

## MEDIA RELEASE

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**Lessica Lang Dance**Dates: October 28 & 29, 2016

**Venue:** Vancouver Playhouse, 600 Hamilton Street, Vancouver **Curtain:** 8 pm **Pre-show talk:** 7:15 pm, upper lobby

Tickets and Information: From \$35. 604.801.6225 or www.dancehouse.ca

## Jessica Lang Dance makes its Canadian debut with homage to those affected by war

**VANCOUVER, BC / Wed., September 21, 2016** — A piece that evokes soldiers in war-time marks the Canadian debut in Vancouver of the internationally renowned company **Jessica Lang Dance**.

In Thousand Yard Stare, the company presents nine dancers in a work that evokes humanity, loss and longing. The Chicago Sun-Times called the 2016 work "a remarkable evocation, minimal yet profound, of soldiers in formation and at war," while Tulsa World proclaimed it "a disturbing, haunting, visceral, resonant and beautiful work, filled with images of violence and loss, of hope and despair." The ballet's title refers to the blank and bewildered gaze of a shell-shocked soldier; for the work, Lang interviewed battle veterans and investigated post-traumatic stress and its treatment as research.

Thousand Yard Stare is part of a mixed program that includes four other Lang pieces, including three performances and a film, including:

Lines Cubed (2012) - Symmetry, clean lines, and primary colours combine in a dance that evokes a living painting by Dutch modernist Mondrian. The piece prompted one reviewer to call Lang "a master of visual composition"; HoustonPress.com described Lines Cubed as "Geometry in motion."

The Calling (excerpt from Splendid Isolation II) (2006) - This four-minute ballet features one dancer in a minimalist, deceptively simplistic piece. Seattle Weekly called Lang's signature solo "remarkably dynamic" and "terrifyingly beautiful."

White (2011) - A ten-minute film that experiments with time and space, White features six dancers layered over one another. Some move in slow motion, some in real time, and others are sped-up. The result is "like a completely new medium," according to Dance Europe. The Cleveland Plain Dealer said, "Perhaps never has a single work of dance unveiled so many possibilities."

i.n.k. (2011) - Another visually arresting work that draws on painterly abstracts, i.n.k. positions seven dancers against a backdrop of inky splashes in water in a seamless interaction of video and dance. "... over far too soon but was good to the last drop," the Washington Post said of i.n.k.

DanceHouse invites Vancouver audiences to welcome this extraordinary, innovative dance company to its first Canadian performances.

## **About Jessica Lang Dance:**

Founded in 2011, Jessica Lang Dance (JLD) is dedicated to creating and performing the work of choreographer and artistic director Jessica Lang. Since the company's inception, JLD has performed at renowned venues and festivals throughout the U.S., where its performances have often been named among the best dance events of the year. Recent milestones include a Kennedy Center debut, a two-week run at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival (the company's

third Pillow season since its festival debut in 2012), and a critically acclaimed Chicago debut of its 2015 piece Tesseracts of Time. In the upcoming 2016-17 touring season, Jessica Lang Dance will be presented by venues including the Dallas Winspear Opera House, Kauffman Center in Kansas City, the Meany Center in Seattle, the Music Center in Los Angeles, and more.

Jessica Lang is a graduate of The Juilliard School and a former member of Twyla Tharp's company, THARP! A recipient of a prestigious 2014 Bessie Award (for Outstanding Emerging Choreographer), Lang has created more than 90 works for companies worldwide since 1999 including Birmingham Royal Ballet (2013 Manchester Theatre Award nominee), the National Ballet of Japan and Joffrey Ballet, among many others. Additional commissions include new works for the Kennedy Center with the National Symphony Orchestra, The Harris Theater and the Chicago Architecture Biennial in collaboration with architect Steven Holl, the Dallas Museum of Art and the Guggenheim Museum for its Works and Process series. For opera, Lang made her directorial debut creating Pergolesi's Stabat Mater at the 2013 Glimmerglass Opera Festival. She was a 2015 New York City Center Fellow.

## **SPEAKING OF DANCE CONVERSATIONS**

Date & Time: Tuesday, October 25, 2016 at 7pm

**Location:** Djavad Mowafaghian World Art Centre, Goldcorp Centre for the Arts, SFU Woodward's, 149 West Hastings Stapic: In their own voices: British Columbia's female choreographers on what it's really like. What has enabled you as a dance maker? What are the biggest barriers you have faced?

Moderator: Deborah Meyers, freelance dance writer, The Vancouver Sun

**Guest speakers: Karen Jamieson** (Karen Jamieson Dance's artistic director and choreographer), **Ziyian Kwan** (dumb instrument Dance's artistic director and choreographer), and **Simone Orlando** (Ballet Kelowna's artistic director and CEO)

DanceHouse is thrilled to once again partner with SFU Woodward's to present **Speaking of Dance**, a series of **FREE** public dialogues and roundtable conversations about the world of dance, contextualizing it within culture and society.









