



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 11 to May 12, 2007

MEDIA CONTACT: Josée Duranleau | jossee@duranleau.com | 416.652.7672

TFT presents a little gem for young audiences which will enchant parents!

MAÏTA by Esther Beauchemin

Toronto, April 11, 2007 –Théâtre français de Toronto welcomes its youngest audience with ***Maïta*** by **Esther Beauchemin**, a play for children 8 to 12 years of age, which is sure to enchant the young and the young at heart. There will be only one public performance in French at the Berkeley Street Theatre on Saturday, May 12 at 2:00 PM.

In order to give tomorrow's audiences a taste for theatre, Tft is reinstating its youth programming at the theatre with a play performed by puppets, which has triumphed everywhere since its creation in 2001.

Maïta is the daughter of a puppet maker somewhere in Asia. She is eight years old when her father "leases" her to a factory where children work, in order to pay off family debts. Before leaving his daughter, he bestows upon her Issane, a precious puppet on which Maïta's mother has sewn 1461 pearls, one for each day until her father will come for her. During the day, Maïta works hard under the watchful eye of Wunan, the factory foreman, but when night falls Maïta recounts the tale of Issane through shadow puppetry to the other children. However, as time passes Maïta painfully counts the days when she will be reunited with her family again.

A production of Théâtre de la Vieille 17 and Théâtre de Sable in collaboration with Théâtre français du Centre national des Arts. Tft thanks BMO Financial Group, TFO and Canadian Heritage («Arts Presentation Canada» Program) for their support.

With : Esther Beauchemin, Roch Castonguay, Henry Gauthier, Marie-Thé Morin et Nathalie Poiré
Stage direction: Robert Bellefeuille; Puppets Design and Direction : Josée Campanale; Stage management and lighting : Jean Hazel

MAÏTA by Esther Beauchemin | Directed by Robert Bellefeuille

Family performance: Saturday, May 12 at 2 PM

School matinees: May 9, 10 and 11 at 10 AM and 1 PM

Théâtre français de Toronto

Berkeley Street Theatre Upstairs | 26 Berkeley Street Toronto

Tickets: Adults \$21 | Children \$13

Box office: 416.534.6604 or 1.800.819.4981

www.theatrefrancais.com

- 30 -

About Tft: founded in 1967, Tft is one of the most important francophone theatre companies in Canada outside of Quebec. While appealing to all lovers of French-language theatre, Tft contributes to the cultural and educational development of Toronto's francophone community. Since its creation, Tft has presented over 210 productions. It sells 10,000 tickets every season and has more than 900 subscribers.