

Crooked Figure Dances
in association with Volcano presents



DESPAIR ...and other conundrums

Welcome to DESPAIR!

This evening's performance brings together on one platform the work of many artists whom I hold in high esteem. I am honored to be launching Crooked Figure Dances in such illustrious company. This show marks a big step forward on a new road for me. As with all the shows I presented under Overall Dance, with DESPAIR ...and other conundrums I am taking a risk. This time, the risk is perhaps more calculated than ever before.

I have brought Crooked Figure Dances into existence to mark the beginning of a new phase. After decades of dance, I now feel driven to move beyond my own element from within it. I am concentrating now on solo, text based theatrical dance creations that explore and question the experience of being. I see man as a very crooked figure indeed, and the medium of dance as at its most powerful when infused with a crooked edge. "Crooked Figure" comes from the prologue to Shakespeare's Henry the Fifth. In that instance it describes a curved number, zero or cipher, all of which have interesting connotations. With this Crooked Figure, I embark on a new search for meaning in my artistic practice, even in the naming of things....

I would like to thank the creative and production team for all their great work on DESPAIR

Kate Alton, Artistic Director - Crooked Figure Dances

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DESPAIR ...and other conundrums

May 4 – 7 2006

The Theatre Centre

DESPAIR Story #1: The Worms

WE FALL APART

DESPAIR Story #2: The Plants

LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT MY DAY

KISSING GIANCARLO (World Premiere)

DESPAIR Story #3: Mister Highsmith

Lighting/Stage Management

Geoff Bouckley

Graphic Design

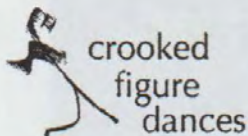
Catherine Thompson/an stiúideo fiáin

Production Manager

Angola Murdoch

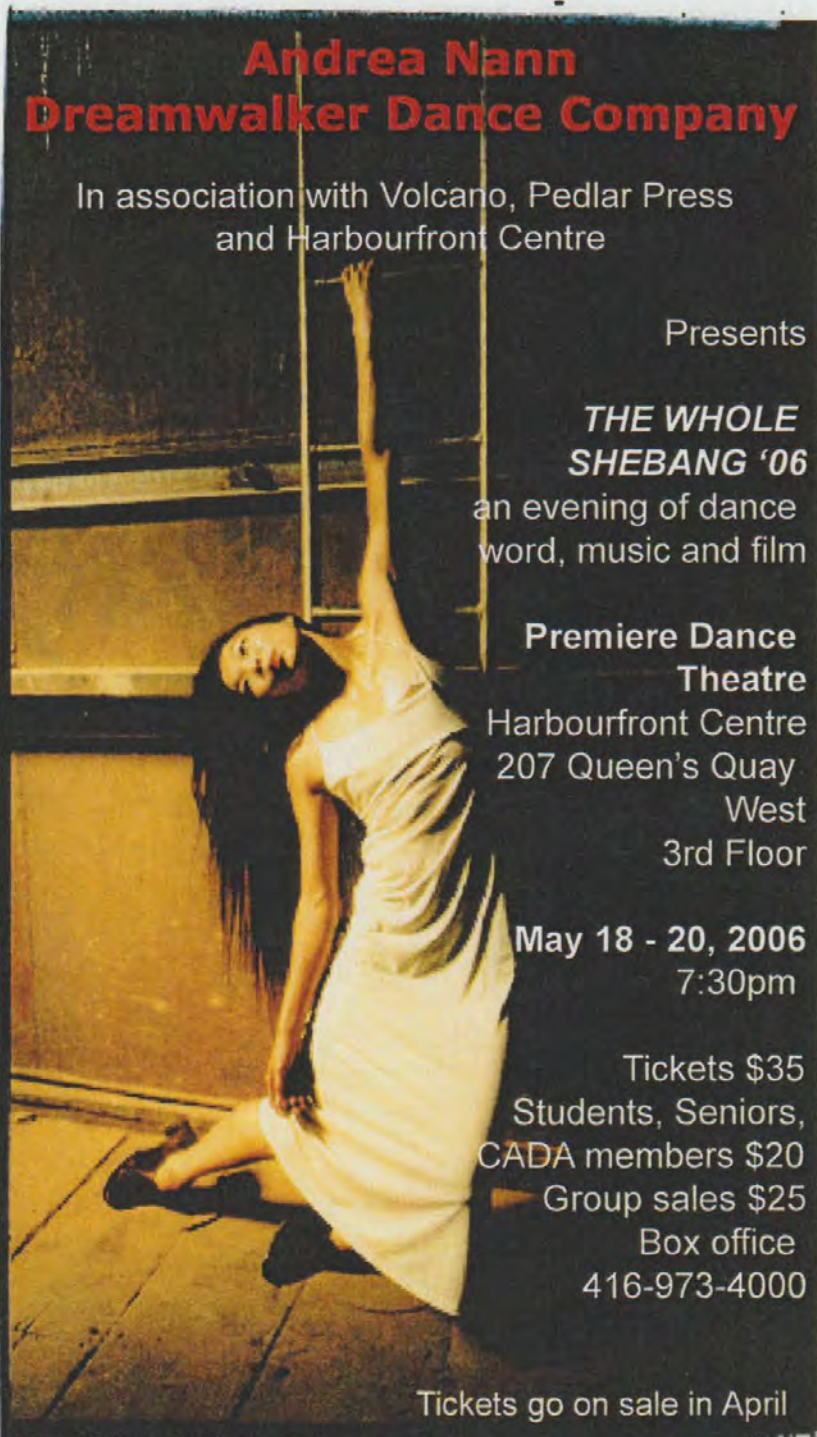
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**Andrea Nann
Dreamwalker Dance Company**

