

## OVERVIEW OF 2008-2009 COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENTS

### 2008/2009 DanceSpeak PRE-SHOW LOBBY CHAT

Number of attendees: 180 patrons

The Centre conducted three *DanceSpeak* events in the 2008/2009 season. *DanceSpeak* was conducted by the Artistic Directors, choreographers, or company members from each presented dance company. These informal discussions were moderated by our dance animator, Mary Jo Mullins, who is also the Co-Artistic Director of Niagara Dance Company. These pre-show events gave Centre for the Arts patrons' insight into the dance company and their respective performances styles, history, choreographers, etc.

### 2008/2009 Centre for the Arts pre-show *DanceSpeak* Events

#### **Ballet Jorgen: *Anastasia***

Saturday, October 25/08

**Number of participants: 60**

#### **Kaha:wi Dance Theatre**

##### ***A Story Before Time***

Saturday, November 22/08

**Number of participants: 60**

#### **Ailey II**

Saturday, January 24/09

**Number of participants: 60**



DanceSpeak with Santee Smith, Kaha:wi Dance Theatre Nov. 22/08

## **2008/2009 POST-PERFORMANCE ARTIST CHATS**

**TOTAL of participants: 715 patrons**

Number of Post-performance Artist Chats: 9

Post Performance Artist Chats conducted local on-air radio hosts and special guests

The *2008/2009 Professional Entertainment Season* marked the fifth season that the Centre presented post performance *Artist Chats*. They provided an opportunity for Centre patrons to get up close and personal with a selection of artists from varying disciplines by meeting them after the performance and allowing them to ask questions of the artists. These chats were moderated discussions between the artists and guest hosts that added more depth and richness to the live performance experience with insightful commentary. *Artist Chats* were complimentary to all Centre patrons and this season took place in our theatre lobby - complimentary appetizers were also provided. On some occasions the *Artist Chats* took place on stage, immediately following the performance and the entire audience was invited to attend.

### **2008/2009 Centre for the Arts Post-Performance *Artist Chats***

**Joe Bonamassa**

October 30/08

**Number of participants: 80**

**William Joseph with Lily Frost**

October 31/09

**Number of participants: 40**

**In Good Company's Production of  
*God's Middle Name***

November 25/08

**Number of participants: 120**

**Sour Brides Theatre: *So Many Doors***

January 31/09

**Number of participants: 140**

**Compadres: Oscar Lopez and James Keelaghan**

February 19/09

**Number of participants: 80**

**Ivan Coyote with Veda Hille**

March 12/09

**Number of participants: 65**

**Harry Manx**

March 25/09

**Number of participants: 80**



**Artist Chat with Joe Bonamassa, Oct. 30/08**

**Girls Sing Boys with Rita Chiarelli, Madison Violet, Lynn miles, Oh Susanna, Suzie Vinnick, Jenny Whiteley and Michael Wrycraft**

April 1/09

**Number of participants: 40**

**Emile-Claire Barlow**

April 24/09

**Number of participants: 70**

## 2008/2009 Theatre in Education SCHOOL PERFORMANCES

**Number of Students who experienced live professional performing arts = 4,852**

The Centre provided programming for school audiences which enhanced the educational experience. During the 2008/2009 season the Centre offered eight uniquely different productions for grades JK-12. The artists conducted a 10 minute question and answer period with the students after the majority of the performances. Through a generous donation from *Freedom 55 Financial, the financial security planning division of London Life* the Centre for the Arts was able to offer a per student ticket subsidy of \$2 per student and a ticketing assistance program which helped over 1,100 students living in underprivileged areas in Niagara attend the *Theatre in Education* performances at no cost.

### **2008/2009 Centre for the Arts Theatre in Education Series**

#### **Joe Bonamassa: *Blues in the School***

October 30/08

**Number of participants: 401**

#### **Squid Precision Drumming: *The Evolution***

November 19/08 (2 performances)

**Number of participants: 988**

#### **Sursaut Dance Theatre: *At Nightfall***

January 15/09 (2 performances)

**Number of participants: 483**

#### **Leslie McCurdy: *Things My Fore Sisters Saw***

February 18/09

**Number of participants: 435**

#### **The Dhoad Gypsies from Rajasthan**

February 25/09

*At Nightfall, Jan. 15/09*

**Number of participants: 358**

#### **Axis Theatre: *The Emperor's New Threads***

March 5/09 (2 performances)

**Number of participants: 826**

#### **Mermaid Theatre: *Good Night Moon & The Runaway Bunny***

March 27/09 (2 performances)

**Number of participants: 911**

#### **Green Thumb Theatre: *Cranked***

April 27/09 (2 performances)

