

ONE YELLOW RABBIT  
PERFORMANCE THEATRE  
(Canada)

## "Somalia Yellow"

One Yellow Rabbit is a small but influential company well known in many countries for its "performance theatre" style: literary yet boldly physical performance. When the Rabbits learned about painter and video artist Allan Harding Mackay, "official war artist" for the Canadian military's missions to Somalia and Afghanistan, they challenged him to come onstage with them. The resulting performance is a provocative live interrogation of the war artist himself against the background of his stunning video shot in Somalia in 1993, and an evocation of the violent emotions at work in the operation in that ended in the brutal murder of a Somali youth.

In English with Czech subtitles by Dana Hábová  
part of : Canadian Season in Prague

***One Yellow Rabbit is everything theatre should be: daring, dangerous and disturbing"***

The Toronto Star

***Haunting and disturbing... but there's a sly wit and penetrating intelligence at work here as well"***

The Globe & Mail

# Canadian Season in Prague

[09-10-2002] By Dita Asiedu

## Listen

Throughout the month of October, Prague will host to four festivals of non-verbal and alternative theatre and dance. One of them, the "Canadian Season in Prague", will be held from October 14th to November 2nd, presenting Czech audiences with contemporary Canadian theatre and dance. Dita Asiedu has more:

The Canadian Season in Prague is the first part of a cultural exchange project between Canada and the Czech Republic. With Canada being home to one of the most diverse cultural communities in the world, it boasts a large selection of cultural dance and theatre groups focusing on both classical and contemporary repertoires. For three weeks in October, Czech audiences will have the opportunity to see some of the finest movements, sounds, and images of contemporary Canadian artists from all disciplines of the performing arts. The performances will take place in six of Prague's most renowned venues of contemporary theatre and dance and will culminate at the State Opera in Prague on October 20th and 21st with the world premier of a new creation from La La La Human Steps - an innovative dance company that has reached cult status in contemporary dance. The "Season" will also include dance workshops and critics' seminars from the Central European countries, guided by Canadian theatre and dance critics. The opening performance will be from the One Yellow Rabbit Performance Theatre company, featuring a multi-media piece called *Somalia Yellow*. Ewan McLaren told Radio Prague what visitors can expect to see:

*"The members of the One Yellow Rabbit company - it's a very small but influential company from western Canada - when they learned about the artist Allan Harding Mackay, who was invited by the Canadian army to travel to Somalia in 1993 as their official war artist, they decided to invite him on stage to do a show with them. In the show they kind of put him on the spot. They want to know why an artist travels with the army, what he experienced, and what society wants from artists and its soldiers. An interesting element of this piece is that this artist who was in Somalia with the Canadian Army made some very interesting video art, which is projected and used in the performance and spoken about and discussed."*

As part of this unique cultural exchange event, Canadian audiences will have a chance to experience some of the Czech Republic's best contemporary artists too. During the 2003 season, stages across Canada will be presenting outstanding Czech theatre and dance.

## Theatre Institute Prague

The Theatre Institute in Prague, in cooperation with the Archa Theatre and the Six Stages Festival (Toronto), is preparing the largest cultural exchange project between the Czech Republic and Canada in the history of both countries, a showcase of Canadian theatre and dance performances, as well as film workshop and screenings, as well dance critic's workshops and lectures by some of Canada's dance and theatre experts will take place over the course of this year's festival.

18. 10.

### One Yellow Rabbit - *Somalia Yellow*

presented by the Four + Four Days in Motion Festival

In March 1993, the Canadian Armed Forces Civilian Artist Program commissioned professional artist Allan Harding MacKay to document, through works of art, Operations Deliverance and Cordon; humanitarian aid missions carried out by the Canadian Forces under United Nations direction. During the artist's travels in Somalia, his time was spent primarily in the operating environment of the Canadian Airborne Regiment and the timing of the assignment coincided with the death by torture of a Somali teenager and the attempted suicide of Master Corporal Clayton Matchee in the Canadian compound at Belet Huen.

The resounding impression of his experience was the extraordinary combination of western military technology superimposed on the natural simplicities of Somali life, and Allan has used this motif repeatedly throughout his work. This wrenching multi-media performance seeks the poetic heart of the doomed and tragic mission to restore its version of "civilization" to a little-understood land. One Yellow Rabbit is a professional "adult oriented" theatre company founded in 1981 and located in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Over twenty years it has grown into an established and internationally recognized company. Each year it presents a minimum of three new and original plays, produces the High Performance Rodeo (Canada's premiere showcase/festival of new and experimental performance theatre), and tours to various Canadian and international venues.

# Kanadská sezóna: One Yellow Rabbit

One Yellow Rabbit je profesionální soubor z místa Calgary v provincii Alberta, který se věnuje „divadlu pro dospělé“. Od svého vzniku před dvaceti lety se vypracoval v renomovaný divadelní ansámbl, jenž každoročně vyprodukuje kolem třetí původních inscenací. V Calgary působí ve vlastním divadle vybaveném nejlepšími technologiemi, které nese název Big Secret Theatre. One Yellow Rabbit přijede do Prahy s představením **Somalia Yellow**, jehož geneze je velmi zajímavá. V roce 1993 byl Allan Harding Mackay jedním z umělců oficiálně vyslaných kanadskou vládou do Somálska, aby tam zdokumentovali vojenskou operaci. **Somalia Yellow** je provokativní projev, jenž rekonstruuje tragickou misi kanadských ozbrojených sil v této africké zemi, přičemž kombinuje filmové válečné zpravodajství s živou divadelní akcí. Představení se bude konat 18. října ve 20 hod v pražském divadle Ponoc. Vstupenky lze zakoupit v Divadelním ústavu v Celetné ulici 17 na Praze 1.