In association with Volcano, Pedlar Press
and Harbourfront Centre

Presents

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an evening of dance
word, music and film

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Theatre**

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7:30pm**

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Tickets go on sale in April

Photo: Vanessa Hardwood

The Whole Shebang '06 is an intimate and
compelling multi-arts performance event featuring
dance, word, song and film by artists
**Andrew Cash, Sarah Chase, Corpus,
Danielle Denichaud, Stan Dragland,
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Robert Glumbek, Andy Maize, Andrea Nann,
Oh Susanna, Michael Ondaatje,
Souvankham Thammavongsa, Linda Spalding,
Michael Winters and Peter Elkas**

DESPAIR Story #1: The Worms †

Choreographed by **Allison**
Performed by **Danielle Baskerville* and En**

DESPAIR Story #2: The Plants †

At the age of thirty-five, after a long period of increasingly e
loving family and a remarkable group of friends to nurse me b
appreciation. This piece is a loose representation of the day I en
band in a yoga studio, half a case of 1998 Chateau Lynch-Bages
College St, followed shortly by heavy doses of pharmaceu
mental hea

KISSING GIA

Conception, choreogr
Text b
Di

From Jonathan Garfinkel: thanks
and to Medeine Tribinevicius, E.C
works

DESPAIR Story #3: Mister Highsmith †

† DESPAIR: 3 Stories of Ottawa:

Text by **Andre Alexis**/Music for Solo Double Bass by **Andrew R. Miller**

Adapted for the stage by **Ross Manson** and **Andrew R. Miller**

Performed by **Ross Manson**, Yanna McIntosh**** and **Andrew R. Miller**

WE FALL APART
Allison Rees-Cummings
and Emma Lu Romerein*

LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT MY DAY

Choreographed by **Kate Alton***
Performed by **Danielle Baskerville***
Concept and Composition by **Phil Dwyer**
Costume by **Natasha Priest**

