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Théâtre français de Toronto (TfT) Announces its 43rd Season: A Season of Great Classics!

Toronto, March 26, 2010 – Last night, Guy Mignault, artistic director of Théâtre français de Toronto (TfT), unveiled the company's new 2010/11 season line-up. The season launch took place at 21 College Street, home to TfT's Centre for Creation. The launch was followed by the official opening of the subscription campaign and the celebration of World Theatre Day.

The 2010/11 season is made up of:

- 4 shows for General Audiences;
- 2 shows for adolescents (Nouvelles Générations) ;
- 2 shows for children (Jeune Public).

The shows will be presented at the Berkeley Street Theatre.

Given their success over the last five years, TfT will once again offer performances with English surtitles, which, for the first time, will make up **50% of the performances for General Audiences**. All four General Audiences productions will include some performances with surtitles.

Mercredis Bavardeurs (post-show talks with the actors) are now extended to all Wednesday night performances.

TfT has further simplified its subscription packages, offering more flexibility and benefits to subscribers. Before May 1, 2010, subscription prices range from \$75 to \$154, depending on the package. TfT encourages customers to save money (up to 40% of single-ticket prices) by avoiding the HST (Harmonized Sales Tax) on every subscription purchased before May 1, 2010.

To spotlight its 43rd anniversary, TfT is pleased to produce three new pieces:

Les Fridolinades by Gratien Gélinas. Following *Les Médecins de Molière* in 2009/10, this new work is the second of five co-production projects with Théâtre La Catapulte of Ottawa; directed by Perry Schneiderman, it will also go on tour throughout Ontario

À toi, pour toujours, ta Marie-Lou (Forever Yours, Mary Lou) by Michel Tremblay. TfT celebrates in its own style 40 years of this great Tremblay classic

L'École des femmes (The School for Wives), Molière's first great classical comedy. From the great Molière, with eight actors, directed by Diana Leblanc.



THÉÂTRE FRANÇAIS DE TORONTO

DIRECTION ARTISTIQUE GUY MIGNAULT

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www.theatrefrancais.com

OUTSTANDING! During its 2010-2011 season TfT will tour across Canada, from East to West, with three productions:

***Une maison face au nord (A North-Facing House)* by Jean-Rock Gaudreault**

The play will tour 31 cities in New Brunswick, Québec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, British-Columbia and Alberta. A co-production of Théâtre français de Toronto, Théâtre La Rubrique, and Théâtre du Tandem

***Les Médecins de Molière (Molière's Doctors)* by Jean-Baptiste Poquelin, a.k.a. Molière**

The play will tour 14 cities in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Ontario and Saskatchewan. A co-production of Théâtre français de Toronto and Théâtre La Catapulte (Ottawa)

***Les Fridolinades* by Gratien Gélinas**

The play will tour 6 cities in Ontario
A co-production of Théâtre français de Toronto and Théâtre La Catapulte (Ottawa).

For tour dates and details visit www.theatrefrancais.com

To learn more about TfT's 2010/11 season, visit www.theatrefrancais.com or call 416.534.6604.

Offices and Centre for Creation

21 College Street, Suite 610
TORONTO, ON M5G 2B3
Telephone: 416.534.7303
Fax: 416.534.9087

Performances

Our shows take place at the Berkeley Street Theatre
26 Berkeley Street
(One block south of Front, one block west of Parliament)
Box Office: 416.534.6604 – 1.800.819.4981



2010/11 Season Line-up

GENERAL AUDIENCES

LES FRIDOLINADES

by GRATIEN GÉLINAS

From October 27 to November 7, 2010

Performances with English Surtitles on October 27, 28, 29 and November 3, 5 (8pm)
and November 6 (3:30pm)

