

For immediate release: 2009-April-3 – Arts News | TomoeArts and Centre A present TEN NIGHTS OF DREAM an original interdisciplinary dance performance based on Natsume Sôseki's stories. | Choreography and performance: Colleen Lanki. Music and performance: Alvin Ramos. Direction: Matthew Romantini. | Runs: May 21-23, 2009 | Thursday-Saturday 8:30PM | Friday night guest talk on Japanese author Natsume Sôseki by Dr. Sharalyn Orbaugh: May 22, 7PM | Centre A, 2 West Hastings Street | Tickets: Regular \$20/Students & Seniors \$16 | Tickets and Information: TomoeArts 604.607.5978 or TicketsTonight 604.684.2787.

Media contact: Colleen Lanki P: 604.607.5978 E: lanki@shaw.ca

TomoeArts and Centre A present:

Ten Nights of Dream

a movement-music-image performance based on stories by Natsume Sôseki
May 21-23, Centre A, Vancouver International Centre for Contemporary Asian Art

The uncanny world of dreams and the unconscious is brought to life in *Ten Nights of Dream*, TomoeArts' full-length performance of solo choreographies, original music composition, and visual projected images.

A woman buried with a piece of fallen star; a blind child riding on the back of the dreamer; a huge ship seemingly going nowhere; a panama hat; a barber; a goldfish seller; a thousand pigs. These are a few of the haunting images found in this TomoeArts performance which is based on a series of extraordinary and little-known tales written by one of Japan's greatest novelists **Natsume Sôseki**. Published in 1908, *Yume Jûya (Ten Nights of Dream)* is Natsume's exploration into the mystery of existence and death. The ten stories are neither pleasant dreams nor nightmares, but leave the reader with an uncanny feeling of recognition – of knowing without fully understanding. **Dr. Sharalyn Orbaugh** (Asian Studies, UBC) will give a free talk on Natsume Sôseki's work before the Friday performance (7pm Friday May 22).

TomoeArts artistic director **Colleen Lanki** has conceived and choreographed *Ten Nights of Dream* and she performs all the characters and images from the dreams. The choreography is based on the forms and aesthetics of *nihon buyoh* (Japanese classical dance). Lanki, who has studied Japanese classical dance for over a decade, has worked to push the forms beyond their traditional boundaries and plays with the principles of time and space to evoke a dreamlike quality. The choreography focuses on central metaphors from the tales, expanding them into movement and character motifs that embody the core energy and atmosphere of each dream. For more: <www.colleenlanki.com>

Original music has been composed by **Alvin Ramos**, fusing traditional Japanese instruments and electro-acoustic sounds. Ramos will perform live in conjunction with pre-recorded music. Ramos is a master player/teacher of the shakuhachi, a traditional Japanese bamboo flute and director of Bamboo-In Shakuhachi Centre. He also heads the extraordinary world music group Dharmakasa. For more: <www.bamboo-in.com>

Visual projections and lighting are being created by a team of senior design students from UBC, **Craig Alfredson, David Kim, Yulia Shtern, and Ana Maria Espinoza Vaca**, under professor **Robert Gardiner**, one of Canada's foremost scenographers. **Yulia Shtern** has also designed the sets and costumes. *Ten Nights of Dream's* director, **Matthew Romantini**, brings experience in dance, physical theatre and adaptation of non-theatrical sources for the stage. Romantini is Artistic Director of The Thistle Project and a performer with Toronto's Theatre Rusticle and Vancouver's Kokoro Dance.

TomoeArts (pronounced toh-moh-ay) is a new company that promotes, teaches and performs *nihon buyoh* (Japanese classical dance). It creates and presents performances incorporating the forms and aesthetics of Japanese traditional performing arts. *Ten Nights of Dream* is presented as part of the explorASIAN Festival celebrating Asian Heritage Month in Metro Vancouver.

CENTRE A: May 21-23, 2009

2 West Hastings Street | CURTAIN: 8:30pm | TICKETS: \$20/\$16 | BOX OFFICE: TicketsTonight 604.684.2787 | INFO: TomoeArts 604.607.5978 | More at <www.tomoearts.org>

media contact: **Colleen Lanki 604.607.5978 lanki@shaw.ca**



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