

Theatre Projects Manitoba

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
WINNIPEG, AUGUST 12, 2008

THEATRE PROJECTS MANITOBA ANNOUNCES 2008/2009 SEASON

Theatre Projects Manitoba is celebrating their 19th year by giving audiences a season packed with seductive new works that will make hearts and heads spin. First up is the English Premiere of celebrated Manitoba playwright Marc Prescott's *Encore* – a decidedly unsentimental but hilarious romantic comedy inspired by Milan Kundera's *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*.

Spring will bring revolutions! Industrial and Sexual revolutions spark and bubble in *The Age of Arousal* by Linda Griffiths – one of Canada's most acclaimed and innovative playwrights. Come May, we'll top it off with more exciting new work in progress! Our popular series *In the Chamber* returns for another long weekend of thought provoking theatre from some of Winnipeg's most fearless artists.



Encore by Marc Prescott

Translation by Marc Prescott

Directed by Ann Hodges

October 30 – November 9th, 2008

Rachel Browne Theatre – 211 Bannatyne at Main Street

“Human time does not turn in a circle; it runs ahead in a straight line. That is why man cannot be happy: happiness is the longing for repetition.”- Milan Kundera

A man walks into a bar...he sees a beautiful woman sitting alone at a table and the chase is on! Given just ten minutes to win her over, Sir and Ma'am engage in a dialogue that will forever shape their lives. *Encore!* From the first blush of love, to old-age we witness these lovers as every anniversary they perform the romantic scenario that first drew them together. Through their script where words remain static even as their meanings change, this couple's anniversaries are cause to celebrate and suffer all the extremes of human existence.

Encore is a thoroughly theatrical and refreshingly unsentimental romantic comedy!

English translation Premiere!

Theatre Projects has long been known for presenting new Manitoba works... in English. We'd heard about the Franco-Manitoban *Enfant Terrible* (terrible infant) Marc Prescott but couldn't understand his plays due to our unilingual minds. But with this whole other exciting theatre scene going on right under our noses, like many 19 year olds we got curious...so we crossed the river. We are still contemplating a return to French class but for now we've convinced him to give us the first ever translation of his beloved *Encore!*

About the Playwright:

Born and raised in Manitoba, Prescott is a graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada in French playwriting. He is a playwright, actor, director, translator, designer, humour columnist and screenwriter. His plays have been produced in French throughout Canada and abroad and his plays “*Poissons*” and “*L’Année du Big-Mac*” won the *Masque* for “Best Canadian Play” in 2002 and 2007 respectively. In 2006, Marc received the Prize of Excellence for his contribution to French-language theatre in Canada.



Age of Arousal by Linda Griffiths

Wildly inspired by *The Odd Women* by George Gissing

Directed by Ardith Boxall

March 19th – 29th, 2009

Previews: March 16th, 17th and 18th

Rachel Browne Theatre – 211 Bannatyne at Main Street

“A deftly poetic and profoundly witty play...enjoy one of this country’s best playwrights at the top of her game.” -The Toronto Star

It's 1885 in London. Due to a population imbalance there are 500,000 more women than men. With the invention of the typewriter on their side, non-married women are seeking financial independence and the vote. Mary Barfoot, a once militant suffragist runs a school for female typists with her love, Rhoda. When Rhoda literally collides with an old acquaintance down on her luck she invites her and her two sisters to attend the school. But at least one of the new pupils is more interested in sexual revolution than Remington typewriters. Enter Mary's deliciously naughty cousin Everard! While some of the women are fainting and dabbing foreheads with tissues, all the characters find their sexual and political ideas turned upside down in this sexy ensemble piece.

About the Playwright:

As playwright and actor, Griffiths is the winner of five Dora Mavor Moore awards, a Gemini award, two Chalmer’s awards, the Quizanne International Festival Award for *Jessica*, and Los Angeles’ A.G.A. Award for her performance in John Sayles’ film *Liana*. She has twice been nominated for the Governor General’s Award for playwrighting (*The Darling Family*, 1992 *Alien Creature*, 2000). Best known for writing (in collaboration with Paul Thompson) and performing a triple role in the play *Maggie & Pierre* in which she played Pierre Trudeau, Margaret Trudeau and a journalist called Henry. *Maggie & Pierre* toured Canada, played the Royal Alexandra Theatre and Off-Broadway. Since then, she has continued to create unique, highly theatrical plays that are magical, literate and popular.



In The Chamber 2009

Writer/ Performers...TBA

Directed by Ardith Boxall

May 7-9th 2009

Gas Station Theatre, 445 River Avenue

*bitingly funny and hauntingly sweet ... a decidedly well-played and thoughtfully
crafted pas de deux.*

— *Barb Stewart, Uptown*

Every year Theatre Projects presents this exciting series of works in progress by writer performers. Fear not– these are not your average first drafts (see above quote). We select artists sizzling with ideas. We provide the electricity and if they short out we flip the breaker. Some call this a safety net, but there is nothing safe about this series.

We ask them for a visceral reaction to catapult their work. Past springboards include horrors, terrors, morbid fascination...and hillbillies. This year's artists are dying to get something off their chests – and we are just the company to find out what it is..

For more information about Theatre Projects Manitoba and our upcoming season contact:

Ardith Boxall, Artistic Director

Rea Kavanagh, Artistic Associate

**Theatre Projects Manitoba
204-245 McDermot Avenue
Wpg. MB R3B 0S6
989-2400
www.theatreprojectsmanitoba.ca**