

SHIFTING GEOGRAPHY (a Vancouver/Bonn dance project)

SHIFTING-the body in motion

GEOGRAPHY-the reality of body in space and place

A dance project in partnership between two international dance company Co.ERASGA/Vancouver and COCOONDANCE/Bonn.

Shifting Geography is a new full-length dance creation, a co-creation and realization by two choreographers, Vancouver's Alvin Erasga Tolentino and Germany based Rafaële Giovanola.

The impetus and reference of *Shifting Geography* to the body are *“to map, describe and write about the body through movement and dance, to free the body's inner story, it's relation to time (the past and present) and the varied characteristics it brings a space or place”*.

In pursuing this new dance creation, the two choreographers identify the body as the geographic metaphor and focal source language, a choreographic story to dance, inquiring about perception versus feelings, action, reaction and outcomes within the body's changing states, sensations and locations.

Using Vancouver and Bonn as the two homes for research, development and creation for the dance project, the two choreographers reflect and honor the opposing geographical cities, continents and environments to influence and signify their inquiries and shape their vision of the body in motion.

The complex, dynamic and intelligent body will provide geographical analysis to find physicality, physiological and emotional capacity dictating the body's movement spatially. The choreographers' spontaneity, methodical inquiries and responses in

the process with the dancers will provide the story parallel to the body's shifting reality for potential artistic expression.

In the process Tolentino and Giovanola post questions and add layers to the artistic collaboration, development and creation of this work.

- *“how individuals traverse art, artist, performer, performance and transformation?”*
- *“how the perspective differs and affects the body and spirit through the shift of cultural background, experience and adaptation from one place to another.?”*

In *Shifting Geography*, the two choreographers test and encounter each other for the first time working creatively together, surrendering to each other's personal and unfamiliar creative approaches and backgrounds in the treatment and building of the dance project.

Pooling their creative knowledge, expertise and experiences in contemporary dance theatre, together they unite to discover the challenges of, and build the vision for, *Shifting Geography*.

The project provides Tolentino the first opportunity to work within the German region and culture and the same for Giovanola in North America, each new geographical place providing the artist a new platform, an encounter, discovery and a new cultural connection and perspective.

Planned as a long- term dance project in 2012-2013 through studio and theatre residencies that include production works in both countries, current approached and committed partners at present

include: VECC in Vancouver, Theaterimballsaal and Brotfabrik in Bonn, as well as Theater im Pfalzbau in Ludwigshafen, Germany.

Through partnership, COCOONDANCE and Co.ERASGA will share resources to support and actualize the artistic research, creation and production work at their own respective cities.

Comprising six dancers and other supporting artistic team members drawn from both countries, the project will blend a diverse background of artistry to bring the work to realization.