until Sunday, May 1, 2016

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COMING UP

Motus O celebrates 'greatest hits'

BY ALI RAZA

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It's 20 years of theatre jam packed into one night and it's all for Stouffville.

The town's own dance theatre group Motus O is performing their show One Hit Wonders at the Lebovic Centre for Arts and Entertainment (19 on the Park) on May 6. The 90-minute show promises to deliver pieces the group has performed throughout its lifetime.

"We thought it was such a shame to leave all those performances sitting," said co-artistic director James Croker. "So we have a variety of pieces to perform. Pieces we've done back 20 years ago to as recent as last year."

Stouffville residents and artistic directors James Croker, Cynthia Croker and Jack Langenhuizen have toured across Canada, Europe and the United States for the last 20 years, bringing their best performances to every theatre they can. The group is overjoyed about their upcoming performance in town.

Active since 1990, the group ran into difficulty whenever they wanted to perform in Stouffville as "there was nowhere to perform." With the re-launch of 19 on the Park in 2009, Motus O immediately approached the town to become artists-in-residence at the theatre.

"We're committed to do three shows a year and promote the theatre," Croker said.

Motus O's past performances include the Pan Am celebration last year at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Strawberry Festival, the Markham Fair, the Royal Conservatory and even a musical with the RCMP.

Once described as "part-dance, part-theatre and part-triathlon," the group's name reflects the Latin phrase Modus Operandi or the operation of movement.

"We're interested in how the physical form of movement can be used to tell stories," Croker said. "It's very much based in a circusstreet performance, I call it Cirque du Soleil without the budget."

After touring and performing for the last two decades, Motus O has received several theatre awards. Earlier this month they won the Artistic Company of the Year award in British Columbia. In 2008, they'd won a similar award in Ontario and in 2003 one in the east coast.

Its members also include performers Laura Day, Daniella Zappala, Mariana Mangevil, Stavros Soulios and Travis Stocking.

Croker says the show will be an interesting experience for even the most unlikely of guests.

"With live theatre, it's real people doing real things in real time, you just don't get that anymore," he said. "I encourage people to diversify."

Motus O's performance is one night only on May 6 beginning at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$30 and are available through 905-640-2322 or 19onthepark.ca



ADULTS \$29.99 | KIDS 4 - 12 \$14.99 | KIDS UNDER 4 FREE

*Prices are subject to 15% service charge and HST

Reservations and Advanced Payment Required Seating at 11:30 AM and 12:00 PM

