

## Don Juan's Tale of Erotic Anguish Exhumes the Relics of His Wildly Free Heart and Reveals the Contradictions of Love

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**March 24th – April 11th, 2009**– Alberta Theatre Projects proudly presents *The Erotic Anguish of Don Juan* created by **The Old Trout Puppet Workshop** in collaboration with Vanessa Porteous, Mercedes Bátiz-Benét and George Fenwick.

**The Old Trout Puppet Workshop** with their tradition of unique, exuberant puppetry provides fertile and ripe grounds for a radical reimagining of the Don Juan legend. The legend of Don Juan comes from Spanish folklore and has been a perpetual source of fascination throughout the ages as an archetypal anti-hero. Like a literary action figure of shape-shifting meanings and a refracting lens for cultural anxieties, Don Juan has seen many incarnations in poetry, opera and theatre.

After 500 years of ruminating on the spoils of his indulgent appetite for women, Don Juan's Ghost emerges out of the dilapidated, dusty ruins of his desire to harangue the audience in an amusing cautionary tale. Abundant with nostalgia and with the sacred memories of the women he has loved, Don Juan's tale reveals how terrible and wonderful, painful and pleasurable, and ultimately full of contradictions love is. Is Don Juan a hero or a villain? Only one thing is certain, he is courageous in the face of cosmic condemnation and believes that only love will set him free.

**Alberta Theatre Projects** is thrilled to bring the innovative and exciting work of **The Old Trout Puppet Workshop** back to the ConocoPhillips STAGE in the Martha Cohen Theatre. The first collaboration between the two companies, *Pinocchio*, occurred in 2004. Embarking on a new level of craftsmanship, the artisans of **The Old Trout Puppet Workshop** have outdone themselves with *The Erotic Anguish of Don Juan*, adding a new layer of finesse to the molding of their puppets. Joining this entirely Canadian-spun team is former Artistic Director of Land's End Chamber Ensemble George Fenwick who has created an entirely new score for Chamber Ensemble and Choir to accompany the production. Directed by Artistic Director Designate of **Alberta Theatre Projects**, Vanessa Porteous, *The Erotic Anguish of Don Juan* will tour across Canada subsequent to this Calgary premiere. (**Audience Advisory: Puppet Sex, 16 years old and up**)

*The Erotic Anguish of Don Juan* runs from **March 24th – April 11th, 2009**, with shows Tuesdays through Saturdays at 7:30 PM and Saturdays and Sundays at 2:00 PM. All performances are on the ConocoPhillips STAGE in the Martha Cohen Theatre in the EPCOR Centre for the Performing Arts, 215 – 8 Ave SE. For tickets, please call the Alberta Theatre Projects Ticket Office at (403) 294-7402, Ticketmaster at (403) 299-8888 or visit [www.ATPlive.com](http://www.ATPlive.com).

### CAST

The Ghost of Don Juan: **Peter Balkwill**  
The Devil: **Pityu Kenderes**  
Minion: **Jackson Andrews**  
Minion: **Anne Lalancette**

### Created by The Old Trout Puppet Workshop:

**Peter Balkwill** (Founder)  
**Pityu Kenderes** (Founder)  
**Judd Palmer** (Founder)  
**Cimmeron Meyer** (Lighting and Set Design)  
**Jackson Andrews** (Apprentice)  
**Anne Lalancette** (Apprentice)

**IN COLLABORATION WITH**  
**Mercedes Bátiz-Benét** (Writing)  
**George Fenwick** (Music)  
**Jen Gareau** (Puppet costumes)  
**Vanessa Porteous** (Directing)

**Music played by:**  
**Stan Climie** (Clarinet)  
**John Lowry** (Violin)  
**Olena Kilchyk** (Cello)  
**Rod Squance** (Percussion)  
**Vocals by:**  
**Spiritus Chamber Choir**  
**Timothy Shantz**, Artistic Director

**Soloists:**  
**Lindsay Ell** (Soprano)  
**Monique Olivier** (Mezzo-Soprano)

Produced by **Grant Burns**  
Production Managed by  
**Cimmeron Meyer**  
Rehearsals Coordinated by  
**Amy Lippold**  
Administration by **Donna Kwan & Michelle Kennedy**  
Photography by **Jason Stang**

**The Old Trout Puppet Workshop** is a company of artists dedicated to re-imagining the art form of puppetry, who work to explore the outer edges of the puppet medium, and to create original, unique, and exuberant art. Since their creation back in 1999 they have toured productions nationally and internationally, with a tour to France planned for the fall of 2009. **The Old Trouts** have created six mainstage productions: *The Unlikely Birth of Istvan*, *The Tooth Fairy*, *Beowulf*, *The Last Supper of Antonin Carême*, *Pinocchio*, and *Famous Puppet Death Scenes*. *Famous Puppet Death Scenes* has been touring for over three years now to 21 venues across Canada and the US. They have built a forty-five foot tall wind-powered puppet machine on permanent display at Big Rock Brewery, written children's books (two have been shortlisted for the **Governor-General's Award for Children's Literature**), and made three films – *Commedia Moderna*, *The Execution of Margot Rumebe*, and *The Miserable End of Don Alonso*. They have served as puppet masters on Disney's *Honey I Shrunk the Kids*, Nickelodeon's *Littleburg* with Whoopi Goldberg, and YTV's *Nanalan*. They also have a house band, *The Agnostic Mountain Gospel Choir*, which tours the country and Europe. Recently they received a Juno nod for their puppets which were featured in Feist's music video, *Honey Honey*.

**Alberta Theatre Projects** seeks to enrich the lives of our audience and grow that audience by producing a season of celebrated contemporary theatre and by taking a national leadership role in the development of new Canadian plays. We are committed to 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.

*Alberta Theatre Projects thanks our sponsors and partners for their support: ConocoPhillips Canada (Naming Sponsor of the ConocoPhillips STAGE), Calgary Herald (Season Sponsor) and Rogers Communications (Presenting Sponsor of the 2008/2009 Season).*

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