



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUITCASE TELLS HOLOCAUST STORY AT LKTYP

TORONTO, ON (Friday, January 27, 2006) – Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People is very proud to present the stage premiere of *Hana's Suitcase*, written by EMIL SHER. The play will be presented on LKTYP's Mainstage from March 4th to April 23rd.

Based on the multi-award winning bestseller by Canadian producer and author **Karen Levine**, *Hana's Suitcase* is a story of recovered identity. It brings to light the life and fate of two particular Jewish children who lived in Czechoslovakia during the Nazi occupation. It is the story of a few Japanese children who yearned to solve a mystery – just who exactly was the girl whose name and birthdate were painted on an old battered suitcase provided by the Auschwitz Museum.

Employing a cast of eight and using multi-media and other innovative staging techniques, the play takes place between two time-frames: Tokyo in 2000, when the children of the Holocaust Education Centre and its Director, **Fumiko Ishioka** began their search into the identity of Hana Brady; and Czechoslovakia in the 1930s and 40s, where Hana lived with her family and ultimately became a victim of the Nazis.

"The idea to commission a play version came to me right after reading the book. The same morning I came into work with this idea, Emil called to say he wanted to write it. Clearly, we were meant to be working together on this extraordinary project", Allen MacInnis, Artistic Director LKTYP.

The story of *Hana's Suitcase* was first told in a radio documentary produced by Karen Levine. Its second form was as a book for children, also by Karen. The book has been translated into more than 10 languages and is available in over 30 countries. It has won 16 book awards internationally and has now been on the bestseller list for over 36 months. The impact and worldwide success of the book sparked enormous attention: a television documentary, a feature-length documentary and two films based on *Hana's Suitcase* are now in the works.

Directed by **ALLEN MACINNIS**. With **PAUL DUNN, JESSICA GREENBERG, RICHARD LEE, DOUG MACLEOD, SARAH ORENSTEIN, SIU TA, ERIC TRASK** and **JEAN YOON**.

TERESA PRZYBYLSKI, Set Designer; **ANDREA LUNDY**, Lighting Designer; **JOHN GZOWSKI**, Sound Designer; **DANIELE GUEVARA**, Projection Coordinator

***Hana's Suitcase* | MAINSTAGE | WORLD PREMIERE**

Written by **Emil Sher** | Directed by **Allen MacInnis** | Supported by  **RBC Capital Markets**
Based on the book *Hana's Suitcase* by **Karen Levine**, published by **Second Story Press**

Previews start March 4, 2006 show runs to April 23, 2006

Opening: Thursday, March 9 at 7:00 PM with media matinee at 1:00 PM | Recommended for ages 10 and up

Tickets: \$20 adults; \$15 kids (18 & under); all prices incl. GST | Group rates available (school and public shows)

BOX OFFICE: 416 862-2222 | Schedule & ONLINE TICKETS at www.lktyp.ca

About LKTYP: Celebrating 40 Years of Young People's Theatre!

Since 1966, LKTYP has been using live performance to validate the common experiences young people encounter as they grow up in an increasingly complex world. LKTYP's performances are designed to help children and youth identify with the issues they face today and offer a platform for addressing these challenges in an entertaining way. LKTYP is the largest non-profit theatre company for young audiences in Canada and presents new Canadian plays, innovative works and classics from children's literature throughout the season. A multi-faceted centre for learning through the arts, LKTYP offers evening and weekend performances for family audiences, integrated school programs weekdays for students, workshops for teachers and a year-round Drama School.

-30-

For information or visuals please contact **Josée Duranleau** | Duranleau Publicity | **416.652.7672** | jduranleau@rogers.com

165 Front Street East, Toronto, Ontario M5A 3Z4 | T 416 363-5131 | F 416 363-5136 | Box Office 416 862-2222 | www.lktyp.ca

Season Educational Partners



Season Media Partners