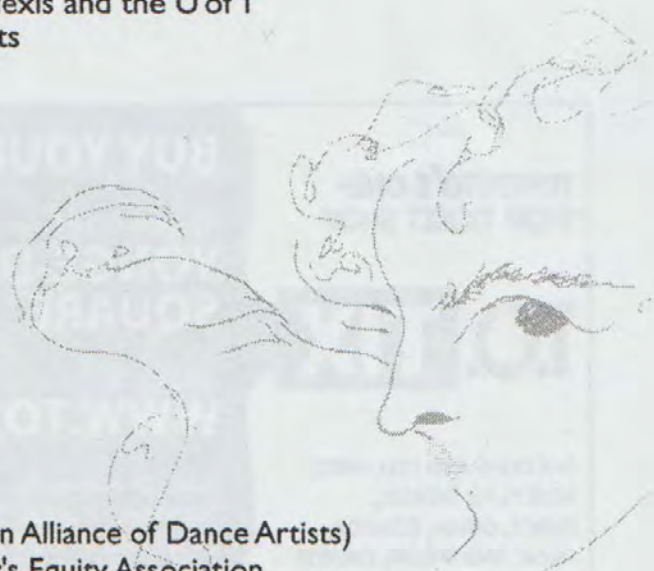
A note from **Phil Dwyer:**

My increasingly erratic behaviour, I was diagnosed with bipolar disorder. Thankfully I had the support of a family member who got me back to health. The mind can be a fragile thing, a fact for which I now have a much greater appreciation. I ended up in the hospital. That day, Jan 19, 2001, included a marital screaming match, a brass band performance, a real estate closing, a mother-son screaming/crying match, and finally a cab ride to 2500 pharmaceuticals. I had it pretty good, tons of support and good doctors, but I certainly feel for the mental health patient out on the street, with no support and no doctor. There but for the grace.....

GIANCARLO (World Premiere)

Choreography and performance by **Kate Alton***
Text by **Jonathan Garfinkel**
Directed by **Ker Wells**

Thanks to Kate for conjuring 'Giancarlo' (and inviting me in) and to my friends, E.C. Woodley, Ross Manson, Andre Alexis and the U of T dance workshop gang for all their wordly insights



* Member of CADA (Canadian Alliance of Dance Artists)
** Courtesy of Canadian Actor's Equity Association

Special thanks: Barbara Lindenberg and Aimee Dawn Robinson of Up Darling, Ross Manson, Ker Wells, John Gzowski, Katherine Duncanson, Pat Miner, Penny Fleming, Laura Cruz, Dinah Hampson, Andrea Nann, Danielle Baskerville, Martin Julien, Colin Viebrock, Patrick Kutney, The Pia Bouman School for Ballet and Creative Movement, Paramita Nath, The Tarragon Theatre, Catherine Thompson, The Theatre Centre.

MOMENTUM arts management is generously supported by ... George Cedric Metcalf Charitable Foundation, Canada Council for the Arts and Toronto Arts Council

MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR: Katie Brown

MOMENTUM manages hum dansoundart, Julia Sasso Dances, Crooked Figure Dances and By Grace Dance Exquisitorium

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For Volcano

"The Best Independent Theatre Company in Toronto" NOW Magazine
Founded by Ross Manson in 1994, Volcano is a Dora and Chalmers award-winning,
internationally acclaimed experimental theatre company based in Toronto.

Volcano is a theatre of ideas: ideas regarding formal experimentation; ideas regarding
subject matter relevant to today's world. Volcano attempts to build a theatre in Toronto
that is modern – that deals with trends in world theatre practice; that deals with race,
politics, history – all the ingredients that make up the human condition right now; and
all the currents present in modern day Canada.

"never less than brilliant..." The Toronto Star

Upcoming for Volcano:

- 1) The Whole Shebang (assoc. produced with Andrea Nann Dreamwalker Dance Co.) -
Premiere Dance Theatre, May 18, 19, 20, 2006
- 2) Goodness at the Traverse Theatre in Edinburgh, August, 2006
- 3) The Four Horsemen (produced with Crooked Figure Dances and Global Mechanic),
in Toronto and Ottawa, March/April, 2007

Visit www.volcano.ca

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