

Crow's Theatre presents
ETERNAL HYDRA
by Anton Piatigorsky

The multi award-winning duo of Anton Piatigorsky and Chris Abraham reunite after more than five years for Abraham's first premiere production as Crow's Theatre Artistic Director

WORLD PREMIERE: Crow's Theatre concludes its 25th Anniversary Season with the premiere of Anton Piatigorsky's **Eternal Hydra**. Playing for a limited engagement of 15 performances at **Buddies in Bad Times Theatre**, May 17 - 31.

Eternal Hydra will premiere in Toronto, before touring to the **Magnetic North Theatre Festival** June 9 - 13. For the second consecutive year, Crow's Theatre has been invited to be a featured company at this annual showcase of outstanding new Canadian work.

Since meeting a decade ago, **Chris Abraham** and **Anton Piatigorsky** haven't collaborated on a series of critically acclaimed and award-winning productions. Their first work, *The Kabbalistic Psychoanalysis of Adam R Tzaddik*, was presented at the Summerworks Festival in 1998 and won the festival's inaugural prize for best production. Subsequent collaborations have included *Easy Lenny Lazmon and the Great Western Ascension*, *Mysterium Tremendum* and *The Offering*, and have earned Chris and Anton numerous accolades, including three Dora Mavor Moore Awards and two Floyd S. Chalmers nominations. They have also both been awarded the prestigious Elinore and Lou Siminovitch Protégé awards for playwriting and direction, respectively.

The play, *Eternal Hydra* is set in motion when Vivian Ezra (**Liisa Repo-Martell**), discovers a long lost manuscript believed to be the work of iconoclast author Gordias Carbuncle (**David Ferry**). This legendary literary masterpiece, lost for over 60 years, is rumoured to contain all of human history in its 99 chapters and 999 pages. When the authorship of the novel is called into question, it sparks an academic controversy that reaches from the high-powered publishing world of present-day New York, to 1930's Paris, and as far back as the American Civil War. As the mystery of the novel's composition unravels it irrevocably entwines everyone it touches. Obsession, identity politics and the myth of genius: a post-modern look at the making of a modernist masterpiece.

Originally commissioned by the Stratford Festival in 2001, the Crow's Theatre production fulfills the playwright's vision of a full-length piece and features a stellar cast of some of Toronto's most celebrated actors.

Eternal Hydra features performances by **David Ferry** (*Alias Godot*, Dir. *The Last days of Judas Iscariot*), **Sam Malkin** (*The Shakespeare Experiment*), **Liisa Repo-Martell** (*Uncle Vanya*, *Top Girls*), and **Karen Robinson** (*Harlem Duet*, *Riot*). The production also features Sound & Music by **Richard Feren**, Costumes by **Barbara Rowe**, Set & Lighting by **John Thompson** and Stage Management by **Merissa Tordjman**.

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Since 1983, Crow's Theatre has grown from a small artist-run company to an industry-leading producer, known across Canada for its innovation and artistic rigour. We have solidified this reputation through our lasting commitment to new Canadian work and the artists who create it, producing some of our country's seminal works; including Brad Fraser's *Unidentified Human Remains and the True Nature of Love*, Lee MacDougall's *High Life*, John Mighton's *A Short History of Night*, James O'Reilly's *Time After Time: The Chet Baker Project*, and most recently with a national tour of Kristen Thomson's *I, Claudia*.

MORE...

Anton Piatigorsky's plays include *The Kabbalistic Psychoanalysis of Adam R. Tzaddik*, *Mysterium Tremendum*, *The Offering* and *Easy Lenny Lazmon and the Great Western Ascension*. Anton's other work includes the libretto for *Airline Icarus*, a chamber opera by composer Brian Current, and an adaptation of S. Anski's *The Dybbuk* to be produced by Souleppper in 2010. As a fiction writer, Anton has recently completed a collection of short stories about dictators as teenagers. Coach House Books will publish his play, *Eternal Hydra*, this spring.

