

## MEDIA RELEASE

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## Magnetic North Theatre Festival Celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Calgary Day-by-Day Schedule

**Calgary, AB** – The 10th annual **Magnetic North Theatre Festival**, *Canada's National Festival of Contemporary Canadian Theatre in English* premieres **June 13 to 23, 2012** at **nine venues** throughout Calgary, and will feature an extraordinary collection of some of the boldest and brightest theatre artists from across the country. Alongside eight mainstage plays, festival-goers will enjoy ancillary events including *Magnetic Encounters*, *Compass Points* and the *Industry Series*. Tickets for the festival are on sale now from Host Partner, **EPCOR CENTRE for the Performing Arts** box office in person, online at [www.magneticnorthfestival.ca](http://www.magneticnorthfestival.ca), [www.epcorcentre.org](http://www.epcorcentre.org) or by phoning **403-294-9494**.

The schedule of **mainstage celebration performances** are as follows:

### **Oil & Water** – Artistic Fraud (St. John's, Newfoundland)

Opening the festival is **Oil & Water**, by Newfoundland's award-winning **Artistic Fraud**. **Oil & Water** is the theatrical retelling of the incredible true story of Lanier Phillips. Shipwrecked aboard the US Truxton in 1942, Mr. Phillips was the only African-American survivor. What happened to this son of the racially segregated south at the hands of the residents of the nearby town of St. Lawrence, NL forever altered his world. Featuring an a cappella score blending Newfoundland folk tradition with African-American gospel.

June 13	7pm	\$45
June 14	7pm	\$45
June 15	7pm	\$45
June 16	2pm & 7pm	\$45

### **Vertigo Playhouse**

### **Artist Encounters** - A TOE-TAPPING MUSICAL ENCOUNTER

This extraordinary concert features a mix of jazz, soul, gospel, and traditional music, with a few show tunes thrown in for good measure, performed by the cast and creators of **Oil & Water**. Artistic Fraud's Jillian Keiley and Robert Chafe, together with Magnetic North's Ann Connors, will be your hosts for an evening filled with stories, songs, and a whole lot of fun.

June 15 9:30pm Free

### **Cathedral Church of the Redeemer**

In partnership with Calgary's ProArts Society

### **Ignorance** – The Old Trout Puppet Workshop (Calgary, Alberta)

A favourite of the Magnetic North Festival is Calgary's **Old Trout Puppet Workshop** with their newest creation, **Ignorance**, a puppet documentary about the evolution of happiness. Happiness - where did it come from and where did it go? As a current society, we've got microwaves, airplanes, and a nagging sense of dissatisfaction – but our prehistoric ancestors, stamping their grubby feet by firelight in triumph over the corpse of a mastodon, might just have felt more at home in the world. With much grunting and gnawing on bones, the **Old Trouts** explain where we went wrong, and how we might find our way once again.

June 14	9pm	\$45
June 15	7pm	\$45
June 16	7pm	\$45
June 17	2pm & 7pm	\$45

### **Martha Cohen Theatre**

**Blue Box – Nightswimming (Toronto, Ontario) in association with Newworld Theatre (Vancouver, British Columbia)**

Vancouver based **Carmen Aguirre**, winner of this year's CBC's Canada Reads, brings her one-woman show to the festival.

**Blue Box** investigates Aguirre's remarkable life as an underground revolutionary in Chile. It's a story of terror, romance, and abandon that takes us from the dangerous mountain passes of Chile to the perilous roller coasters of Hollywood; from an ardent love affair with a TV star, to a passionate love for a revolution that strove to change an entire nation.

June 14	9pm	\$38
June 15	9pm	\$38
June 16	4pm	\$38
June 17	7pm	\$38

**Vertigo Studio**

**Artist Encounters - A REVOLUTIONARY ENCOUNTER**

The daring and courageous Carmen Aguirre reads from her first memoir **Something Fierce – Memoirs of a Revolutionary Daughter**, the winner of CBC's Canada Reads. Carmen the playwright and performer of **Blue Box** and one of Canada's most talented theatre artists, will answer all your queries and share some personal anecdotes.

June 15 11am Free

**Arts Learning Centre - EPCOR CENTRE for the Performing Arts**

**ONE/UN – Orange Noyée, in co-production with Théâtre La Chapelle, and Théâtre Du Grand Jour (Montréal, Québec)**

Translated in partnership with Magnetic North Theatre Festival and Playwrights' Workshop Montreal

Magnetic North is thrilled to introduce exciting new playwright **Mani Soleymanlou** by co-commissioning the English translation of his French language play **ONE/UN**. In this autobiographical script, **Mani Soleymanlou** traces his own journey from his birthplace in Iran to his current residence in Montreal. This journey leads the author to question the authenticity of his own Persian origins, which seem small and insignificant compared to the Persian youth currently living in Iran, who must fight daily for their liberty, their freedom of speech, their country, and their lives.

