



ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS

April 26, 2010

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

What's Now, What's New, What's Next

Alberta Theatre Projects Announces its 2010/2011 Season

Calgary, AB – Alberta Theatre Projects is pleased to announce its 2010/2011 Season of what's now, what's new, and what's next.

This announcement can also be seen as an online video, which can be viewed at ATPLive.com.

The Alberta Theatre Projects season is comprised of four cornerstone plays interspersed with a Family Holiday Presentation, and this year, we celebrate the 25th Annual Enbridge playRites Festival of New Canadian Plays.

Alberta Theatre Projects 2010/2011 SEASON

The Penelopiad by Margaret Atwood

September 21 – October 9, 2010

Starring Meg Roe, Directed by Vanessa Porteous

Presented in the thrust configuration

"Penelope is a wily, pragmatic survivor blessed with a strong caustic wit." -Michael Billington, *The Guardian*.

Meg Roe (*The Syringa Tree* 2008, 2005) plus ten Calgary actresses sweep you up in a totally unprecedented theatrical experience by literary icon Margaret Atwood. Penelope's maids are only a footnote in the story of *The Odyssey*. But who were those unknown women? And what is the cost of our actions - on family, fellows, and innocent bystanders?

The Last Dog of War created and performed by Linda Griffiths

October 19 – November 6, 2010

Direction and Dramaturgy by Daniel MacIvor
Presented in the thrust configuration

He's your father, and a Yorkshireman, with all that implies. But you're pretty bloody-minded too. The last thing you need is this trip together...

This is Linda Griffiths' cuttingly funny, fierce and poignant true-life tale of the trip she took with her father to his final RAF bomber squad reunion in England. She asks us to ponder the dreadful, hilarious, tender and beautifully tumultuous relationship we have with those we love the most.

Two renowned Canadian theatre artists team up on this project: Linda Griffiths performs her own true story (playwright, *Age of Arousal*, Enbridge playRites Festival 2007, *The Duchess*, 1996) and Daniel MacIvor directs (playwright, *Communion*, 2010, and *Marion Bridge*, 2005).

"...one of Canada's originals, known not only for the quality of her work, but for the sheer range of her career." - Maclean's

Family Holiday Musical Theatre for Young Audiences version Seussical™ The Musical

Music by Lynn Ahrens, Book by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty. Co-conceived by: Lynn Ahrens, Stephen Flaherty and Eric Idle

Based on the Works of Dr. Seuss

November 25 – December 30, 2010

NEW! Family friendly show times on Saturday & Sunday: 1PM & 6PM. Please visit atplive.com for the show schedule.

Presented in the thrust configuration

"Witty, wild and whimsical." - The Theatre Mirror

"...sweetness, humor and energetic high spirits." - Charles Isherwood, The New York Times

"For the holiday season, we're thrilled to bring musical theatre back to the Martha Cohen. Join the Cat in the Hat as he takes us on a joyride through several famous Dr. Seuss tales, in this wildly popular show that's oodles of fun for everyone. Put on your striped hat and come on down!" Vanessa Porteous.

**25th Annual Enbridge playRites Festival of New Canadian Plays
February 2 – March 6, 2011**

“Come be part of the best and brightest new Canadian theatre right here, before it takes on the world!” Vicki Stroich, Artistic Associate – Festival.

The Romeo Initiative by Trina Davies (Vancouver)

Directed by Glenda Stirling

Presented in the thrust configuration

Set in Cold War Germany, *The Romeo Initiative* is a sexy and intriguing love story about a lonely secretary, a compelling international aid worker and an alluring young woman. Together they discover that the dance of love is dangerous indeed.

Heartbreaker by Morwyn Brebner (Toronto)

Directed by Vanessa Porteous

Presented in the thrust configuration

Heartbreaker is a funny and mysterious exploration of the deep human drives that lie under the surface of what we like to call our sanity, as a group of people find themselves intimately entwined with one another at a lakeside cottage.

Nisei Blue by Mieko Ouchi (Edmonton)

Directed by Ron Jenkins

Presented in the thrust configuration

A retiring detective is haunted by visions from his past: a glittering nightclub in 1939, a rookie case that never got solved and the beautiful Japanese Canadian jazz singer at the centre of it all. 45 years later he returns to the scene of the crime to uncover the truth. But will he be able to put the pieces of the puzzle together before they fade away?

