

worldstage

Ⓞ Harbourfront centre

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World Stage 2009-10 Resumes with the Dazzling Physical Theatre of *roadkill*

Celebrated Australian trio Splintergroup showcase incredible physicality and inspired storytelling harvested from myths and paranoia of the outback

TORONTO, ON (Jan. 12, 2010) – Harbourfront Centre’s World Stage 2009-10 performing arts series resumes this winter with the celebrated Brisbane-based company **Splintergroup** and the intense contemporary dance-theatre piece *roadkill*. This edge-of-your-seat show runs four performances only, **Feb. 3 – 6**, at Harbourfront Centre’s **Enwave Theatre**.

Choreographed by **Gavin Webber, Grayson Millwood** and **Sarah-Jayne Howard**, the trio of collaborators who currently comprise Splintergroup, *roadkill* is set in Australia’s legendary and treacherous outback. A couple are stranded with a car that won’t start next to a phone booth that doesn’t work with a mobile phone out of range. The vast and unforgiving outback offers them little salvation, until a stranger comes along who seems all too eager to help. Splintergroup brings exceptional physicality to the stage in this work that explores dark and terrifying themes.

With a cinematic feel, *roadkill* surveys both the hyper-realized folklore of the outback and the realities of being stranded in it’s almost limitless emptiness. Drawing on similar themes from news headlines – such as the recent and infamous Falconio case wherein an Australian man was convicted of murder and assault on a couple travelling through the outback – and the horror film genre, such as the 2005 film *Wolf Creek*, *roadkill* is a gripping foray into the psychology of isolation in the midst of imminent danger.

Splintergroup boast unorthodox movement and an arsenal of wildly inventive choreography, notably demonstrated with the use of the couple’s car – a red Toyota which sits centre stage throughout the show – as the site of many dazzling and innovative performance feats. The much heralded sound design of Luke Smiles’ sinister soundtrack adds to the unnerving drama, and the clever lighting design from Mark Howett creates a spine-chilling environment where the audience never knows what lies beyond the dark edges of the stage.

***Media images and resources:** <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.

roadkill

Choreographed by Splintergroup

Produced by Brisbane Powerhouse and Dancenorth

Feb. 3 – 6, 8 p.m.

Enwave Theatre, 231 Queens Quay West, Toronto

Tickets: \$30

Creative Team

Choreographers: Gavin Webber, Grayson Millwood & Sarah-Jayne Howard

Performers: Gavin Webber, Grayson Millwood & Gabrielle Nankivell

Dramaturg: Andrew Ross

Sound Design: Luke Smiles / motion laboratories

Lighting Designer: Mark Howett

Rehearsal Director: Michelle Ryan

Stage Manager: Melanie Dyer

Production Manager: Liam Kennedy

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.

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