

CROW'S THEATRE

08/09 SEASON

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CROW'S THEATRE ANNOUNCES LINE-UP FOR 25TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

I, CLAUDIA RETURNS TO TORONTO WITH KRISTEN THOMSON REPRISING HER AWARD-WINNING ROLE; [BOXHEAD] AT MAGNETIC NORTH; A CONTINUED PARTNERSHIP WITH SOULPEPPER; AND THE WORLD PREMIERE OF THE CROW'S THEATRE PRODUCTION OF ETERNAL HYDRA

[boxhead]

by Darren O'Donnell
in association with
Mammalian Diving Reflex

June 4 – June 8, 2008
at the Magnetic North
Theatre Festival

Oct 18 – Nov 2, 2008
at Buddies in Bad Times
Theatre

I, Claudia

by Kristen Thomson

Sept 9 – Sept 28, 2008
at the Great Canadian
Theatre Company

Apr 24 – May 24, 2009
at the Young Centre for the
Performing Arts

Eternal Hydra

by Anton Piatigorsky

May 18 – 31, 2009
at Buddies in Bad Times
Theatre

Soulpepper Theatre Company
presents

Antigone:

A Clean House for the Dead Season

by Evan Webber with
Chris Abraham

co-developed with Crow's
Theatre

January 2009

TORONTO – May 01, 2008. Crow's Theatre celebrates its 25th season with its most ambitious and prolific line-up in recent memory. In his second year as the company's Artistic Director, **Chris Abraham** will bring a diverse line-up of bold new works and audience favourites to stages in Toronto and across the country.

The upcoming season kicks off with a new production of Darren O'Donnell's **[boxhead]**, presented as part of the **2008 Magnetic North Theatre Festival** in Vancouver, June 4 - 8, in association with **Mammalian Diving Reflex**. Working with playwright **Darren O'Donnell**, Abraham revisits this mile-a-minute metaphysical comedy about a young geneticist who "awakes one morning to find a box secured to his head". **[boxhead]** will also be presented as part of the **Buddies in Bad Times Theatre** 08/09 season for a two-week run in October, with original designers **Naomi Campbell**, **Steve Lucas**, **Nina Okens** and composer **Romano Di Nillo** returning. Developed over several years of collaboration between O'Donnell and Abraham, **[boxhead]** is a bucolic frolic through the pathetic, nightmarish minefield of western consciousness and will feature a new cast, including **Adam Lazarus** as Dr. Wishful Thinking and **Andrew Shaver** as Dr. Thoughtless Actions, along with live music performed by **Ed Reifel** (Vancouver)/**Romano Di Nillo** (Toronto).

Crow's Theatre is thrilled to announce that it will produce the long-anticipated Toronto return of **I, Claudia**, Kristen Thomson's award-winning one-woman show that first charmed local audiences in 2001. Following the 07/08 season's critically-acclaimed tour to Edmonton (AB), London (ON), Richmond (BC), and a three-week run at Ottawa's **Great Canadian Theatre Company** in September, 2008, the show will come to Toronto as part of the **Young Centre Presents Series**, April 24 - May 24, 2009. The Crow's Theatre production features designs by **Julie Fox**, **Jeff Logue**, and direction by **Chris Abraham**, with Gemini award-winning actress **Liisa Repo-Martell** playing the starring role on tour and the multi-talented **Kristen Thomson** reprising her original Dora Award-winning role for the Toronto production. Tickets for the Toronto engagement of **I, Claudia** will be available through the Young Centre Box Office. Don't miss the opportunity to catch one of Toronto's most beloved performers in a show that has sold-out all of its previous Toronto runs.

In January 2009, **Soulpepper Theatre Company** premieres Crow's Theatre playwright-in-residence **Evan Webber** and director Chris Abraham's new adaptation of the sophoclean tragedy, **Antigone: A Clean House for the Dead Season**. Commissioned by and co-developed with Crow's Theatre, **Antigone: A Clean House For the Dead Season** is a contemporary re-working of Sophocles' classic tragedy, in which Oedipus' daughter Antigone refuses to leave her brother, a "martyred" revolutionary, unburied. She does so in

defiance of her Uncle's edict, earning her the punishment of death. First presented over 2000 years ago, Sophocles' *Antigone* continues to shape the history of Western philosophic, literary and political discourse through its always-timely investigation of the complexities of individual moral responsibility.

The 08/09 Season closes with the world-premiere production of **Anton Piatigorsky's *Eternal Hydra*** – the gripping literary mystery that was presented as a workshop presentation in 2007 at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre to an enthusiastic and captive audience. Originally developed and presented by the **Stratford Festival** as a one-act in 2001, Crow's Theatre will premiere a new version of *Eternal Hydra* that fulfills Piatigorsky's original full-length vision of the piece. ***Eternal Hydra*** is the product of over two years of development at Crow's Theatre as well as the on-going creative partnership between Piatigorsky and Abraham, whose previous collaborations include the Chalmers nominated and Dora award-winning ***Easy Lenny Lazmon and the Great Western Ascension*** and ***The Kabbalistic Psychoanalysis of Adam R. Tzaddik***. *Eternal Hydra* runs at **Buddies in Bad Times Theatre** from May 18 – 31, 2009, featuring performances by **David Ferry, Karen Robinson, Liisa Repo-Martell and Sam Malkin**, with designs by **John Thompson, Richard Feren and Barbara Rowe**. The play is set in motion by the discovery of a long-lost novel, whose pages spark an academic controversy that reaches as far back as the American Civil War and irrevocably entwines all those who come in contact with it.

