



ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS

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Media Release

## Penelope's maids come out to play at Alberta Theatre Projects

*The Penelopiad* by Margaret Atwood kicks off the 2010/2011 Season

**Calgary, AB-** Alberta Theatre Projects is pleased to announce the first production of the 2010/2011 Season, *The Penelopiad* by Margaret Atwood, starring Meg Roe, directed by Vanessa Porteous, with movement design by Denise Clarke.

This is the first season that Artistic Director Vanessa Porteous has programmed for Alberta Theatre Projects, and it will begin with a splash and an unusually large all-female cast of 10 local actresses, alongside Meg Roe, who was last seen in *The Syringa Tree* in 2008.

"These 10 Calgary women are 10 tigers of Canadian theatrical talent. Denise Clarke, who has put Calgary on the map in her work as a choreographer and innovative theatre creator, will play Helen of Troy and the movement design. Emerging Calgary composer, performer, and musician Allison Lynch will play the youngest maid, and her violin! And the list goes on," said Vanessa Porteous.

*The Penelopiad* by Margaret Atwood is a story of Penelope and her maids, who were only a footnote in the story of *The Odyssey*. But who were these unknown women? Together, they reclaim the silenced voices of Penelope and her servants – slowly unearthing buried secrets that lend a fresh perspective on this traditional tale. After first being seen on the stages of The National Arts Centre (Ottawa) and The Royal Shakespeare Company (Stratford-Upon-Avon), Alberta Theatre Projects is proud to bring Atwood's sassy story, which challenges the power dynamics within our personal relationships, to our Martha Cohen Stage.

"To bring such a range of amazing women together in one show is a huge coup. Showcasing amazing Canadian theatrical talent like this, all of whom are based right here in Calgary, in a fresh, original, contemporary, Canadian story, is what Alberta Theatre Projects is all about. Sparks, I guarantee you, will fly," concluded Porteous.

**Denise Clarke** - Innovative performance artist, choreographer, and Associate Artist of One Yellow Rabbit

**Janelle Cooper** - Last seen in *Toad of Toad Hall* at Alberta Theatre Projects

**Elinor Holt** - Betty Mitchell Award winner

**Kathryn Kerbes** - Recipient of the Harry and Martha Cohen Award for sustained and significant contribution to theatre in Calgary

**Jamie Konchak** - Betty Mitchell Award winner

**Allison Lynch** - Composer, performer, and musician

**Lindsay Mullan** - Loose Moose Theatre Company performer

**Vanessa Sabourin** - Performer, producer and collaborator

**Esther Purves-Smith** - Betty Mitchell Award winner

**Adrienne Smook** - Artistic Associate with Sage Theatre

"Atwood doesn't exactly give her a makeover, but she gives her a voice, at once plaintive and wise" - Elizabeth Hand, *The Washington Post*.

*The Penelopiad* by Margaret Atwood, starring Meg Roe, runs from **September 21 – October 9, 2010** with curtain times at 7:30 pm Tuesday through Saturday, and matinees at 2:00 pm on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets start at \$23. Tickets can be bought online at [ATPlive.com](http://ATPlive.com) or by calling 403-294-7402.

A Media Call will be held on **September 21, 2010** at 12 p.m., with more information to follow.

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