

Local Dance Company Celebrates 25 Years of Inventive Dance Theatre

The Best of Motus O To Take Place October 24 at 19 on the Park

By Bruce Stapley
Stouffville Free Press

Stouffville's much acclaimed dance company will celebrate a quarter century of performing original productions across Canada and on the international stage with a 25th anniversary tour that is to include a special show in their home town theatre this fall.

Motus O Dance Theatre is to perform The Best of Motus O October 24 at the Lebovic Centre for Arts and Entertainment - Nineteen on the Park. The show will include samplings from the one hundred plus short dance theatre works they have created for adults and children since their inception 25 years ago here in Town. The evening will highlight the unique style Motus O has become known for, including a physical inventiveness, lighting quick action, grace, raw energy and humour.

"We like to mix up elements of theatre, dance and music," said Motus O co-artistic director Cynthia Croker. "Many times we use a script to set the context and dance to display the emotion."

James Croker, who along with Jack Langenhuizen also serves as co-artistic director with the troupe, said it's all about ascribing meaning to every dance step. "When we started we wanted every movement to have meaning," he said, pointing out that 'Motus O' came from the Latin term 'Modus Operandi', which translates to 'operation of movement.' "We have always been very interested in how movement can be used to express emotions, images and stories."

"That's really dance's strength, to communicate emotion," said Cynthia. "We bring the theatre in to fill out the story line." She said the aim for Motus O is to use dialogue and other aspects of theatre, such as props, sparingly. "We try to do as much as we can visually," she added, using as an example the grieving dance from their acclaimed adaptation of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, where Bob Cratchet and his wife are on the stage with only the gravestone of Tiny Tim and a chair.

Motus O also likes to sprinkle even their

more serious productions with humour. "Pathos and comedy are always a big part of what we do," said Cynthia. "Pathos is embedded in humour and vice versa. In order to really know joy you have to know sorrow. Charlie Chaplin was good at that."

For the past five years Motus O has been Artist in Residence at Nineteen on the Park. They spend an average of three months a year on the road, touring and teaching dance across Canada while performing in the United States, Australia and England. Their 25th anniversary tour also includes stops in Northwestern Ontario in October as well as Alberta and British Columbia in January.

This weekend's Markham Fair will see Motus O perform their original production Animal Tales. The 15 minute mixed media dance/theatre production will be performed several times a day at the Round Tent, which was especially made for the event. In it two animal show hosts, a chicken and a fox, take the audience on an animal parade where they embark on a journey through history on how the domestication of animals led to the development and settling of modern society. Beginning with the story of Wolf and his incredible hunting skills, it concludes with Horse and the magical Musical Ride of the RCMP.

When they are not performing, Motus O help others learn the art of dance. They have been commissioned by such organizations as The Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, with whom they worked for 10 years developing curriculum. The troupe runs dance workshops for children here in Stouffville as well as for aphasia victims and victims of stroke. They also taught for seven years at the Banff Centre in Alberta.

Motus O also includes company members Sarah Felschow and Laura Day, along with a lineup of 'regular reserves'. They tap both adult and child amateur talent from the Stouffville community for some of their productions.

The Best of Motus O starts at 7 pm on October 24. For ticket information call the Nineteen on the Park box office at 905-640-2322 or visit www.19onthepark.ca.



It's time to think about Winter Tires



Early Bird Winter Tire Specials ON NOW!

Only during OCTOBER!

Already have winter tires? Come in for our early bird **Tire Swap Special** ONLY \$12.50* Plus HST (when on existing rims) *Expires Oct. 31st, 2015.

TOYO TIRES
DUNLOP
BRIDGESTONE
PIRELLI
YOKOHAMA
GOODYEAR
MICHELIN
Goodrich

Ask us about tires for any import or domestic vehicle. Talk to one of our trained professionals and they will help you choose the right tire for your vehicle from our full range of Canada's top brands. See our service department for details.

Stouffville
TOYOTA SCION
Getting There. Starts Here.
Sales: (905) 642-6688 or (416) 921-1288
Service: (905) 642-9558
www.stouffvilletoyotascion.ca

*See www.stouffvilletoyotascion.ca for rules and restrictions.

Main & Sandiford Dental (905) 640-6988
www.StouffvilleSmiles.com



Family & Cosmetic Dentistry
Bring 'SMILEY' home when you book your cleaning with us!*
*please present flyer

Direct Insurance Billing
Saturday and Evening Hours
Kid Friendly
New Patients Welcome

In McDonald's plaza on Main St
Main & Sandiford Dental
28 Sandiford Drive, Unit 7
Stouffville, L4A 7X5
(905) 640-6988
設廣東話, 普通話服務

