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UPDATES ANNOUNCED FOR CROW'S THEATRE / N.T.S. DIRECTORS' SHOWCASE & EXCHANGE

INCLUDING: 3 READINGS OF CARYL CHURCHILL'S NEW PLAY *SEVEN JEWISH CHILDREN: A PLAY FOR GAZA*,
EXPANDED PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE, A NEW VENUE, AND MORE PANELISTS ADDED TO THE DIRECTORS'
EXCHANGE PANEL

In partnership with the **National Theatre School of Canada (NTS)**, **Crow's Theatre** is pleased to announce new details of the **NTS Directors' Showcase** in Toronto **May 15 – 17, 2009**, which includes **The Directors' Exchange** (May 16) and staged readings of Caryl Churchill's short piece ***Seven Jewish Children: A Play for Gaza*** following performances of Churchill's play ***Far Away*** (May 15 – 17, Theatre Passe Muraille Backspace).

Crow's Theatre is also excited to announce the addition of several new panelists to May 16th's **Directors' Exchange**. Native Earth Artistic Director **Yvette Nolan**, Artistic Fraud AD **Jillian Keiley**, and Shaw Festival AD **Jackie Maxwell** will join Peter Hinton, Matthew Jocelyn, Daniel Brooks and others in a discussion of artistic leadership, director training and the state of the art in Canada.

The weekend also features an expanded performance schedule of work by graduating NTS directors **Philip McKee**, **Vahid Rahbani** and **Anita Rochon**. There will also be a new venue added for **In the Solitude of Cotton Fields**, which will play in a hidden outdoor lot at 90 Lisgar Street, as well as a special preview performance of the Crow's Theatre production of **Eternal Hydra** on Sunday May 17th.

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

Joining this year's directing graduates, NTS alumnus **Rose Plotek** will direct a staged reading of ***Seven Jewish Children: A Play for Gaza***. This ten-minute drama is as unique in its immediacy as it is in its artful, poetic compression of an issue as complex as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Focusing on seven moments in Jewish history – from the Holocaust, via the first intifada, to the recent offensive in Gaza – as a group of adults discusses how they should explain these situations to an unseen child.

The Toronto production is presented by Crow's Theatre, with the endorsement of Independent Jewish Voices Toronto. The show features an ensemble cast of the city's most distinguished actors, including **Ann-Marie MacDonald**, **Rosemary Dunsmore**, **Trish Lindstrom**, **Diana Donnelly**, **Severn Thompson**, **Philip Riccio**, **Susanna Fournier**, **Jordi Mand**, **Jeff Meadows** and **R.H. Thomson**. Rose Plotek is currently directing the play's Canadian premiere in Montreal in association with the local chapter of Independent Jewish Voices, to be presented in English and French starting May 3.

The Toronto production will consist of three staged readings at Theatre Passe Muraille, following director **Philip McKee**'s production of Churchill's ***Far Away***. All performances are free of charge and a collection will be taken for Medical Aid for Palestinians. www.map-uk.org

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.

For details of new initiatives – including upcoming master classes with celebrated actor Tanja Jacobs and the recently announced 09/10 season – visit crowstheatre.com

MORE...

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Rose Plotek is a graduate of Concordia University's Theatre Major Program and the National Theatre School of Canada's Directing Program. Recent directing credits include: *Les Quatre Morts de Marie* (Glendon Theatre); *La Déposition* (Théâtre Misceo); *Chapel Arm* (Notable Acts); *Buddy* (SideMart Theatrical Grocery); *Drift* (NTSC); *My Zinc Bed* (NTSC); *Between Two Worlds*, an adaptation of S. Ansky's *The Dybbuk* (NTSC). She has directed a number of touring productions for Geordie Theatre in Montreal. Assistant directing credits include: *Festen* (Company Theatre); *East of Berlin* (Tarragon Theatre); *Top Girls* (Soulpepper); *The Clean House* (The Canadian Stage Company); *Insomnia* (Necessary Angel); *Cringeworthy* (Theatre Passe Muraille). Rose teaches in the Drama Studies Department at Glendon College.

PLEASE ADD TO YOUR LISTINGS / ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Directors' Exchange

Curated by Christian Barry

Moderated by Sarah Stanley

Panelists include Peter Hinton, Matthew Jocelyn, Daniel Brooks, Yvette Nolan, Richard Rose, Lise Ann Johnson, Jillian Keiley, Jackie Maxwell.

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

DATES: May 15 - 17
PRICE: Free
INFO / REGISTRATION: www.crowstheatre.com
TIMES / VENUES: *Far Away*
by Caryl Churchill
Directed by Philip McKee
Featuring Clare Coulter, Graeme Cuthbertson, Gemma James-Smith
May 15 – 17, 8:00pm.
Theatre Passe Muraille Backspace (16 Ryerson Ave)

In the Solitude of Cotton Fields
by Bernard-Marie Koltès
Directed by Anita Rochon
Featuring Steve Cumyn, Christian Paul.
May 15 – 17, 9:30pm.
90 Lisgar Street (outdoor venue)

Now he belongs to the ages (angels)
created & directed by Anita Rochon
Featuring Caroline Laurin-Baucage, Anita Rochon
May 15 - 16, 6:00pm & 6:45pm; May 17, 4:00pm & 4:45pm.
The Theatre Centre (1087 Queen St W)

Seven Jewish Children: A Play for Gaza
by Caryl Churchill
Directed by Rose Plotek
Featuring Rosemary Dunsmore, Ann-Marie MacDonald, Trish Lindstrom, Diana Donnelly, Severn Thompson, Philip Riccio, Susanna Fournier, Jordi Mand, Jeff Meadows & R.H. Thomson
May 15 – 17, 9:00pm.
Theatre Passe Muraille Backspace (16 Ryerson Ave)