

Dancing Across the Country

North Shore dancer performs with internationally acclaimed ProArteDanza in Toronto

For Immediate Release

Vancouver, October 19, 2007- Earlier this month, seventeen-year-old Arts Umbrella dancer and north shore resident Alyson Fretz travelled across the country to perform with the prestigious ProArteDanza Company in Toronto alongside internationally acclaimed dancers, including the principals from the National Ballet of Canada.

Fretz is in the graduate program at Arts Umbrella and a member of the Senior Dance Company. In addition to performing in *Alpha Pemale*, a piece choreographed by ProArteDanza artistic associate Robert Glumbeck, she also had the opportunity to apprentice the work of Roberto Campanella – ProArteDanza artistic director and renowned Canadian dancer and choreographer – and learn the in and outs of the company. Fretz was also joined by Arts Umbrella recent graduate Julie Pecard who performed in three new creations with ProArteDanza.

Campanella is a regular guest choreographer with the Arts Umbrella Dance Company and travelled to Japan with the Company when they did a collaboration with the Yokohama Ballet in 2005.

“It is an extraordinary opportunity for these two young Arts Umbrella dancers to rehearse and perform works by Campanella and Glumbeck,” said artistic director of dance at Arts Umbrella, Artemis Gordon. “The experience of dancing with Soloists and Principals from the National Ballet of Canada is both inspiring and an honour. Both Julie and Alyson gave stellar performances attracting praise and accolades from the choreographers, fellow dancers and the audience. We are all proud and thrilled with their success.”

About Arts Umbrella

Located on Granville Island in Vancouver, Arts Umbrella is Canada's pre-eminent arts institute for young people, ages 2 to 19. While thousands of children participate in our tuition-based programs each year, we reach thousands more in their neighbourhoods through free programs, bringing the arts to kids who otherwise would not be able to participate.

For more information on Arts Umbrella, please visit www.artsumbrella.com.

About ProArteDanza

Founded by former National Ballet of Canada dancer and renowned choreographer Roberto Campanella, ProArteDanza is a new, unique, visionary dance company, created to showcase the best choreographers and dancers from both ballet and modern dance backgrounds. The fusion of two such diverse disciplines celebrates the vibrant potency of both and demonstrates that choreography can bridge the common divide between each art form.

For more information, please contact:

Tamara Slomka
Marketing & Communications Coordinator
(604) 681-5268 ext 249
tslomka@artsumbrella.com