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LEGENDARY DANCE ARTIST BRINGS HIS FINAL SOLO PERFORMANCE TO
TORONTO FOR FOUR SHOWS ONLY

XENOS

Directed + Choreographed + Performed
by AKRAM KHAN

Written by Jordan Tannahill

An Akram Khan Company Production Co-Produced and Presented by Canadian Stage

October 18-21, 2018 at the Bluma Appel Theatre

“A work of defining greatness, and a fitting farewell to a stage career
that has illuminated British dance.” – The Guardian ★★★★★

“A triumph of energy, empathy and intelligence.” – The Telegraph ★★★★★

“There is so much to praise in *XENOS*... But most impressive of all is Khan’s sheer stage presence and
charisma. A thrilling end to a remarkable soloist career.” – The Evening Standard ★★★★★

“[Khan’s] performance is as astounding as it is powerful.” – The Times ★★★★★

Toronto, ON – FOUR SHOWS ONLY. Canadian Stage is thrilled to present *XENOS*, the highly-anticipated final solo performance work by Akram Khan, one of the most innovative and acclaimed dance artists in the world, on stage at the Bluma Appel Theatre, from October 18-21, 2018.

Capturing the enduring strength of humanity amidst the violence of war, *XENOS* unearths the experience of colonial soldiers in the First World War, a conflict where over 4 million non-white men were mobilized. Approximately 1.5 million of them were from India who fought and died in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. Separated from their histories, homeland, and countrymen, they became xenoï (the Greek word of foreigner).

“Essentially, this work is a reflection of how I feel about our world today. It is about our loss of humanity, and how, through past and present wars, we are yet again confronted by the burning question of what it is to be human. How can we as humans, have such ability to create extraordinary and beautiful things from our imagination, and equally, our immense ability to create and commit violence and horrors beyond our imagination.” – Akram Khan

With movement that shifts between kathak and contemporary dance, this story of loss, hope, identity, and human redemption, becomes more compelling with text written by critically-acclaimed and widely celebrated Canadian playwright, author, theatre director, and filmmaker, Jordan Tannahill.

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Tannahill, who has deep roots with Canadian Stage having productions *Declarations*, *Botticelli in the Fire* and *Sunday in Sodom*, and *Concord Floral* all staged here, has received a Governor General's Award for Drama, Toronto Theatre Critics Award for Best New Canadian Play, numerous Dora Awards, and the Stage Award for Best Performance at the 2017 Edinburgh Festival Fringe, while his films and multimedia performances have been presented at festivals including TIFF, the Tribeca Film Festival, and the Venice Biennial.

"We could not be more honoured to welcome the great Akram Khan with this master work, his last as a solo performer," says Artistic Director Brendan Healy. "Canadian Stage has a long standing relationship with Akram Khan with successful productions of *DESH* and *Torobaka (TORO)*. *XENOS* is extraordinary on so many levels and we are delighted that Jordan Tannahill, who has a deep history with our company, is a part of this haunting and relevant work. "

XENOS is on stage at the Bluma Appel Theatre from October 18-21. Performances run Thursday and Saturday at 8 PM, Friday at 7 PM, and Sunday at 5 PM. Tickets range from \$51-\$111 and are available for purchase online, by phone at 416-368-3110, or in person at the Bluma Appel or Berkeley Street Box Office. For details visit canadianstage.com

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MEDIA NIGHT: OCTOBER 18

**To receive further information or for interview requests, please contact
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ABOUT CANADIAN STAGE

Canadian Stage is one of the country's leading not-for-profit contemporary performing arts organizations. The company produces, presents, commissions, and collaborates with multiple partners on cross-disciplinary work with a focus on performance styles that integrate theatre, dance, film, visual arts and more. Sharing innovative and vibrant performance work from Canada and around the world, it stages performances at three Toronto venues: The Bluma Appel Theatre at Civic Theatres Toronto; The Berkeley Street Theatre; and the High Park Amphitheatre. In July 2018, award-winning theatre director Brendan Healy was appointed Artistic Director.

ABOUT AKRAM KHAN

Akram Khan is one of the most celebrated dance artists today. In just over 18 years he has created a body of work that has contributed significantly to the arts in the UK and abroad. His reputation has been built on the success of imaginative, highly accessible and relevant productions such as *Until the Lions*, *Kaash*, *iTOMi (in the mind of igot)*, *DESH*, *Gnosis*, and *zero degrees*.

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An instinctive and natural collaborator, Khan has been a magnet to world-class artists from other cultures and disciplines. His previous collaborators include the National Ballet of China, actress Juliette Binoche, ballerina Sylvie Guillem, choreographers/dancers Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui and Israel Galvan, singer Kylie Minogue, visual artists Anish Kapoor, Antony Gormley and Tim Yip, writer Hanif Kureishi and composers Steve Reich, Nitin Sawhney, Jocelyn Pook, and Ben Frost.

Khan has been the recipient of numerous awards including the Laurence Olivier Award, the Bessie Award (New York Dance and Performance Award), the prestigious ISPA (International Society for the Performing Arts), Distinguished Artist Award, the Fred and Adele Astaire Award, the Herald Archangel Award at the Edinburgh Festival, the South Bank Sky Arts Award, and six Critics' Circle National Dance Awards.

AN AKRAM KHAN COMPANY PRODUCTION PRESENTED BY CANADIAN STAGE

Co-producers: Onassis Cultural Centre – Athens, The Grange Festival Hampshire, Sadler's Wells London, New Vision Arts Festival Hong Kong, Théâtre de la Ville Paris, Les Théâtre de la Ville de Luxembourg Grec 2018 Festival de Barcelona, The 20th China Shanghai International Arts Festival (CSIAF), Centro Cultural de Belém, Festspielhaus St. Pölten, Tanz Köln, Adelaide Festival, Julidans Amsterdam, Torinodanza Festival/Teatro Stabile di Torino – Teatro Nazionale, Lincoln Centre for the Performing Arts New York, Edinburgh International Festival, Concertgebouw Brugge, Espace des Arts Chalon-sur-Saône, HELLERAU – European Centre for the Arts Dresden, Manège Scene National – Reims, Festival Montpellier Danse 2018, Romaeuropa Festival, National Arts Centre Ottawa, University of California Berkeley, Danse Danse Montreal, Curve Leicester

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