



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 2, 2010

CANADA’S KAHA:WI DANCE THEATRE DEBUTS IN AUSTRALIA

Toronto... Kaha:wi Dance Theatre, the contemporary Aboriginal dance company founded in 2005 by Santee Smith (Mohawk, Turtle Clan) of Six Nations Reserve, Ontario, Canada makes its premiere debut in Australia at **The Dreaming Festival** with performances from June 12 - 14th, 2010. Set in the cultural parkland of Woodfordia, an hour north of Brisbane, The Dreaming is a four night and three day annual multidisciplinary Indigenous arts festival.

KDT is honoured to perform alongside a diverse program of International and Australian Indigenous acts. The company will offer masterclasses and Artistic Director Santee Smith will participate in a panel discussion on the future of Aboriginal dance. The Festival is also screening a short documentary about the making of *Kaha:wi*: “*Kaha:wi*: A Dancing Culture.”

Saturday, June 12		Sunday, June 13		Monday, June 14	
8:00 pm	Performance	6:30 pm	Performance	3:40 pm	Performance
2:45 pm	Masterclass	3:15 pm	Masterclass		
1:15pm	FUTURE TRACKS				
10:35pm	Kaha:wi: A Dancing Culture				

Kaha:wi, which in Mohawk means, “she carries,” is a story of the cycle of life told from an Iroquois perspective. Steeped in tradition-based song and the fusion choreography that marks Santee Smith’s style, *Kaha:wi* tells the story of three generations of women and their community. Smith’s choreography draws inspiration from Iroquoian social dances such as the Gada:tro:t (Standing Quiver Dance or Stomp Dance), Ehsga:nye:gae:nase: (New Women’s Shuffle Dance), Gayowaga:yoh (Old Mocassin Dance) and the Wa enoti:yo (Stick Dance). Canadian critics have called *Kaha:wi* “**a ravishing mix of styles and spirits**” (Paula Citron, Globe and Mail, 2004) and “**sensual and powerful**” (Susan Walker, Toronto Star, 2004).

To purchase programmes, discounted tickets and view the full programme, go to: <http://www.thedreamingfestival.com> or call +61 07 5496 1066.

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For interviews with SANTEE SMITH

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