



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 3 - 14, 2012

MONTREAL, November 24, 2011

**Wildside Fever!**

The **Biggest Ever** | **Nine companies** | **two theatres and Gallery** | **24 performers** | **43 performances** | **Hottest 11 days of Winter**

Centaur Theatre is proud to mark the 15th anniversary of its Wildside Theatre Festival with a spectacular line-up that breaches theatrical boundaries and breaks new ground. Performed by both seasoned and emerging talent, the avant-garde works range from slapstick comedy to the surreal. Co-curated by Centaur Artistic and Executive Director, Roy Surette, and writer and performer Johanna Nutter, this exciting edition of the festival includes the winner of Centaur's Best of the Fringe Award, **Blink Blink Blink**; the North-American, English-language premiere of **Bliss**; and **Bifurcate Me**, Wildside's first bilingual production.

Hibernation is not an option, come out and see both award-winning and new-to-the-world productions. Exciting artists and vibrant theatre-goers will unite at Centaur's Wildside this January. Affordable individual tickets and the extra savings on the 4-PLAY SUPERPASS mean sell-out performances. **TICKETS NOW ON SALE**

**Centaur Theatre provides companies with a guarantee of \$1000 and seventy-five percent of ticket revenue.**

### **A Thousand Paper Cranes: The Weapons of Peace**

PRESENTED BY: Geordie Productions | CREATED BY: Micheline Chevrier & Paula Wing | WRITTEN BY: Paula Wing  
DIRECTED BY: Micheline Chevrier | STARRING: Cassandre Mentor, Jennifer Roberts, Nicholas (Koy) Santillo

Maximum impact, with measurable results. These were the tactics of the US army in 1945 in an aim to end the war with a significant event. The results were death, destruction and sickness from the A-Bomb that dropped from the sky. Sadako Sasaki was two years old when the ghastly nuclear weapon was dropped near her home in Hiroshima, Japan. She died 10 years later from radiation-induced leukemia. Her fight to survive and stay positive in the face of her illness has made her a symbol of peace and hope throughout the world.

*"Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding." - Albert Einstein*

### **Bifurcate Me**

PRESENTED BY: Theatre 4.669 | CREATED BY: Nathaly Charrette, Julie Legal, Andy Massingham and Kevin Orr  
DIRECTED BY: Kevin Orr | STARRING: Nathaly Charrette and Andy Massingham

A scientist has hired two people to determine why humans fall down. Set in a lab at the Douglas Hospital in September 1972, *Bifurcate Me* is a theatrical drug trial that fuses chaos theory, a dash of sports history, over 235 falls, and the intimate narrative of two human guinea pigs trying to navigate the landscape between discomfort and pain. The play is hilarious, fabulously physical – and bilingual!

*"Intensely physical... part slapstick, part absurdist comedy... engaging, refreshing and surprisingly affirmative." - The Ottawa Citizen*

### **Blink Blink Blink**

**Centaur's Best of the Fringe 2011 Award** | **Runner up Just for Laughs Best Comedy**

PRESENTED BY: Kirsten Rasmussen Productions | CREATED BY: Kirsten Rasmussen | STARRING: Kirsten Rasmussen

*Blink Blink Blink* is an award-winning, tragic comedy written and performed by Kirsten Rasmussen. The play tells the story of motivational speaker, Sara Tonin, and a scared little bunny named Benjamin. Sara wants to experience the success and fearless approach to life that she preaches in her books, and Benjamin wants to become a courageous rabbit like his heroic father. Both are so blinded by their goals that they lose sight of themselves and collide head-on with each other.

*"Rasmussen's timing is unreal. [Her] star power is mind-blowing." - Charlebois Post*

### **Bliss**

**English-language North American Premiere** | **Summerworks CanStage Award for Best Direction**

PRESENTED BY: Candles are for Burning | WRITTEN BY: Olivier Choinière | TRANSLATED BY: Caryl Churchill |  
DIRECTED BY: Steven McCarthy | STARRING: Delphine Bienvenu, Jean-Robert Bourdage, Trent Parady, France Rolland

Olivier Choinière's dark and surreal masterpiece explores our insatiable appetite for celebrity. Who is Celine Dion? What is Wal-Mart? And who is that girl kept prisoner in her room? An Oracle appears and gives us the answer by allowing us to hold Heaven in one hand and Hell in the other.

*"Outstanding direction, production, design, ensemble" - Now Magazine*

### **Countries Shaped Like Stars**

**Prix Rideau Award for Outstanding New Creation**

PRESENTED BY: Mi Casa Theatre (Ottawa) | CREATED & PERFORMED BY: Emily Pearlman and Nicolas Di Gaetano |  
DIRECTED BY: Patrick Gauthier

The story of Gwendolyn Magnificent and Bartholomew Spectacular starts with demanding dragon fruits and ends with heartache whispered into the ears of birds and constellations. With water glasses, whirly-winds and mandolin, they create the sounds and images of a landscape forever altered by regret. Part storytelling, part concert, this is a tale of love heard best through a tin-can telephone.

