



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

À la limite
Choreographed and performed by Carmen Ruiz
A celebration of the human spirit

March 3 – 7, 2010
Wednesday to Saturday at 8 PM and Sunday at 3 PM

Choreographer and performer: Carmen Ruiz, Composer: David Chedore, Video: Philip Rivard, Lighting Design: Lucie Bazzo, Costumes: Marija Djovenick, Rehearsal Director: Isabelle Poirier.

Montreal, February 15, 2010 – The MAI (Montréal, arts interculturels) proudly presents *À la limite*, a new creation by Montreal-based dancer and choreographer, Carmen Ruiz, from March 3 to 7. Carmen Ruiz dances to counter violence, juxtaposing conflict with sensuality and sensitivity. Her solo *À la limite* is a response to the war that has devastated her native Colombia and is a call to resistance with strength and hope transcending the spiral of violence.

Trained in Latin American folk dance, her movements, while decidedly contemporary, remain anchored in her own cultural heritage. Pelvic pulsations and spinal undulations, driven by the musical score with its mix of Latin and jazz sounds, lead the dancer-choreographer into a trance-like state, allowing her to reach the very *limits* of her emotions and of her revolt.

With *À la limite*, Ruiz is exploring the organic relationship between dance and the moving image. A manifestation of memory, the video imagery envelops the piece in a dream-like, surreal atmosphere. The music, recorded by the group Motivo is a mix of jazz and Latin sounds and includes a range of sounds culled from media archives. The movement shifts from the meditative to the percussive while song, sound and breath permeate and punctuate the soundscape in accompaniment.

About the artist, Carmen Ruiz – Having trained in Colombia, Carmen also holds a B.A. in Dance from the University of Concordia. A teacher as well, Carmen is guided by the necessity of social engagement and the desire to (re)tell stories. Since her choreographic debut in 2005, she has explored Colombia's past and the scars of violence that linger on both the body and on memory. Transition, immigration, and journey are themes that have followed her throughout her life, both as an individual and as an artist. Since 2007, her work has appeared at the Montreal International Jazz Festival (2007, 2008), the Montreal Fringe Festival (2007, 2008), Studio 303 (Art Matters Festival, Montreal, 2008), the Querétaro Festival for Alternative Stage Arts (FIAAEQ, Mexico, 2008, Dancer's Studio West (Calgary, 2008), and Vue sur la relève (Montreal, 2009). www.carmenruiz.ca

Carmen Ruiz benefited from support provided through the MAI's mentorship program. This program was financed by the ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine du Québec and the Ville de Montréal as part of the *Entente sur le développement culturel de Montréal 2008-2011*. *À la limite* was created in residence at both the MAI, and the Maison de la culture Côte-des-Neiges.

Tickets can be purchased online at <http://ticket.boxxo.info/>, at the MAI's Box office on 3680, Jeanne-Mance St. or by calling 514-982-3386.



Free activities in conjunction with *À la limite* :

- Friday, March 5 - Discussion with the artists immediately following the performance.
- Sunday, March 7 – Family matinee at 3 :00 PM (*free admission for those under 16*)

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More information: MAI (Montréal, arts interculturels)- Karl-Philip Marchand Giguère, 514 982-1812, ext. 227, comm@m-ai.qc.ca