A THÉÂTRE FRANÇAIS DE TORONTO AND THÉÂTRE LA CATAPULTE (OTTAWA) CO-PRODUCTION

Fridolin: Beloved Child Of The Masses

DRESSED IN HIS TRI-COLOUR HOCKEY SWEATER, cap askew, Fridolin is an impish boy who says out loud what everybody else is thinking quietly. This enfant terrible draws a critical portrait of Canadian society with humour and insight. His mischievous and twinkling chronicles do more than bear critical witness to a transformation in Québec society: they speed it up. Gratién Gélinas, nicknamed "The Father of Québec Dramatic Art," created the character of Fridolin for radio in 1937, then for theatre the following year. *Les Fridolinades* immediately became revues or series of sketches, songs, parodies, and monologues on such varied topics as the second-class status of French-Canadians and World War II.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN GOES TO THE THEATRE

By LARRY TREMBLAY

From November 24 to 28, 2010

Performances with English Surtitles on November 24 and 26 (8pm) and November 27 (3:30pm)

A THÉÂTRE PÀP (MONTRÉAL) PRODUCTION

America Like You've Never Seen It Before

SIXTEENTH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, Abraham Lincoln died April 14, 1865, while attending the theatre. One of the actors assassinated him. Ever since, this incident has fascinated theatre people. It inspired Larry Tremblay to write *Abraham Lincoln va au théâtre* and offer a caustic meditation on America. With his tragicomic sense – full of coincidences, identity crises, and mythic characters – Larry Tremblay has written a piece in which a much-admired director hires two actors, Laurel and Hardy, and suggests that they re-enact Lincoln's assassination, reconstructing the chain of events of that infamous evening. A seemingly impossible task, but when it is learned that the assassination took place in a theatre, it takes on a whole other dimension. We witness American society being called into question, at once so beautiful and so ugly.

FOREVER YOURS, MARY LOU

By MICHEL TREMBLAY

From February 2 to 19, 2011

Performances with English surtitles on February 3, 4, 9, 11, 16 and 18 (8pm)
and February 12 and 19 (3 :30pm)

A THÉÂTRE FRANÇAIS DE TORONTO PRODUCTION



A Masterpiece Of Humanity

MARY LOU AND LÉOPOLD have been married for twenty years. They have two teenage daughters and a young son. They lead a very simple life, with low pay and little problems. But behind their numerous trivial worries stemming from a dull and monotonous daily life lurk more serious problems. Grudges, disappointments, hatred, borne from their inability to communicate. All this leads to a tragic death, which is relived ten years later, through the eyes of their two daughters who, in familiar surroundings, settle the score with each other and their past, each in their own way. This is without question one of Michel Tremblay's greatest works. All the characters are finely drawn, each having their reasons for acting in a way that drives them farther apart. This piece has moments of love and tenderness, and especially hope.

THE SCHOOL FOR WIVES

BY MOLIÈRE

From April 6 to 23, 2011

Performances with English surtitles on April 6, 7, 8, 13, 20 and 22 (8pm) and April 16 and 23 (3:30pm)

A THÉÂTRE FRANÇAIS DE TORONTO PRODUCTION

A Great Love Lesson

AT THE AGE OF FORTY, Molière made the biggest mistake of his life, and by doing so gave life to one of his best pieces. He married Armande Béjart, a young girl who would cheat on him and publicly insult him, just like Agnès, who in *L'École des femmes*, destroys the man who wants to make her his prisoner, forbidding her from the world, her thoughts, her feelings. Premiering on December 26, 1662, *L'École des femmes* can be considered the first great classical comedy. We learn that at the school of love, there are the gifted and the dunces. Love is a great teacher for those who are open to learning and a stern judge for those who think they know it all. In the art of love, innocence, youth, and women always get the top marks, while men fall off the honour roll.

