

CHRIS ABRAHAM APPOINTED NEW ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AT CROW'S THEATRE

Toronto, November 1, 2006... **The Board of Directors of Crow's Theatre** is proud to announce the appointment of acclaimed theatre director **Chris Abraham** as the company's incoming Artistic Director.

"**Jim Millan** has built a solid and lasting foundation of artistic excellence on which to build for the future. The Board was challenged to find someone with the imagination, vision, experience and creative drive necessary to continue the journey begun by Jim", said Board Chair Charlie Northcote. "**Chris Abraham** has manifested these qualities in an impressive body of work to date. He is a major talent. We are delighted to welcome him as Jim's successor and are confident in his ability to lead Crow's Theatre on that journey."

Chris Abraham succeeds founding Artistic Director **Jim Millan**, who leaves Crow's at the end of this season after 23 years at the helm of the highly lauded theatre company.

"Jim has built one of the country's strongest independent theatre companies with an impressive record of risk and achievement. I am honoured to have this opportunity to build on its already strong legacy," said Abraham, who joins Crow's Theatre this fall in an advisory capacity as he begins planning Crow's 2007/08 season.

During Millan's tenure at Crow's Theatre, he has supported and developed emerging and talent across the country and has produced some of the country's most memorable evenings in the theatre. These include world premieres of Brad Fraser's *Unidentified Remains and the True Nature of Love*, Lee MacDougall's *High Life* and George Seremba's *Come Good Rain*.

"I admire Chris and what he has achieved and look forward to spending time together as he prepares next season. I look forward to the day of his first Crow's production and think the city will welcome his contribution as an Artistic Director for years to come. I am very excited by the choice and congratulate the Board."

This fall, Millan will mount two full productions for Crow's Theatre. The first is his play *Director's Cut* – a comedy about failure and the tension between artistic vision and commercial imperatives in the Canadian film industry – opening at Toronto's Factory Theatre on November 22. In January of 2007, he is set to stage the world premiere and national tour of *What Lies Before Us*, written by Morris Panych. Set in the Canadian Rockies in 1835, it is the story of two junior surveyors and their Chinese cook who become separated from their group. The play debuts at Canadian Stage in Toronto in January 2007, then travels to Winnipeg and Edmonton.

Chris Abraham is currently an Associate Artist at Necessary Angel Theatre Company where he is directing the groundbreaking Daniel Brooks/ Guillermo Verdecchia piece *Insomnia*, opening at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre on November 8. In January 2007, he will appear onstage in a workshop of *An Untitled Work-in-Progress* a comedy written by himself and playwright Anton Piatigorsky. In this new work, they explore the heart, mind and soul of friendship, an obsession with Moby Dick and the drama of collaboration. Their previous award-winning productions include *Easy Lenny Lazmon* and *The Great Western Ascension* and *The Kabbalistic Psychoanalysis of Adam R. Tzaddik*. Later this spring, Abraham will direct a workshop production of Daniel Brooks' *The Eco Show* in Toronto.

Chris Abraham is the founding Artistic Director for Go Chicken Go and was the co-founder and Associate Artistic Director of Bill Glassco's Montreal Young Company. He has been nominated for and won theatre awards across the country. In 2002, Abraham received the prestigious **Elinore and Lou Siminovitch Protégé Award**, for directors. His first film, based on the award-winning play *I, Claudia*, was premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival and won him a **Gemini Award for Outstanding Direction**.

Abraham is also on the faculty of the National Theatre School of Canada where he teaches in the directing program. Some of his acclaimed productions include *I, Claudia* by Kristen Thomson; *BOXHEAD* by Darren O'Donnell; *Easy Lenny Lazmon and the Great Western Ascension* and *The Kabbalistic Psychoanalysis of Adam R. Tzaddik* by Anton Piatigorsky; *Lenz* by Georg Buchner; and *Kaspar* by Peter Handke.