June 16	9pm	\$25
June 17	9pm	\$25
June 18	7pm	\$25
June 19	7pm	\$25
June 20	9pm	\$25
June 21 (In French)	9pm	\$25

**Lunchbox Theatre**

**White Rabbit, Red Rabbit – Magnetic North Theatre Festival (Ottawa, Ontario) in association with Volcano Theatre (Toronto, Ontario), Necessary Angel Theatre Company (Toronto, Ontario) and Aurora Nova Productions (Berlin, Germany)**

30-year-old Iranian playwright **Nassim Soleimanpour's** arresting and allegorical work, **White Rabbit, Red Rabbit**, dissects the experience of a whole generation in a wild, utterly original play. Soleimanpour turns his isolation to his own advantage with this truly experiential piece. Each night an acclaimed Canadian actor is invited to the stage, and handed a sealed envelope containing a script the actor has never before seen or read. Featuring; **Daniel MacIvor, Rebecca Northan, Sheldon Elter** and

**Denise Clarke.**

June 17	9pm	\$45
June 18	7pm	\$45
June 19	9pm	\$45
June 20	9pm	\$45

**Big Secret Theatre**

**Night – Human Cargo (Toronto, Ontario)**

In **Night**, the lives of Daniella, a Toronto anthropologist and Piuyuq, a 16-year-old Inuk girl intersect powerfully during 24 hours of darkness in Pond Inlet, Nunavut. A cross-cultural theatre creation by **Human Cargo, Night** is a poetic and dramatic exploration of the clash between Inuit and colonial culture. As the two cross paths, their lives are changed forever. **Night** is presented in Inuktitut and English, with English subtitles, likely the first time both languages have been used so extensively in a professional play.

June 18	9pm	\$45
June 19	7pm	\$45
June 20	7pm	\$45
June 21	7pm	\$45
June 22	7pm	\$45

**Vertigo Playhouse**

### **Artist Encounters - A CLOSE ENCOUNTER WITH CHRISTOPHER MORRIS**

Join Alberta Theatre Projects Artistic Director Vanessa Porteous in conversation with Christopher Morris, winner of the 2012 John Hirsch Award, Artistic Director of Toronto's Human Cargo and creator and director of **Night**. Christopher will speak about his unique process of creation and development both with this year's presentation of **Night** and with his upcoming project **Petawawa**; an investigation into the lives of serviceman and woman and the families who support them during times of crisis.

June 21 1pm Free

**Arts Learning Centre - EPCOR CENTRE for the Performing Arts**

### **Hamlet (Solo) – Hope and Hell Theatre Company (Toronto, Ontario)**

Since its premiere in 2006, **Hamlet (Solo)** has toured internationally to critical acclaim. This exciting one-man version of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, performed by accomplished and award-winning performer **Raoul Bhaneja**, has him playing seventeen characters. This thrilling adaptation focuses on the three most essential elements of theatre: The Actor, The Text and The Audience. This production is "bare bones" in its presentation, but complex in its telling.

June 19 7pm \$38

June 20 7pm \$38

June 21 7pm \$38

June 22 4pm \$38

**Martha Cohen Theatre**

### **Artist Encounters - AN ENCOUNTER WITH A MAVERICK SPIRIT**

*Hamlet (SOLO)* – the documentary chronicles the six-year journey of Raoul Bhaneja as he mounts an exciting one-man version of Shakespeare's *HAMLET*. An in-depth look at a maverick spirit driven to accomplish a challenging goal and the personal and artistic costs to pursuing it. The film includes a number of notable Hamlets who provide advice and perspective including Christopher Plummer, Colm Feore, Paul Gross, Kenneth Welsh, Brent Carver, Mark Rylance and the late John Neville.

June 23 4pm Free

**Lunchbox Theatre**

### **Paper Series – Cahoots Theatre Company (Toronto, Ontario) Sponsored by Calgary Herald.**

Toronto's **Cahoots Theatre Company** brings **paper SERIES** to the festival. A piece of paper can shape your life. It can record your history or build something new. **paper SERIES** is a collection of six short plays exploring how we use paper to create, amuse, define and communicate. It is, at times, quiet and reflective, raucous and violent...changing tone with every fold.

June 19 9pm \$38

June 20 7pm \$38

June 21 9pm \$38

June 22 9pm \$38

June 23 2pm \$38

**Vertigo Studio**

### **Rick Mercer: A Nation Worth Ranting About**

For one night only Magnetic North proudly brings to Calgary **Rick Mercer** with his new keynote **A Nation Worth Ranting About**. Unashamedly proud, fiercely skeptical, and endlessly entertaining, Mercer knows Canada is a country worth laughing about, cheering about, and occasionally getting angry about. He reveals hypocrisy at the highest reaches of power. And he draws our attention to hardworking, unsung heroes. Mercer's unrivaled genius is his ability to make you laugh at, question, think about, and, most of all, appreciate this glorious country we all share.

June 22 8pm Start at \$25 | Show and Reception \$150

**Jack Singer Concert Hall**

**Magnetic North Theatre Festival** goes beyond presenting the best of Canadian coteremporary theatre by hosting ancillary events designed to build and strengthen the Canadian theatre community. These events will engage and involve the local community, as well as theatre students and professionals from across Canada.

