

MEDIA RELEASE

January 12, 2010  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ***HOW DO I LOVE THEE? LET ME COUNT THE WAYS.***

**Vibrant and poetic, this romance is soaked with passion.**

**Calgary, AB-** *How Do I Love Thee?* by Florence Gibson Mac Donald is a visual spectacle exploring the infinite aspects of love through two of the world's most romantic poets Elizabeth Barrett Browning and Robert Browning.

Florence Gibson Mac Donald masters a story that is passionate, imaginative and expressionistic, as two lovers unite under the weight and magic of their words. Elizabeth Barrett was a passionately outspoken woman ailed with fragile health, although this didn't stop her from continuing to write. Her poems are considered among some of the greatest contributions to English poetry in the nineteenth century.

Robert Browning was an English playwright and a master of dramatic dialogue. Their love flared with the now infamous correspondence after Browning had read and admired her *Poems*.

*"I love your verses with all my heart, dear Miss Barrett,—and this is no off-hand complimentary letter that I shall write,"* —January 10, 1845, Robert wrote to start his corresponding love affair with Elizabeth.

When the two lovers finally unite, they escape their lives in England and move to Italy in the pursuit of a sultry life together. Shortly upon their arrival, however, the excitement and romance of their courtship begins to fade, and fears and addictions come to light, threatening their work, life and love.

*How Do I Love Thee?* is filled with emotional romanticism and magical language, as our two poets struggle with the deep and mysterious forces lying beneath their lyrical words.

Now in its 24<sup>th</sup> year, the Enbridge playRites Festival of New Canadian Plays began as part of the Olympic Arts Festival, and over the years, has become known for its bold programming, while supporting playwrights and artists from across the country.

### **Cast and Creative Team**

Elizabeth Barrett: **Jan Alexandra Smith**

Robert Browning: **Geoffrey Pounsett**  
Kenyon: **Allan Morgan**  
Wilson: **Laura Parken**

Director: **Kate Newby**  
Dramaturg: **Vicki Stroich**  
Composer: **Kevin McGugan**  
Fight Director: **Haysam Kadri**  
Production Stage Manager: **Dianne Goodman**  
Stage Manager: **Kelly Lunn**  
Assistant Stage Manager: **Heather Rycraft**  
University of Calgary Intern: **Michaela Jeffery**

***How Do I Love Thee?*** by **Florence Gibson**, runs as part of the **24<sup>th</sup> Annual Enbridge playRites Festival of New Canadian Plays** from **February 3 – March 7, 2010** with curtain times at 7:30 pm Tuesday through Saturday, and matinees at 2:00 pm on Saturday and Sunday.

The **24<sup>th</sup> Annual Enbridge playRites Festival of New Canadian Plays** also includes ***Tyland*** by Greg MacArthur, ***Abraham Lincoln Goes to the Theatre*** by Larry Tremblay, translated by Chantal Bilodeau, and on Stage 2 (Big Secret Theatre) ***The Highest Step in the World*** by David van Belle and Eric Rose, in association with Ghost River Theatre.

Tickets start at \$22. Tickets can be bought online at [ATPlive.com](http://ATPlive.com) or by calling 403-294-7402.

A Media Call will be held on Wednesday, February 3, 2010 at noon, with more information to follow.

*Alberta Theatre Projects thanks our sponsors and partners for their support of the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Enbridge playRites Festival: Enbridge Inc. (Title Sponsor), ConocoPhillips Canada (Naming Sponsor of the ConocoPhillips STAGE), Calgary Herald (Season Sponsor), Rogers Communications (Presenting Sponsor of the 2009/2010 Season), Karo Group (Season Design Sponsor), Gibson Energy Ltd. and McCarthy Tétrault LLP (Starring Role Sponsors), DPH Focus, GLJ Petroleum Consultants, Hallmark Tubulars and Quicksilver Resources (Supporting Cast Sponsors).*

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