Stage 2 – Big Secret Theatre

300 Tapes by Public Recordings (Toronto)

February 15 – March 6, 2011

Co-produced by Public Recordings with Alberta Theatre Projects and The Theatre Centre. Developed in residency at The Theatre Centre. Created by Ame Henderson, Bobby Theodore, Anna Friz, Trevor Schwellnus, Frank Cox-O’Connell, Joe Cobden, Brendan Gall and Gillian Lewis.

Imagine recording your memories on 300 analog tapes. Record. Rewind. Play. Listen. Stop. Three men recorded their lives onto 300 tapes for this intimate mash up of fact and fiction that explores how our memories and identity are shaped (and warped) by time, our own ideas of ourselves and the eyes (and ears) of others.

Featuring a ground breaking sound design and the curious choreography of our everyday twitches, this bold experiment in storytelling playfully provokes questions about authenticity.

The Erotic Anguish of Don Juan by the Old Trout Puppet Workshop, with Vanessa Porteous, Mercedes Bátiz Benét & George Fenwick
March 29 – April 16, 2011

Presented in the proscenium configuration

None of us is good. None of us is pure. But we all deserve to love and be loved. Don't we?

This newly revised, nationally celebrated production featuring new performers is back by popular demand. Revisit this outlandish investigation of love as it plunges you into the haunting, hilarious puppetish dream, from which you might never want to wake.

"Since its world premiere here in 2009, *The Erotic Anguish of Don Juan* has toured Canada, and appeared at Vancouver's Cultural Olympiad and the Magnetic North Theatre Festival. Calgary's Old Trout Puppet Workshop is changing the face of puppetry worldwide. We're proud that Alberta Theatre Projects helped create this utterly unique theatrical gem. Now it's coming back home." Vanessa Porteous.

Mump & Smoot *Cracked*

Created and performed by Michael Kennard & John Turner

Directed by Karen Hines, Music by Greg Morrison

April 26 – May 15, 2011

Presented in the proscenium configuration

These unruly Clowns from Hell are the funniest things you can see on stage in Canada. They topple every taboo, mock every sacred cow, and leave you wanting more.

In their parallel universe on planet Ummo, Mump & Smoot worship their god Ummo, converse in their own gibberish language -Ummonian- and delight in the chaos of a nightmarish world. In *Cracked* we find the intrepid duo challenging their god Ummo, who seems bent on their annihilation. Of course, things go terribly wrong...or do they?

Annual Fundraisers – 2010/2011 Season

36th Annual Bob Edwards Award Luncheon

Wednesday November 10, 2010

Luncheon noon – TELUS Convention Centre

VIP Reception – 6:30 PM Martha Cohen Theatre Lobby

Rub elbows and swap stories over top-notch nosh with Calgary's most exciting literary minds as we celebrate this year's Bob Edwards Award recipient at our annual luncheon and fundraiser.

Alberta Theatre Projects is extremely excited to announce the 2010 Bob Edwards Award recipient: internationally acclaimed novelist and journalist **Lawrence Hill**.

Topping Canadian bestseller lists, Hill's exceptional novel *The Book of Negroes* demonstrates his astonishing craftsmanship and compelling voice.

18th Annual Lawson Lundell Celebrity Hors d'Oeuvres **Friday, February 25th, 2011**

TELUS Convention Centre following the performance of *Heartbreaker*

As part of the Enbridge playRites Festival of New Canadian Plays, the annual Lawson Lundell Celebrity Hors d'Oeuvres fundraiser teams some of Calgary's finest restaurants with local celebrities for a no-holds-barred competition to sell the most hors d'oeuvres, with all proceeds to benefit Alberta Theatre Projects.

Alberta Theatre Projects seeks to enrich the lives of our audience and grow that audience by producing a season of celebrated contemporary theatre, taking a national leadership role in the development of new Canadian plays and making an enduring contribution to community by delivering our LEGACY (Lifelong Education and Growth for Artists, Community and Youth) Program.

For tickets, please call the Alberta Theatre Projects **Ticket Office at (403) 294-7402** or visit www.ATPlive.com.

Alberta Theatre Projects thanks Calgary Herald, Enbridge Inc., Karo, WestJet, Calgary Co-op, CTV, and Lite 96 CHFM.

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Media Inquiries

Aldona Barutowicz
Publicist
Alberta Theatre Projects
(403) 294-7433 ext. 1118
www.ATPlive.com