

worldstage

Ⓞ Harbourfront centre

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DV8 Physical Theatre's To Be Straight with You Comes to World Stage

Artistic Director Lloyd Newson leads a multi-ethnic cast in a poetic but unflinching exploration of intolerance, religion and sexuality

TORONTO, ON (Nov. 4, 2009) – Harbourfront Centre's World Stage 2009-10 performing arts series continues with the world-renowned UK-based company **DV8 Physical Theatre** and the powerful new dance work ***To Be Straight with You***. Conceived and directed by **Lloyd Newson**, artistic director of DV8, the piece will have its Toronto premiere at the **Fleck Dance Theatre, Dec. 2 through Dec. 5, 2009**.

Since 1986, Lloyd Newson has led DV8 Physical Theatre to produce 16 highly acclaimed and provocative dance pieces, which have toured internationally. The latest work in DV8's catalogue, *To Be Straight with You*, completes a current world tour with its long anticipated return to Toronto as part of World Stage. The piece surveys existing states of homophobia by examining religious and cultural idioms; and deftly incorporates dance, text, documentary, animation and film in a compelling performance.

To Be Straight with You emerged from Newson's personal experiences when confronted by homophobia in a Gay Pride march in the early 1990s. The encounter became the impetus for Newson and DV8 members to conduct hundreds of interviews with homosexuals from various backgrounds who are directly affected by intolerance, based on cultural or religious systems of belief. Every word spoken on stage comes directly from these interviewees, many of whom chose to remain anonymous for fear of the consequences should their identities be revealed. The result is a powerfully moving work that exposes the realities lesbians and gays face in the ongoing fight for rights.

***Media resources here:** <http://media.harbourfrontcentre.com/worldstage/>

New for World Stage 2009-10: Visit harbourfrontcentre.com/worldstage to learn about Harbourfront Centre's commitment to developing artists and audiences through World Stage initiatives and programmes, such as special events, artist talks and more.

DV8 Physical Theatre

To Be Straight with You

Dec. 2 – 4, 8 p.m., Dec. 5, 2 p.m. & 8 p.m.

Fleck Dance Theatre, 207 Queens Quay West, 3rd Floor Queens Quay Terminal

Tickets \$40

Complete information about performance times, single tickets, packages and the Performance Card (\$15 tickets for arts workers and students, Tues. – Thurs. performances only) is available through the Harbourfront Centre box office by phone at **416-973-4000**, or **harbourfrontcentre.com/worldstage**.

Harbourfront Centre's World Stage 2009-10 gratefully acknowledges the support of Department of Canadian Heritage, Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, Toronto Arts Council and Westin Harbour Castle, the official hotel of World Stage. This presentation of DV8 is generously supported by the British Council.

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