NOUVELLES GÉNÉRATIONS

LES ZURBAINS 2010

(14 AND UP)

NOVEMBER 10, 2010

A THÉÂTRE LE CLOU (MONTRÉAL) PRODUCTION, IN COLLABORATION WITH THÉÂTRE FRANÇAIS DE TORONTO, THÉÂTRE JEUNESSE LES GROS BECS (QUÉBEC CITY), AND NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE FRENCH THEATRE (OTTAWA)

THE YOUNG GENERATION SPEAKS OUT

LES ZURBAINS 2010 OFFERS A NEW BATCH OF STORIES written by teens from Toronto, Montréal, Québec City, and Ottawa. Since 2004, the *Les Zurbains* project has allowed hundreds of young francophones to explore their creativity. From one year to the next, new talents emerge and powerful scripts see the light of day, some created in TfT's own space. These new works are then staged and performed by professional artists. In the 2010 crop, we find:

WOULD YOU RATHER by Cleo Beland of l'École Félix-Leclerc (MONTRÉAL)

POURRIE SALE by Alex Viens of l'École Marguerite-De Lajemmerais (MONTRÉAL)

LEVEL 18 by David Le Quéré of l'École secondaire de l'Île (GATINEAU)

SCOUT UN JOUR, SCOUT TOUJOURS by Alex Carignan of Collège Clarétain, Victoriaville (QUÉBEC CITY)

L'ATERRISSAGE by Caleb Guthrie of Upper Canada College (TORONTO)



CYRANO TAG

BY MARIE-THÉ MORIN, after *Cyrano de Bergerac* by Edmond Rostand

(12 AND UP)

MAY 4, 2011

A CIE VOX THÉÂTRE (OTTAWA) PRODUCTION, A TOUR MADE POSSIBLE THANKS TO THE SUPPORT OF THE CANADA COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS AND THE ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL

LOVE, LIES, AND RIVALRY

CYRANO DE BERGERAC, BY EDMOND ROSTAND, is revisited and retold in a new way by Marie-Thé Morin, who places this late 19th century classic in a contemporary setting, with reinvented language. Young woman seeks young man to love. She finds a handsome one, but he is stupid! Young man enlists the help of a bright guy, but he is ugly! Together, they form a handsome and bright hero. Together, they lie, but only to charm the beauty. A play where puppets, soundscape, and poetry flirt with acrobatics.

JEUNE PUBLIC

BAOBAB

BY HÉLÈNE DUCHARME

(AGES 4 TO 8)

NOVEMBER 20, 2010

A CO-PRODUCTION OF THÉÂTRE MOTUS (MONTRÉAL) AND LA TROUPE SÔ (MALI) WITH THE SUPPORT OF THÉÂTRE DE LA VILLE OR RESIDENTS' ACCOMMODATION AND THE COLLABORATION OF HAMADOUN KASSOGUÉ (MALI) AND ISMAÏLA MANGA (SENEGAL)

Welcome to Africa!

AN ANCIENT BAOBAB MILLENNIUM STANDS UP IN AN ENVIRONMENT OF SONGS, legends, and griots. Suddenly, an egg rolls down the trunk. Out pops a "child whose parent is the whole village." And so begins a courageous and symbolic quest to save the village from drought and witch-scarecrows. Shadow theatre, puppetry, musical instruments turning into strange animals, goddesses, or spirits, all contributing to a show where courage, cunning, and friendship open all paths for us!

THE MIGRATION OF INVISIBLE BIRDS

BY JEAN-ROCK GAUDREAU

(8 AND UP)

APRIL 30, 2011

A MATHIEU, FRANÇOIS ET LES AUTRES... (MONTRÉAL) PRODUCTION, CO-PRODUCED BY THÉÂTRE LES GENS D'EN BAS AND THÉÂTRE DU VIEUX-TERREBONNE, WITH THE COLLABORATION OF THÉÂTRE DE LA VILLE FOR RESIDENTS' ACCOMMODATION DURING DEVELOPMENT

MAKING HIS DREAMS COME TRUE

FRIENDSHIP SOMETIMES GIVES YOU WINGS. Sinbad, child stowaway aboard a ship, migrates with only his hopes and imagination as baggage. He is captured by Water Rat, a child charged with nabbing stowaways. But see how this meeting turns into friendship. Fascinated by each other, Water Rat and Sinbad find the strength to make their dreams come true ... at any cost! By learning about freedom, they touch the hearts of viewers of all ages.