**Number of participants: 450**



**Sursaut Dance Theatre: *At Nightfall*,  
Jan. 15/09**

*"As a small school with limited funds, we appreciate any support in providing our students with authentic experiences in and with the arts. Students who become critical audience members gain skill in both artistic creation and performance and in critical thinking across the curriculum."*

**J. Black, Educator, Maple Grove Public School**

## 2008/2009 COMMUNITY OUTREACH & SPECIAL EVENTS

**Number of people who experienced a workshop with Centre artists = 1,886**

### **Ballet Jorgen – engagement of local youth dancers**

**October 25/08**

**Number of participants: 8**

As part of Ballet Jorgen Canada's presentation, the Centre for the Arts assisted in engaging 8 local youth dancers into their performance of Anastasia. This outreach activity was a great asset by engaging the dance students they get a unique experience working on stage with a professional dance Company and by connecting with various Dance Schools and their students.

### **In Good Company's Production of *God's Middle Name***

**November 15/08**

**Approximate number of participants: 220**

The Centre for the Arts partnered with the Niagara Chapter of Autism Ontario to promote In Good Company's production to their community. The Centre also provided 100 discounted tickets for their client's families. To further enrich the theatre experience, there was also be a free moderated post-show artist chat with members of the company and Autism Ontario, with guest moderator, Pablo Felices-Luna, Artistic Director of Carousel Players (120 participants).



**Artists Chat (In Good Company / Autism Ontario), Nov. 15/08**

### **Workshop for Laura Secord Secondary School students with Squid Precision Drumming**

**November 18/08**

**Approx. number of participants: 100**

The Squid Precision Drumming artists conducted a 90 minute workshop for the 'junk band' at Laura Secord Secondary School about the importance of teamwork, practice and dedication, and being proud of your talents. The artists also did some hands-on group work with different sections of the 'junk band'.



**Workshop with Squid Precision Drummers at Laura Secord, Nov. 18/08**

### **Kaha:wi Dance Theatre – lecture, workshops, pre-show dinner**

**Various Dates**

**Approximate number of participants: 200**

The Centre had the pleasure of hosting Santee Smith, Artistic Director of Kaha:wi Dance Theatre in a variety of outreach and education activities, including: a one-hour lecture to second year Dramatic Arts students at Brock University about the company and creative process for A Story Before Time;

masterclasses with local, experienced dancers; educational workshops (3 elementary, 1 high school, 2 university) that focused on Aboriginal dance styles and their context within Aboriginal culture and Smith's own contemporary interpretations of the dances. On November 11/08 the Centre hosted a pre-show dinner with patrons and members of Brock's Aboriginal Student Services (BASS), which included drumming and storytelling, opportunities for discussion and promoting cultural awareness of Aboriginal cultures. The Centre and BASS partnered with a local restaurant to provide complimentary meal consisting of Indian tacos, corn soup and strawberry drink.



**Pre-show Dinner, Nov. 22/09**

*"A Story Before Time is an experience beyond the best. This presentation was by far the highlight of theatre in 2008 for me."*

Centre for the Arts patron

*"Excellent! Please bring more contemporary dance performances to Brock!"*

Centre for the Arts patron

### **Food Drive and Silent Auction, part of Christmas with Michelle Wright presentation**

**December 11/08**

**Number of participants: 525**

The Centre for the Arts partnered with 91.7 GIANT FM for an audience-wide food drive and silent auction for Community Care St. Catharines-Niagara. Audience members were asked donate non-perishable food items and were invited to participate in a silent auction at pre-show and at intermission. The event raised \$2,000 in cash and approximately 2000 pounds of food for Community Care St. Catharines-Thorold.



### **One Night in Havana – Cuban Art Exhibit**

**December 17/08**

**Approximate number of participants: 500** (including audience members, guests of artists, exhibit visitors)

The exhibit, titled Cuban ART, was held in the Lobby of the Sean O'Sullivan Theatre from December 2–17, 2008. Susan Franklin (a St. Catharines resident and promoter of Cuban art) along with Jose Armando Medina (one of the artists) organized this exhibit. There were 7 artists' paintings and drawings in all. The closing night reception held on December 17 was in conjunction with the Centre

for the Arts presentation of One Night in Havana. Approximately 50-60 people attended the reception and many more audience members arrived early for the show to view the exhibit. Complimentary food and drink was provided by the Centre and a local restaurant catered the event.

### **LINK Dance Foundation’s “Breakfast Dances”**

**March 14/09**

**Approximate number of participants: 56**

We decided to use this opportunity to present dance in a non-traditional space and partner with local restaurants to provide brunch for all in attendance. Since our Centre is located on the outskirts of our City we thought what better occasion to take one of our presentations to the downtown core.

