year they worked with mentors and fellow dancers to create an original choreography which was then shown to audiences in performances in Halifax, and was appraised by a panel of adjudicators including Cory Bowles, Mary Lou Martin, Alexis Milligan, Louise Mussett, Lisa Phinney, and Melissa Page Webster. The 2009 award winner is





Judith Webster from the Maritime Dance Performance Group who created her dance, *Wonderful Love*. Receiving the special adjudicator's award were **Abby Clarke-Caseley** and **Chloe Hart** from Halifax Dance who choreographed and performed, *When Music and Dance Collide*.

Kinetic Studio's annual fundraiser, this year entitled **The Mad Hatter's Tea Party**, was staged this past weekend in Halifax to great acclaim. It included performances by Mufaro Chakabuda, director the Maritime Centre for African Dance, Giselle Yeung and Sarah Kilford from the Maritime Dance Performance Group, Margaret Spore of TangoNova, and Jacinte Armstrong and Cory Bowles from the Verve Mwendo ensemble, with guest appearances by Montreal's dynamic Peter Trosztmer and Piotr Bierant and music by *Zokugaku*, the talented trio of Geordie Haley, Tim Crofts, and Doug Cameron.

Coming up for Kinetic Studio is ***Kinetic Flash***, an exciting project created by choreographer **Kym Butler** which will be materializing before the eyes of audiences during the upcoming *Atlantic Jazz Festival*, July 10-18 in Halifax. We can't supply too many details here, but watch for the unexpected during this wonderful annual celebration of music. We guarantee it will be like nothing you've ever seen on the streets of Halifax, and under the big top!

- 30 -

Kinetic Studio acknowledges the support of the Canada Council for the Arts, the Nova Scotia Department of Tourism, Culture, and Heritage, the Department of Canadian Heritage, Dance Nova Scotia, Halifax Regional Municipality, and Halifax Dance.

For further information, to arrange interviews, etc. contact publicist Christopher Majka at (902) 425-3725 or <c.majka@ns.sympatico.ca>.

Media archives, including high-res photos of award winners, are available at http://www.dancens.ca/Kinetic_Studio/media.html