**Magnetic Encounters** are designed to deepen the relationship between the festival artists and audiences in the host community. **Magnetic Encounters** takes the performers outside the theatres for free, public events that include a concert, readings, civic engagement and in-depth discussions around practice and creativity. As part of **Magnetic Encounters**, Magnetic North is also proud to partner with the Calgary-based theatre company **Downstage** to co-produce the **Uprising Festival**; showcasing three dynamic Calgary productions; **In the Wake** by the Downstage Creation Ensemble (Downstage), **Marg Szkaluba (Pissy's Wife)** by Ron Chambers, featuring Sharon Pollock (Verb Theatre) and **Raunch** by Alice Nelson and Jacqueline Russell.

The schedule for **Uprising Festival** is as follows:

**Raunch – Alice Nelson and Jacqueline Russell**

Inspired by Ariel Levy's *Female Chauvinistic Pigs*, **RAUNCH** is a hilarious and provocative dissection of "raunch culture", the hyper-sexualization that society and media has inflicted on women's progress. From Paris Hilton to Bratz dolls, even young girls are being weaned on sex in the age of "raunch". Through satire, clowning, puppets, projections and physical comedy, **RAUNCH** questions the "new-feminist" movement. Does sexual power equal female empowerment or by exploiting our sexuality, are women really just falling further behind?

June 14	10pm	\$20
June 18	4pm	\$20
June 22	2pm	\$20

**EPCOR Centre's Motel**

**In the Wake – Downstage (Calgary, Alberta)**

**In the Wake** is a highly-physical, Betty Mitchell Award-winning show that takes place entirely atop a 6' x 3' illuminated platform and is accompanied by a live musical score. In this darkly-comic tale, an oxygen-deprived dead zone is devastating the marine life off Canada's west coast, and fisherman Jack Travail is feeling the impact. Frustrated by ineffectual union reps and stymied by government inaction, Jack is desperate for a way to restore his livelihood. Enter Charlotte Wallace, a scientist whose unconventional research has the potential to bring life back to the ocean. When her discovery goes public, she finds herself enmeshed in Jack's struggle and the pair must decide if radical problems demand radical action.

June 15	9pm	\$20
June 16	9pm	\$20
June 17	3pm	\$20

**EPCOR Centre's Motel**

**Marg Szkaluba (Pissy's Wife) – Verb Theatre (Calgary, Alberta)**

Award-nominated performance to tell, and sing, one hell of a tale. While playing a country blues set at a local honkytonk bar, Marg tells the crowd her vivid and wryly funny story. This self-proclaimed 'hard woman' tells of her abusive marriage to Pissy and her escape to a surprising new life as a country blues singer. A bitterly funny night of songs and stories told by one of Canada's most loved and respected theatre personalities, described by the Calgary Herald as "vintage country punk."

June 19	1pm	\$20
June 20	7pm	\$20
June 21	7pm	\$20

**EPCOR Centre's Motel**

**Compass Points** is a gathering of post-secondary students and emerging artists from across the country which helps them navigate the Festival and offers a first-hand introduction to the professional theatre industry. Organized in consultation with students from the **University of Calgary** and emerging artists from across the nation, the weeklong event consists of workshops, panel discussions, and social events, all designed to inspire participants to chart their own course in Canadian theatre.

**Ghost River Theatre** will host Magnetic North Theatre Festival's **Industry Series**. Working closely with the Festival, Calgary's **Ghost River Theatre** will provide four days of opportunities for theatre artists from across Canada to spark conversations about the current state and future of the industry. **Industry Series** will include professional symposiums dedicated to building networks and sharing knowledge including a keynote event with Calgary Mayor **Naheed Nenshi** discussing culture and civic life.

Tickets for Magnetic North are **on sale now** from our Host Partner, **EPCOR CENTRE for the Performing Arts** box office in person, online at [www.magneticnorthfestival.ca](http://www.magneticnorthfestival.ca) or [www.epcorcentre.org](http://www.epcorcentre.org) or by phoning **403-294-9494**.

The Magnetic North Theatre Festival is produced by the Canadian Theatre Festival Society and co-presented by the National Arts Centre English Theatre.

The **Magnetic North Theatre Festival** is an annual Canadian cultural theatre event, showcasing works by Canadian theatre artists from across the country. Magnetic North features some of the most exciting productions of theatre performed in English to tour Canada, and promotes the diversity and quality of Canadian theatre to Canadians. Established in 2002, the Magnetic North Theatre Festival alternates between Ottawa and a different Canadian city each year. In addition to live theatre, the festival is a forum for Canadian theatre professionals to market their work to national and international presenters and touring venues. To date, the festival has travelled from Ottawa to Edmonton, St. John's, Vancouver and Kitchener-Waterloo.

[www.magneticnorthfestival.ca](http://www.magneticnorthfestival.ca)

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