

CROW'S THEATRE PRESENTS THE NATIONAL THEATRE SCHOOL DIRECTORS' SHOWCASE & EXCHANGE

The Showcase: A free weekend of performances featuring works by the National Theatre School's 2009 graduating directors.

The Exchange: A revealing panel discussion with esteemed Artistic Directors Peter Hinton, Matthew Jocelyn, Daniel Brooks, Richard Rose, Lise Ann Johnson and more.

In partnership with the **National Theatre School of Canada (NTS)**, **Crow's Theatre** will host **The NTS Directors' Showcase & Exchange** in Toronto **May 15 – 17, 2009** at **The Theatre Centre** (1078 Queen St. West) and **Theatre Passe Muraille** (16 Ryerson Ave).

A unique initiative, launched by Crow's Theatre Artistic Director and Co-Director of the NTS Directing Program, **Chris Abraham** and Program Co-Director **Sarah Stanley**, the **National Theatre School Showcase** will feature a slate of innovative contemporary work, helmed by a trio of exceptional young directors: **Philip McKee**, **Vahid Rahbani** and **Anita Rochon**. A stellar ensemble of actors from across the country – including **Clare Coulter**, **Waneta Storms**, **Steve Cumyn** and **Brian Dooley** – perform in works by some of the world's most startling contemporary dramatists. The projects were originally mentored by award-winning director **Jennifer Tarver**, choreographer **Deborah Dunn**, and Dora Award-winning designer **Julie Fox**.

This rare celebration shines a spotlight on some of the country's hottest young directing talent.

- Vancouver-based **Anita Rochon** directs ***In the Solitude of Cotton Fields*** by French bad boy **Bernard-Marie Koltès** - a dazzling psychological drama, immediately hailed as a contemporary classic at its 1987 premiere. It plays in the alley behind the Theatre Passe Muraille Backspace.
- Toronto-based **Philip McKee** directs UK innovator and legend **Caryl Churchill's** ***Far Away*** - a howl of anguish at the increasingly accepted levels of inhumanity in a world perpetually involved in conflict - in the TPM Backspace.
- Rounding off the program at the Theatre Centre, **Vahid Rahbani** works with acclaimed performers **Waneta Storms** and **Brian Dooley**, directing them in a daring and incendiary work, and **Anita Rochon** directs and performs in her original piece ***Now he belongs to the ages (angels)*** for an intimate audience of 16.

On Saturday May 16th, Crow's Theatre will present the **Directors' Exchange**, a panel discussion and Q&A that will bring together some of Canada's most exciting directors and artistic leaders.

Curated by **Christian Barry** (Artistic Co-Director of 2b theatre and NTS Directing Program alumnus), the Directors' Exchange invites artistic leaders to reflect on director training, cultural leadership and their own paths from emerging artist to Artistic Director. Panelists and speakers include **Peter Hinton** (Artistic Director of English Theatre, National Arts Centre), **Matthew Jocelyn** (incoming Canadian Stage Artistic Director), **Daniel Brooks** (Necessary Angel), **Richard Rose** (Tarragon Theatre), **Lise Ann Johnson** (Great Canadian Theatre Company) and many more. The afternoon's events will be moderated by **Sarah Stanley** (Die in Debt and Co-Director, NTS Directing Program).

All events are free, but seating is limited. For schedule and registration, visit **crowstheatre.com**

The Directors' Showcase & Exchange is part of an on-going initiative at Crow's Theatre to create a space for artistic growth, community dialogue and to support the next generation of Canadian theatre creators. This includes the Crow's Theatre Award for Direction, presented annually at the SummerWorks Festival, as well as the inaugural *Culture Congress*, presented in 2008 in partnership with Harbourfront Centre and The Theatre Centre. The company is also hosting Writers in Residence Liza Balkan, Michael Mackenzie, Misha Shulman and Evan Webber as part of this initiative.

MORE...

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The National Theatre School is one of the few conservatory-type arts training establishments in the world that unites all the theatre disciplines under one roof. Established in 1960 and located in Montreal, the School offers training in acting, playwriting, directing, set and costume design, and production in both English and French. Each year, some 160 students receive, in large part, individualized instruction; NTS has trained close to 1,500 performing arts professionals to date.

The NTS Directing Program aims to develop future theatre leaders who will have a solid grasp of the director's craft. Throughout their period of study, students will gain experience with both contemporary and classical texts, and garner the skills to engage the imaginations of designers, writers, actors and audiences in a spirit of adventure and risk taking. Directing students are mentored by prominent theatre directors and practitioners.

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The Directors' Exchange

Curated by Christian Barry

Moderated by Sarah Stanley

Panelists include Peter Hinton, Matthew Jocelyn, Daniel Brooks, Richard Rose, Lise Ann Johnson.

DATE: May 16
TIMES: 12:30 – 3:00
PRICE: Free
VENUE: Theatre Centre, 1087 Queen St W Toronto ON
INFO / REGISTRATION: www.crowstheatre.com

National Theatre School Directors' Showcase

In the Solitude of Cotton Fields by Bernard-Marie Koltès

Far Away by Caryl Churchill

Now he belongs to the ages (angels) created by Anita Rochon

Works directed by Philip McKee, Vahid Rahbani, Anita Rochon

DATES: May 15 - 17
TIMES: schedule on-line at crowstheatre.com
PRICE: Free
VENUE: Theatre Centre, 1087 Queen St W Toronto ON
Theatre Passe Muraille, 16 Ryerson Ave. Toronto ON
INFO / REGISTRATION: www.crowstheatre.com

Anita Rochon is a Vancouver-based director; she also co-artistic directs The Chop Theatre which has produced *2 Truths + 1 Lie = Proof* at HIVE, the award-winning *Patti Fedy Trilogy* and *Townsville* at Magnetic North. Anita is a graduate of Studio 58 (Acting) and the National Theatre School of Canada (Directing). She's directed or performed in shows with The Electric Company, Théâtre la Seizième, Vancouver Opera and is an artist-in-residence at Rumble Productions. Recently, she performed in Theatre Replacement's *BIOBOXES* at the PuSh Festival, BC Scène (GCTC) and later this month at the Festival TransAmériques.

Philip McKee began directing and producing theatre in Toronto in 2005. Credits include *The Drowned World* by Gary Owen (Dancemakers), *Have I None* by Edward Bond (The Theatre Centre), and Samuel Beckett's *Endgame*. He has worked with Necessary Angel, Loose Canon (Dublin), and Haba Na Haba (Nairobi). Most recently, Philip presented an adaptation of Giuseppe Verdi's *Otello* at The Centre for Opera Studies in Italy. He is a graduate of McGill University, and the National Theatre School of Canada.

Vahid Rahbani was born in Tehran. He established Naqshineh Theatre Group, in 1998, and continued to collaborate with the same group of actors until 2005, when he moved to Canada. Vahid is a theatre and film director, and actor. As a director he has worked in Tehran, Paris, London and Toronto. Selected Directing credits: *Waiting for Godot* and *Eleutheria* by Samuel Beckett, *Rhinoceros* by Eugene Ionesco, *Ashes to Ashes* by Harold Pinter, and *The Unexpected Man* by Yasmina Reza. He is a graduate of Samandarian Theatre School in Tehran and the National Theatre School of Canada.