



For Immediate Release July 18, 2008

A World of Ideas from four of Canada's most exciting Women Playwrights

Vancouver, BC – In Touchstone Theatre's 08/09 Season, Artistic Director Katrina Dunn profiles four of Canada's leading women playwrights as they examine some of the big ideas and events that have come to shape our world.

08

09

SEASON

INFLUENCE by Janet Munsil
World Premiere
Directed by Katrina Dunn

Nov 6 - 15, 2008
Performance Works

In a room in the British Museum in 1817 the unknown medical student John Keats wants to abandon his medicine to become a poet. Unbeknownst to him Athena, Goddess of Wisdom and protector of Athens, has arrived in the city of fog to reclaim The Elgin Marbles and seek revenge for the desecration of the Parthenon. With art, artefact and immortality all at stake, an epic and at times hilarious battle unfolds, which will determine the fate of Keats and influence the future forever.

EAST OF BERLIN by Hannah Moscovitch
The Tarragon Theatre Production
co-presented with the Chutzpah! Festival and the Firehall Arts Centre
Directed by Alisa Palmer

Feb 18 - 28, 2009
Firehall Arts Centre

Rudi has grown up in Paraguay, blissfully ignorant of his father's past. When he discovers the awful truth, he tries to atone for his father's appalling acts. Can love heal what history has so brutally torn asunder? Or will the horrors of the past haunt him forever? East of Berlin is a stirring and absolutely essential meditation on the psychological legacy of the Holocaust, brought to life in a stunning production from one of Canada's most respected and consistently innovative theatres.

AGE OF AROUSAL by Linda Griffiths
The Arts Club Theatre Company in association with Touchstone Theatre
Directed by Katrina Dunn

Apr 16 - May 9, 2009
Granville Island Stage

In 1885 a population imbalance leaves London flooded with half a million more women than men, and the escalating suffrage movement ushers in a rip-roaring New Age. The ex-militant Mary runs a school for female secretaries with her Sapphic love Rhoda. Their bliss is unwittingly invaded by three spinster sisters and a charismatic cad named Everard. The resulting mayhem is a catalyst for emotional explosion as ideas and libidos clash for dominance, and each character confronts the meaning of revolutionary courage.

PALACE OF THE END by Judith Thompson
In association with Felix Culpa and Horseshoes & Hand Grenades Theatre
Directed by David Bloom, Katrina Dunn & Mindy Parfitt

May 21 - Jun 6, 2009
Performing Arts Lodge Theatre

Three scalding monologues make up Judith Thompson's *Palace of the End*: a shockingly funny portrayal of the soldier who took the fall for the Abu Graib prison scandal; the dying reflections of the weapons inspector who blew the whistle on government justifications for the invasion of Iraq; a tea party with a mother and political leader who suffered unfathomable loss at the hands of Saddam Hussein. Whatever your views on the war, this play will unsettle you with its startling beauty.

Season packages go on sale September 1st from Touchstone Theatre 604 709 9973. See *Influence*, *East of Berlin* and *Palace of the End* for just \$45. Add *Age of Arousal* for an additional \$25 fee. Visit www.touchstonetheatre.com for details after September 1st.

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Media Contact:

Camilla Tibbs

604 709 9973

camilla@touchstonetheatre.com

E S S E N T I A L C A N A D I A N P L A Y S

200~873 Beatty Street, Vancouver, BC, V6B 2M6 T: 604.709.9973 F: 604.709.9943 info@touchstonetheatre.com www.touchstonetheatre.com