### **In the Soil: Niagara’s Homegrown Arts Festival**

**April 23/09**

**Number of participants: 237 (audience), 40 (artists)**

*In the Soil: Niagara's Homegrown Arts Festival* was made possible by a new and growing partnership between Brock's Centre for the Arts, Suitcase in Point Theatre Company, Yummy Recordings, Pulse Niagara and the St. Catharines and Area Arts Council. The festival showcased the diverse talents of both amateur and professional artists, in a number of performance disciplines in a variety of locations in downtown St. Catharines and at the Centre for the Arts, Brock University.

This was the Niagara region’s first multi-disciplinary, juried arts festival whose intent was to showcase the outstanding original creative talents of artists from, or with a close connection to the Niagara region. The seed for this festival was first planted when Centre for the Arts looked to revive a showcase of local talent it once hosted called *Niagara Weave* and decided to program on performance on April 23/09. As time passed the festival planted roots in the community and grew beyond the capacity of what the Centre could present in one performance. It morphed into a 7-day festival scheduled throughout downtown St. Catharines with a special *jury’s picks* performance in the Sean O’Sullivan Theatre.



**SPECIAL TICKET OFFERS TO STUDENTS, COMMUNITY GROUPS, ETC.**

**Number of people who were able to experience a live performance at the Centre due to a discounted ticket offer = 1,440**

When possible, the Centre for the Arts offered discounted tickets to community organizations, alumni and students who had to attend based on a course requirement/field trip. The Centre also offered a implemented a special \$20 ticket price for University and College students.

**Total number of University and College \$20 tickets sold: 483**

**Total number of discounted tickets sold to community organizations, field trips, etc.: 957**

**eyeGO TO THE ARTS AT THE CENTRE FOR THE ARTS**

**Number of eyeGO tickets sold: 580**

The Centre for the Arts was again a lead partner of the nationally recognized not-for-profit organization eyeGO to the Arts. eyeGO to the Arts is a program dedicated to making the arts accessible to high school students by offering them \$5 tickets to any performance in the *2008/2009 Professional Entertainment Season*. Less expensive than a movie, eyeGO to the Arts empowers youth to consider live performances as a viable entertainment option. By making the performing arts financially accessible, all high school students have the opportunity to experience, by choice, the powerful and positive influence of live performance.

The Centre for the Arts recruited eight community partners from the Niagara Region to participate in the program: Carousel Players, Chorus Niagara, Brock University's Department of Dramatic Arts and Music, Essential Collective Theatre, Garden City Productions, Lyndesfarne Theatre Projects, Niagara Dance Company, Niagara Symphony and Suitcase In Point Theatre Company.

**Comments**

*"For high school student the ticket price is \$5. My friend and I agreed: we will never go tot a movie theatre again after this. The experience is just mind-blowing... the feeling of being at a concert cannot be beat."*

Robyn Arsenault, High School Student and Patron

*"My children are high school students, so I really appreciate the fact that they can attend for only \$5 each. The Centre for the Arts makes a huge contribution to Brock and to St. Catharines. Thanks for selecting such an interesting mix, and thanks to the staff and volunteers who are always pleasant and helpful!"*

Renee Kuchapski, Parent and Patron

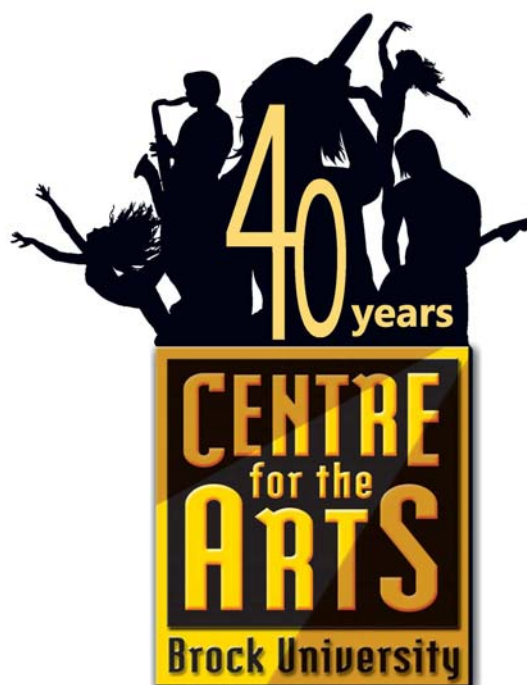
**Overall number of people who were directly affected by  
Centre for the Arts, Brock University's commitment to  
Community Outreach = 9,653**

For more information on the Centre for the Arts' community outreach program contact:

Sara Palmieri, Sales & Marketing Manager

905.688.5550 x 4914

[spalmieri@brocku.ca](mailto:spalmieri@brocku.ca).



Close to home.  
Far from ordinary.  
*Niagara's Cultural Treasure!*

**Centre for the Arts, Brock University  
Celebrating 40 Years as Niagara's Cultural Treasure!  
Close to home. Far from ordinary.**

[Arts.BrockU.ca](http://Arts.BrockU.ca)