

Rice and the land provide fertile ground for globetrotting choreographer

The Dance Centre presents Co. ERASGA in Field

Thursday and Friday May 12 & 13 at 8pm
Scotiabank Dance Centre, 677 Davie St (at Granville), Vancouver

Tickets \$18/\$16 students, seniors from Festival Box Office: 604 257 0366
www.festivalboxoffice.com

Info: 604 606 6400 www.thedancecentre.ca
Presented as part of Asian Heritage Month

One of Vancouver's international dance success stories touches down in Vancouver this May 12 & 13 to present the Western Canadian premiere of his latest solo work. In Field, Alvin Erasga Tolentino, The Dance Centre's Artist-in-Residence, seamlessly combines dance, music and video to evoke the ancient connections between people and the land, in a riveting exploration of ethnicity and modernity.

Field was created in the Philippines, Belgium and France, toured to Toronto and Montreal, and travels to Singapore and Venezuela later this year. Fittingly, it was inspired by the momentous changes brought about in traditional societies through globalization and development. During a visit to the Philippines – where he was born – Tolentino witnessed attempts to revive centuries-old cultural traditions rooted in the central role of rice in Philippine life, which were in danger of dying out due to mass urban migration and modernization. With a stunning video installation by Tad Armitanio, an atmospheric original score by Ted Hamilton, and Tolentino's magnetic central performance, Field is a powerful contemporary homage to the land.

Tolentino also performs Field at a gala benefit performance in aid of the Philippine Women Centre of BC on May 14 at 7.15pm at Scotiabank Dance Centre. Tickets are \$50: call 604 215 1103 www.kalayaancentre.net.

Forthcoming Residency Events: Tolentino's Dance Centre residency is based around the creation of a full length work, Orientik/Portrait, for which he brings together an all-Asian Canadian cast comprising experimental taiko drummer Eileen Kage, classical pianist Alison Nishihara, renowned Toronto-based dancer Andrea Nann, and himself. A preview excerpt will be shown at 12 noon on May 26 as part of The Dance Centre's Discover Dance! series, with the world premiere presented in partnership with the Dancing on the Edge Festival July 13-17. The Orientik/Portrait cast will also lead free community workshops May 24-28. The residency concludes with Gay Love and Other Stories, an evening of cabaret-style performance with Tolentino and special guests, during Pride Week on July 29.

Alvin Erasga Tolentino has built an outstanding reputation as a performer, choreographer, teacher and visual artist. He explores his Asian roots and identity alongside contemporary Western issues in works of great beauty, innovation and integrity, which deftly combine dance

and other visual media. Born in Manila, in the Philippines, he trained in Winnipeg, Toronto and New York, and founded Co. ERASGA in 2001. He has performed, choreographed and taught across Canada, the US, Europe and Asia.

The Dance Centre is BC's resource centre for dance. It provides resources, information and support to the dance profession; runs programs and activities for artists and the public; and operates Scotiabank Dance Centre, Canada's flagship dance facility, in downtown Vancouver. Its Artist-in-Residence program provides resources to enable choreographers to work with various audiences, through creation, teaching, outreach activities and performance.

Media contacts: Heather Bray, Marketing Manager, The Dance Centre t: 604 606 6412 f: 604 606 6401 marketing@thedancecentre.ca www.thedancecentre.ca

Eury Chang, General Manager, Co. ERASGA t: 604 687 6185 f: 604 687 6195
info@companyerasgadance.ca www.companyerasgadance.ca

Alvin Erasga Tolentino's residency is supported by the City of Vancouver's Diversity Initiatives Program and Tom Lee Music. Partners: Asian Heritage Month and the Dancing on the Edge Festival.

The operations and projects of Co. ERASGA are supported by the Canada Council for the Arts, the Province of British Columbia through the BC Arts Council, and the City of Vancouver through the Office of Cultural Affairs.

The operations of The Dance Centre are supported by the Canada Council for the Arts, the Province of British Columbia through the BC Arts Council, and the City of Vancouver through the Office of Cultural Affairs. Programs are also supported by the Department of Canadian Heritage, and the Province of BC through the Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch. Official hotel sponsor: the Holiday Inn Downtown

The Dance Centre, Level 6, 677 Davie Street, Vancouver BC V6B 2G6 Tel 604 606 6400
www.thedancecentre.ca