This season will also see a wealth of new activity, including the development of several new works, additional touring activity, and the introduction of the **Director's Training Initiative**– a project that will create opportunities and recognition for emerging directors across the country. Details of these projects to be announced later in the season.

Crow's Theatre is a leading developer and producer of contemporary theatre; we create new work that questions accepted truths about our history, our times and the communities in which we live. Since its founding in 1983, Crow's Theatre has been an important platform from which to develop new work outside the mainstream. In 25 years, Crow's Theatre has solidified its reputation for developing, producing and touring some of the country's most memorable works for the stage including Brad Fraser's unqualified hit, *Unidentified Human Remains and the True Nature of Love*, John Mighton's *A Short History of Night*, George Seremba's *Come Good Rain*, Lee MacDougall's *High Life* and most recently a National Tour of Artistic Director Chris Abraham's award-winning production of Kristen Thomson's *I, Claudia*.

For more information, visit www.crowstheatre.com

Crow's Theatre in association with Mammalian Diving Reflex presents

[boxhead]

By Darren O'Donnell

Directed by Chris Abraham

Featuring Adam Lazarus as Dr. Wishful Thinking, **Andrew Shaver** as Dr. Thoughtless Actions, and music performed by **Ed Reifel**(Vancouver)/**Romano Di Nillo**(Toronto)

June 4 – 8, 2008. Waterfront Theatre (Vancouver BC). Part of the 2008 Magnetic North Theatre Festival

Oct 18 – Nov 2, 2008. Buddies in Bad Times Theatre (Toronto ON)

Set by Naomi Campbell, Chris Abraham & Darren O'Donnell

Music Composed by Romano Di Nillo

Lighting by Steve Lucas

Costumes by Nina Okens

A young geneticist wakes up to discover a box secured to his head; he finds all thoughts come from God, all his words come from the devil and his desire for love is a habit acquired from the movies. Sound familiar? Don't be so hard on yourself. From the addled consciousness that brought you *Haircuts by Children*, *Diplomatic Immunities*, *A Suicide Site Guide to the City* and *White Mice* comes [boxhead]: a bedtime story for your brain.

Tickets for the June production available through the Magnetic North box office: www.magneticnorthfestival.ca/pages/ticket.html

Tickets for the October production available through the Buddies box office: 416-975-8555 / www.artsexy.ca/box_office.cfm

Crow's Theatre presents

I, CLAUDIA

By Kristen Thomson

Directed by Chris Abraham

September 9 – September 28, 2008. Great Canadian Theatre Company (Ottawa ON). **Starring Liisa Repo-Martell**

April 24 – May 24, 2009. Young Centre for the Performing Arts (Toronto ON). **Starring Kristen Thomson**

Sound by Chris Abraham

Set & Costumes by Julie Fox

Lighting by Jeff Logue

This extraordinary one-woman show maps the raw but beautiful interior life of a misfit adolescent. Claudia, aged twelve-and-three-quarters, finds herself suffering from the triple afflictions of puberty, unpopularity, and her parents' divorce. Using four astonishingly expressive masks, the performer evokes the anguished Claudia, her grandfather, her dad's new girlfriend and the school janitor. Alternatively wrenchingly sad and wrenchingly funny, I, Claudia casts a spell of rare power in the theatre.

Tickets for the September production available through the GCTC box office: 613-236-5196 / www.gctc.ca/boxoffice

Tickets for the April/May production available through the Young Centre box office: 416-866-8666

Crow's Theatre presents

ETERNAL HYDRA

By Anton Piatigorsky

Directed by Chris Abraham

Featuring David Ferry, Sam Malkin, Liisa Repo-Martell, Karen Robinson

May 18 – 31, 2009. Buddies in Bad Times, The Chamber (Toronto ON)

Sound & Music by Richard Feren

Costumes by Barbara Rowe

Set & Lighting by John Thompson

Rumoured to encapsulate all of human history in its 99 chapters and 999 pages, the manuscript for Eternal Hydra disappeared over half a century ago, following the death of its author, Gordias Carbuncle. When a young scholar discovers the missing novel in Paris, where it had been hidden away by an unrequited lover, it sparks an academic controversy that reaches as far back as the American Civil War and irrevocably entwines all those who come in contact with it. Obsession, identity politics, and the myth of genius: a postmodern look at the making of a modernist masterpiece.

Tickets available through the Buddies box office: 416-975-8555 / www.artsexy.ca/box_office.cfm

Soulpepper Theatre Company presents

ANTIGONE: A CLEAN HOUSE FOR THE DEAD SEASON

By Evan Webber with Chris Abraham

Directed by Chris Abraham

Co-Developed with Crow's Theatre

January 2009. Young Centre for the Performing Arts (Toronto ON)

The city of Thebes is visited by a bloody civil war between two factions, each led by a son of Oedipus. Following their deaths, it is decreed that only one of the brothers will receive burial. Antigone, the daughter of Oedipus, buries her brother Polynices in defiance of the edict issued by her uncle, Creon. First presented over 2000 years ago, the enduring ethical force of Sophocles' "Antigone" has shaped the history of western philosophic, literary and political consciousness. Playwright Evan Webber and director Chris Abraham, offer a contemporary reading of the classic tragedy in **Antigone: A Clean House for the Dead Season**.

Tickets available through the Young Centre box office: 416-866-8666