

URBAN festival DANCE

For Immediate Release

PRESS RELEASE

Swire Island East & Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation Co-present Urban Dance Festival with the Launch of "Artists-in-residence Dance Workshops"

[8 November 2007, Thursday, Hong Kong] – Over the years, Swire Island East has continuously brought an eclectic art and cultural programme to the local community. Following the success of the largest street painting event "The Illusion of Art" held last year, Swire Island East collaborates with Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation (YAF) again to unveil an unprecedented large-scaled site-specific dance programme in Hong Kong, **Swire Island East Urban Dance Festival** this September to December. Two overseas troupes – Collage Dance Theatre from Los Angeles and Third Rail Projects from New York have been invited to perform in the finale of the Festival held on 8 December 2007 at Tong Chong Street, TaiKoo Place.

Site-specific dance is a unique performing art form that is created specifically for a certain space. Choreography is crafted based on references drawn from research and interpretation of the site's characteristics, whether architectural, historical, social or environmental. The Festival provides an excellent opportunity for Hong Kong's youth to learn the techniques required of this original dance form and participate in actual performances.

Choreographers from City Contemporary Dance Company Dance Centre, Studiodanz and the School of Dance of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts have been assigned to 8 secondary schools to conduct for each a series of 10 dance workshops. Participating schools include Chinese International School; Cognitio College (Hong Kong); FDBWA Szeto Ho Secondary School; Ju Ching Chu Secondary School (Kwai Chung); Kwun Tong Government Secondary School; Methodist College; PAOC Ka Chi Secondary School and PLK Wai Yin College. A total of 120 students will be taught to imagine dance as an art form in urban sites outside the theatre.

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Apart from the school workshops, YAF also conducts special classes in their Island East studio for some 100 secondary school students who are currently dance students. These dancers will be further groomed by professional choreographers and inspired to stretch their creativity into dynamic site-specific dance performances.

All workshop participants will be performing in the Festival Finale with two overseas troupes which comprise a spectacular series of 15 different site-specific dances staged at signature venues within the dynamic Island East portfolio.

About Swire Island East:

Swire Island East is one of Hong Kong's best planned and established business district which comprises the retail and office centres of Cityplaza and TaiKoo Place, developed and managed by Swire Properties. Following the completion of One Island East in 2008, Island East will offer eight million square feet of commercial accommodation for local and multinational corporations. A comprehensive range of cosmopolitan business and leisure amenities are situated within the area, including the 1.1 million square feet Cityplaza shopping centre, the Butterfield's private members club, over 60 restaurants and cafes and some 4,000 public parking spaces.

Over the years, Island East has continuously promoted art through a wide variety of year-round cultural programmes including the popular Friday Fest' live music performances, art exhibitions, a diversified range of themed visual and performing art initiatives. In addition, the complimentary exhibition venues in Island East also provide excellent opportunities for artists to display their creativity. Provision of such free venues and necessary administrative support has proved beneficial, especially to individual artists with small budgets, to reach out to the public.

About Youth Arts Foundation:

The Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation Limited (YAF) www.hkyaf.com is a charity that provides access to high quality, non-competitive arts experiences for all young people aged 5 to 25. Established in 1993 by Lindsey McAlister OBE, YAF organises inclusive and inspirational projects that reach out to young people of all cultures, backgrounds, languages and abilities, and actively creates

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opportunities for disadvantaged and underprivileged young people. Each year we reach over 800,000 young people through our projects, exhibitions and performances.

To download the photos of Swire Island East Urban Dance Festival, please visit the following link:

http://218.188.194.204/~bblue3/UDF_prphoto.zip

To know more about site-specific dance, please visit the following links of video clips:

<http://hk.youtube.com/watch?v=WE5T5L48fXo>

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