Chris Abraham has worked with some of Canada's foremost artists and independent companies, developing innovative new Canadian work alongside a busy career as freelance director in the country's established theatres. His work is award winning and critically acclaimed. He is known for his intellectually rigorous and bold stagings of contemporary and classical work. In 1999, he co-founded Go-Chicken-Go, where he directed *Kaspar* by Peter Handke, *Lenz* by Georg Buchner (which he also adapted), *The Kabbalistic Psychoanalysis of Adam R. Tzaddik* and *Easy Lenny Lazmon and the Great Western Ascension* both by Anton Piatigorsky, and *[boxhead]* by Darren O'Donnell. A graduate of the National Theatre School's directing program, Chris has since returned to NTS as an instructor and mentor for directing students and was recently appointed Co-Director of the school's Directing Section. Chris is the recipient of the John Hirsch and Ken MacDougall awards for emerging directors as well as the inaugural Elinore and Lou Siminovitch Protégé Award, for directors.

David Ferry has worked on and off Broadway, at Canada's Stratford Festival (most recently as Captain Ahab in Morris Panych's movement based adaptation of *Moby Dick*), and across Canada. He has been nominated four times for DORA actor awards. David also works extensively as a director, and in 2005 he directed the acclaimed Canadian premiere of Stephen Adly Guirgis's *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* for Toronto's Birdland Productions, which garnered nine 2006 DORA nominations and five DORA awards. He was Artistic Director of Resurgence Theatre Company in Newmarket, Ontario for four years where he directed *Saltwater Moon*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Talley's Folly*.

Sam Malkin is a veteran performer in independent theatre, playing in dozens of productions at stages across the country. Recently, Sam appeared on stage in *Ashes to Ashes* (Lemaz Prods.) at SummerWorks and in the 2007 *Eternal Hydra* workshop. He is a member of Actors Repertory Company (ARC) and has performed with them as The Driver in *Victoria Station* and Evans in *The Sea*. At Sudbury Theatre he played Wiff in *Of The Field's Lately*. He has also played various roles in *The Tempest*, *Of Mice and Men*, *Spring Awakening*, *Forty Deuce*, *Duddy*, *Moby Dick* and *Jitters*. Film and TV credits include *Where The Spirit Lives*, *Passion in Paradise*, *Due South*, *Kung Fu*, *Dracula* and David Cronenberg's *Videodrome*. Most recently he will be seen playing Glen in *Regenesis*.

Liisa Repo-Martell has recently appeared on stage in *The Patient Hour* (Tarragon); *Top Girls*, *Uncle Vanya*, *Translations*, *School for Wives*, *The Lesson*, *Platonov*, (Souleppper); *I, Claudia* (Crow's Theatre) **Sterling Award**; *Chekov Longs*, *Chekov Shorts*, *The Cherry Orchard*, (Theatre Smith-Gilmour); and *The Syringa Tree*, (Citadel) **Sterling Award**. She will be appearing on stage next in the Souleppper Theatre Company production of *Antigone: A Clean House for the Dead Season*

Karen Robinson has recently appeared on stage in *Doubt* (Citadel); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Canadian Stage); and four seasons at the Stratford Festival including *Shakespeare's Universe: Harlem Duet*; *The Duchess of Malfi*; *The Swanee*; *Electra*; *Agamemnon*; *Shadows* and an earlier version of *Eternal Hydra*; three plays in George F. Walker's Suburban Motel series for Factory Theatre; two seasons with Souleppper, and Factory Theatre's production of *Riot*, for which she received a Dora Award. Upcoming: *The Tempest* (Canadian Stage), *Stuff Happens* (Studio 180).

MORE...

ADD TO LISTINGS IMMEDIATELY

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Eternal Hydra
by Anton Piatigorsky
directed by Chris Abraham
Starring David Ferry, Sam Malkin, Liisa Repo-Martell and Karen Robinson**

**Sound & Music by Richard Feren
Costumes by Barbara Rowe
Set & Lighting by John Thompson**

May 17 – May 31, 2009. Previews May 17, 19, 20. Opens May 21.

TIMES: Previews, 8PM. Tues-Sat, 8PM. Sat & Sun, 2:30PM

**PRICES: Previews/Saturday Matinee \$15
Tuesday/Wednesday \$20
Thursday/Friday \$25
Saturday Evening \$30
Sunday PWYC**

VENUE: Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, The Chamber 12 Alexander St. Toronto ON. M4Y 1B4

TICKETS: (416) 975-8555

INFO: www.crowstheatre.com

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