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CLAUDIA GOES TO EDINBURGH

KRISTEN THOMSON'S I, CLAUDIA TO PLAY AT THE 2010 EDINBURGH
INTERNATIONAL FRINGE FESTIVAL.

Toronto ON – Nine years after bursting onto the scene, Canada's favourite "official pre-teen" makes her debut at the world's largest performing arts festival.

Crow's Theatre is thrilled to announce that **our critically acclaimed production of *I, Claudia* will visit the 2010 Edinburgh Fringe Festival**. Kristen Thomson's iconic one-woman show plays at the Assembly Room's prestigious Edinburgh Suite, August 6 – 31, presented by the UK's Theatre Tours International. The show is directed by Artistic Director Chris Abraham, with Kristen Thomson reprising her Dora Award winning performance.

Now in its fourth consecutive year touring across Canada, critics have hailed the Crow's Theatre production of *I, Claudia* as "*A Masterful Accomplishment! Brilliant, charming and heartbreaking.*" (National Post); "*A tour-de-force performance*" (Ottawa Sun); and "*enchanting, enthralling and completely captivating.*" (Calgary Sun).

Theatre Tours International is the foremost presenter of small to mid scale theatre at the Edinburgh Fringe. Since 1994, they have presented over seventy highly acclaimed productions in seventeen seasons including five of the top ten grossing solo shows of the last two decades. They have also created and co-presented two of most successful dramas of all time at the Fringe; *12 Angry Men* (2003) and *The Odd Couple* (2005) and is the most awarded and nominated independent theatre company currently presenting at the Fringe.

I, Claudia 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.

The show first premiered at the Tarragon Theatre in 2001, winning a Dora Mavor Moore Award for Best New Play. In 2004, *I, Claudia* was adapted into a film starring Kristen Thomson and directed by Chris Abraham, which won two Gemini Awards and was named one of the Top 10 Films of 2004 by the Toronto International Film Festival Group. The Crow's Theatre production has been touring across Canada since 2007 and was nominated for five 2009 Dora Mavor Moore Awards.

Crow's Theatre is a leading developer and producer of contemporary foreign and Canadian theatre. Since its founding in 1983, Crow's Theatre has been an important platform from which to develop new work outside the mainstream. Into its third decade, 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*, Lee MacDougall's *High Life* and most recently with the Dora Award winning premiere of Anton Piatigorsky's *Eternal Hydra* and a National Tour of Artistic Director Chris Abraham's production of Kristen Thomson's *I, Claudia*.