



MEDIA RELEASE

January 12, 2010
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DARING AND ORIGINAL SPECTACLE LAUNCHES

ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS INTO SPACE!

Calgary, AB – *The Highest Step in the World*, by David van Belle and Eric Rose, in association with Ghost River Theatre, is a unique and daring solo performance that embodies what the Enbridge playRites Festival of New Canadian Plays is all about – celebrating and assisting plays and perspectives to lift off!

The story is inspired by test pilot Joseph Kittinger, who in 1960 took a historic leap from a weather balloon 100,000 feet up. He used high-altitude air balloons to help in the research of the space program while he was a member of the U.S. Air Force. Through these high-altitude parachute jumps, he was able to provide information about survival while setting several world records, some of which have yet to be broken.

Through the use of video projections and aerial choreography, this multi-disciplinary story celebrates the ingenuity of our minds and the resilience of our hearts, while exploring the lives of several characters struggling with the very nature of risk and the leaps of faith that we all make in our lives.

Now in its 24th 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

Various: **David van Belle**

Director: **Eric Rose**

Set Design/Lighting Design/Costume Design: **Ami Farrow**

Projections/Sound Design: **Ben Chaisson**

Motion Graphics Design: **Court Brinsmead**

Flying Director: **Adrian Young**

Dramaturg: **Vicki Stroich**

Stage Manager: **Ruby Dawn Eustaquio**

Apprentice Stage Manager: **Tuled Giovanazzi**

The Highest Step in the World, by David van Belle and Eric Rose, runs from **February 17 to March 7, 2010** as part of the 24th Annual Enbridge playRites Festival of New Canadian Plays, with curtain times at 7:30 pm Tuesday through Saturday, and matinees at 2:00 pm on Saturday and Sunday.

The 24th Annual Enbridge playRites Festival of New Canadian Plays also includes ***Tyland*** by Greg MacArthur, ***How Do I Love Thee?*** by Florence Gibson Mac Donald, and ***Abraham Lincoln Goes to the Theatre*** by Larry Tremblay, translated by Chantal Bilodeau.

Tickets start at \$22. Tickets can be bought online at ATPlive.com or by calling 403-294-7402.

Alberta Theatre Projects thanks our sponsors and partners for their support of the 24th 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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