

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## **Mocean Dance Plots a Coup de maître with its Upcoming Mainstage Show**

*ORDINARY REBELS opens January 21 at the Neptune Scotiabank Studio Theatre*

HALIFAX, NS – December 3, 2015: Mocean Dance delivers an audacious and highly physical trio of performances for its annual home season which runs from January 21 to January 23 at Neptune Scotiabank Studio Theatre. **Ordinary Rebels** showcases new commissioned works by two of this country's leading edge choreographers – a duet by Sara Coffin and a trio by Emily Gualtieri. Completing the triptych is a compelling solo piece choreographed by Gualtieri and David Albert-Toth, Co-Artistic Directors of Montreal's critically acclaimed **Parts+Labour\_Danse**.

Mocean Dance Co-Artistic Directors Susanne Chui and Sara Coffin offer some insight into the title of the show. "We felt the dichotomy of 'ordinary' and 'rebels', is a reflection of dance in particular, and of art in general," comments Chui. "While it's a natural part of living to move and to be creative, at the same time, it can be rebellious to create art."

"At the heart of Mocean's work is the daily risk that we take to reflect and dissect the human condition", continues Coffin. "We want to connect with our audience through the questions elicited by our performance. **Ordinary Rebels** dives into the centre of this relationship by sharing a physicality taken to the edge and offering an opportunity to awaken the imagination."

### **THREE WORKS ON THE FRONT LINES OF CONTEMPORARY DANCE**

**Stealing Fire**, choreographed by Emily Gualtieri, explores elements of myth through a contemporary sensibility. How does each of us process temptation, rebellion and surrender and what are the potentially devastating consequences of our choices? A world premiere, **Stealing Fire** features Mocean dancers Jacinte Armstrong, Rhonda Baker and Gillian Seaward-Boone.

Sara Coffin's **standing alone facing you** is also a world premiere. Coffin performs the piece with Gillian Seaward-Boone. The duet poses the question, "If you could face yourself, what would be revealed?" Coffin explains that the work is not about two people, but instead examines the internal and external self. "It's really a reflection of our physical reality and the mirror of who we want to be," she explains.

Inspired by Eugene Ionesco's *Rhinoceros*, David Albert-Toth's performs **La Chute** – a physically demanding solo that traces the ephemeral nature of identity. Moving abruptly from darker times to absurd and often playful moments, the work follows the descent of a man as he loses his grip on who he is and what he has become. The production has toured to over a dozen cities in Quebec and was part of the hugely influential Tangente contemporary movement 2013-14 Season.

**ARTISTS AT THE LIBRARY – DECEMBER 17 AND JANUARY 7**

Sara Coffin and Gillian Seaward-Boone will offer a glimpse of the evolution of *standing alone facing you* on **December 17, 6:30 pm** at **Paul O'Regan Performance Hall, Halifax Central Library**. The artists will discuss their creative process as they build the piece and will perform a few short excerpts. The event is open to the public and there is no charge for admission.

**On January 7, 7pm** at **Paul O'Regan Performance Hall, Halifax Central Library**, members of Mocean Dance and guest artists Emily Gualtieri and David Albert-Toth will share their insights into how a dance work evolves. This informal get-together is presented free-of-charge and will include short performance vignettes from all three *Ordinary Rebels* productions.

**CATALYSTS AND COLLABORATORS**

Mocean Dance has established itself as an incubator for new directions in contemporary dance through its collaborations with new and established choreographers both locally and from across the country, giving Atlantic Canadian audiences a window on the evolution of contemporary dance in Canada. The company forges collaborative relationships with performers, students, theatre designers, dance curators and creators from across the spectrum of the arts.

Mocean continues this focus with *Ordinary Rebels*, as it joins forces with Emily Gualtieri and David Albert-Toth, two trailblazers on the Montreal contemporary dance scene. "Like Mocean, Parts+Labour\_Danse is influencing the evolution of Canadian contemporary dance and both companies are emerging as creative forces in our respective communities", observes Chui, "We are thrilled to build a collaborative relationship with Parts+Labour\_Danse and to share their fresh, engaging and energetic work with our home audiences."

Tickets for *Ordinary Rebels* running January 21 to January 23, 8 pm at Neptune Scotiabank Studio Theatre are on sale now and can be purchased:

**Online:** [www.tickethalifax.com](http://www.tickethalifax.com)    **By phone:** 902-422-6278

**In person:** The Coast, 2039 Maynard Street, Halifax

**Ticket prices** (excluding Ticket Halifax fees) are: **Regular** \$25; **Students, Seniors, Artists** \$20; **Dance Students and Children under 10** \$15; **Groups of 6 or more** \$18 per person

For more information on Mocean Dance and *Ordinary Rebels* visit: [www.moceandance.com](http://www.moceandance.com)

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**Media Contact:**

**Sheila Duggan:** ☎ 1 902 532 1399 ✉ duggan@bellaliant.net