

THEATRE



Festen: one of the decade's best plays

The best in theatre, 2000-09

BY CHRISTOPHER HOILE December 22, 2009 21:12

1. I, CLAUDIA (Tarragon, 2001)

Kristen Thomson's exquisite play used masks to tell of the pains of childhood and the value of imagination.

2. IN ON IT (2001) CUL-DE-SAC (2002) and A BEAUTIFUL VIEW (2006)

Daniel MacIvor's fascinating final three masterpieces for da da kamera before dissolving it to move on.

3. THE ADVENTURES OF A BLACK GIRL IN SEARCH OF GOD (Obsidian/Nightwood, 2002)

Djanet Sears' vital song-filled recovery of forgotten African-Canadian history in a wide-ranging tale of loss and renewal.

4. HALF LIFE (Tarragon, 2005)

John Mighton's masterful play about adults who tragically view their elderly parents as children.

5. A WHISTLE IN THE DARK (2005) and FESTEN (2008)

Two productions whose ferocious power heralded the Company Theatre as Toronto's most vibrant new theatre company.

6. THE LAST DAYS OF JUDAS ISCARIOT (Birdland Theatre, 2005 & 2009)

Outstanding performances from huge casts brought Stephen Adly Guirgis' all-encompassing intellectual satire to life.

7. WAGNER'S RING CYCLE (COC, 2006)

Two magnificent achievements in one — Canada's first purpose-built opera house opened with the

awe-inspiring first Canadian production of the Everest of opera.

8. LEAVING HOME (2007), OF THE FIELDS, LATELY (2009) & BILLY BISHOP GOES TO WAR (2009)

Three productions that made Soulpepper the company to turn to for outstanding revivals of Canadian classics.

9. SCORCHED (Tarragon, 2007)

Wajdi Mouawad's poetic odyssey of epic scale and importance about children seeking their parents in the Middle East.

10. UNE MAISON FACE AU NORD (Théâtre français de Toronto, 2009)

Jean-Rock Gaudreault's wise and moving parable about cultural identity in an age of globalization.

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