*"To miss a show so indelible, enchanting and inventive would be tragic." - Alibi Magazine, Albuquerque NM*

**Dick Powell's "In the Mood for Jazz"**

PRESENTED BY: SideMart Theatrical Grocery | CREATED BY: Patrick Costello and Graham Cuthbertson | STARRING: Dick Powell, Laura Thornton, Holly Houston Vanderbilt III and the Buck Wheaton Trio

Dick Powell returns to the stage after a hiatus that lasted 22 years plus a day! The man from the famed Pacific City Wolf Pack will sing some of his favourite hits in a one-night-only-special-appearance! A brief introduction will be made by noted Jazz historian, Holly Houston Vanderbilt III, and the guest of honour is Dick's ex-wife, the beautiful and talented Laura Thornton. Dick is backed by the hippest five-piece jazz band around: The Buck Wheaton Trio!

'Longest Date Song' *The Seasons of Arkadelphia Part 2: Winter and Summer and Spring* (FOURFOUR Magazine Writers Poll).

**Queen of Hearts**

PRESENTED BY: Les Saints | WRITTEN BY: Manon Beaudoin | DIRECTED BY: Moira Wylie | STARRING: Lois Anderson and Manon Beaudoin

*Queen of Hearts* is set in a psychiatric hospital in an evacuated town that is under constant bombing. Two women are stuck in one of the hospital wings: a nurse and a patient who suffers from delusions. At the beginning of the story, the nurse is wounded by a fork that flies into her heart. As she gets weaker, she is gradually seduced by the patient's illusionary world.

This black comedy combines animation, soundscape and two women on the edge.

**Teaching Hamlet**

PRESENTED BY: Repercussion Theatre | WRITTEN BY: Keir Cutler | DIRECTED BY: Paul Hopkins | STARRING: Brett Watson, Keir Cutler

*Teaching Hamlet* premiered at the 2011 Montreal Fringe Festival to rave reviews. Brilliantly directed by Repercussion Theatre's artistic director, Paul Hopkins, the play is a fast-paced, hilarious battle of wits between a Shakespearean actor (Brett Watson) and an Oxford intellectual (Keir Cutler). *Teaching Hamlet* is the latest play by Keir Cutler, the multiple-award-winning playwright of *Teaching Shakespeare*.

*"What ensues is an intelligent, hilarious word wrangle over authorship of the [Shakespeare] plays, as the worlds of theatre and academia are cleverly juxtaposed."* - Pat Donnelly, Montreal Gazette

**Edgar Allan Poe's: The Pit and the Pendulum**

***A World Premiere***

PRESENTED BY: Second Body Productions | ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE BY: Alex McCooeye | DIRECTED BY: Greg Kramer and Alex Johnson STARRING: Leni Parker and Alex McCooeye

In a medical chamber of a war-torn territory, an unrelenting army official prods a man to recall his trial and confinement at the hands of a mutual foe during "The Inquisition". As he reveals his plight, both are forced to explore their own inner turmoil as they face "a death of more than customary bitterness".

*"Words have no power to impress the mind without the exquisite horror of their reality."* - Edgar Allan Poe

**MEDIA CALL : TUESDAY JANUARY 3, 2011 at 12:30 PM**

**January 3-14, 2012**

monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday	sunday
2	3 7 <sup>pm</sup> Blink 9 <sup>pm</sup> Hamlet	4 7 <sup>pm</sup> Countries 8:15 <sup>pm</sup> Queen 9:30 <sup>pm</sup> The Pit	5 7 <sup>pm</sup> Blink 7:30 <sup>pm</sup> Queen 9 <sup>pm</sup> Bifurcate 10 <sup>pm</sup> Jazz	6 7 <sup>pm</sup> Hamlet 7:30 <sup>pm</sup> Queen 9 <sup>pm</sup> Countries 9:30 <sup>pm</sup> Jazz	7 3 <sup>pm</sup> Hamlet 3:30 <sup>pm</sup> Queen 7 <sup>pm</sup> The Pit 7:30 <sup>pm</sup> Queen 9 <sup>pm</sup> Blink 9:30 <sup>pm</sup> Jazz	8 3 <sup>pm</sup> Bifurcate 7 <sup>pm</sup> Countries 9 <sup>pm</sup> The Pit
9	10 7 <sup>pm</sup> Hamlet 7:30 <sup>pm</sup> Bliss 9 <sup>pm</sup> Bifurcate	11 7 <sup>pm</sup> The Pit 7:30 <sup>pm</sup> Bliss 9 <sup>pm</sup> Blink	12 7 <sup>pm</sup> Bifurcate 7:30 <sup>pm</sup> Bliss 9 <sup>pm</sup> Countries 9:30 <sup>pm</sup> Jazz	13 1 <sup>pm</sup> Paper Cranes 7 <sup>pm</sup> Blink 7:30 <sup>pm</sup> Bliss 9 <sup>pm</sup> Hamlet 9:30 <sup>pm</sup> Jazz	14 1 <sup>pm</sup> Paper Cranes 3 <sup>pm</sup> Countries 7 <sup>pm</sup> Bifurcate 7:30 <sup>pm</sup> Bliss 9 <sup>pm</sup> The Pit 9:30 <sup>pm</sup> Jazz	15

**TICKETS** 4 SHOW SUPERPASS: \$50 regular \$40 subscribers/students/under30/seniors  
SINGLE SHOW TICKETS: \$15 regular \$12.50 subscribers/students/under30/seniors

**INFORMATION:**  
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