

Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People

SEASON PARTNERS



DUE TO OVERWHELMING DEMAND, *HANA'S SUITCASE* RETURNS TO OPEN 2006-2007 SEASON AT LKTYP

"... a delicate and moving introduction to Holocaust themes for children" ~ The Globe and Mail

TORONTO, ON (Tuesday, September 5, 2006) – Due to overwhelming demand **Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People** is proud to bring back *Hana's Suitcase*, written by **EMIL SHER**. The critically acclaimed play will be presented on LKTYP's Mainstage from September 30 to October 19, 2006, before setting off on a Canadian tour.

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 Jewish children who lived in Czechoslovakia during the Nazi occupation. It is the remarkable true story of a small group of Japanese children who yearned to solve a mystery – just who exactly was the girl whose name and birth date 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 play, which was commissioned by LKTYP, had an enormously successful world premiere in March of this year, extending the number of performances. The remount will feature several new cast members including **DALE YIM** as Akira, **ELLA CHAN** as Maiko, **JO CHIM** as Fumiko, **HELEN TAYLOR** as Marketa Brady and Ludmila, and **RICHARD BINSLEY** as Kurt Kotouc. **JESSICA GREENBERG**, **PAUL DUNN** and **ERIC TRASK** reprise their roles as Hana, George and Karel Brady respectively.

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.

When the play closes here in Toronto on October 19 it will ~~go~~ embark on a Canadian tour with dates confirmed at the Citadel Theatre in Edmonton (Oct. 28-Nov. 12) and the Manitoba Theatre for Young People in Winnipeg (Nov. 16-26). This marks a return to touring for LKTYP, something that hasn't been done in ten years. Says Artistic Director Allen MacInnis, "*This is such a significant story for children, connecting the world of 1940's Czechoslovakia with present day Tokyo and Canada. We felt it important that this work promoting tolerance should be brought to other children across the country.*"

Directed by **ALLEN MACINNIS**. **TERESA PRZYBYLSKI**, Set Designer; **ANDREA LUNDY**, Lighting Designer; **JOHN GZOWSKI**, Sound Designer; **DANIELE GUEVARA**, Projection Coordinator

Hana's Suitcase | MAINSTAGE | BACK DUE TO OVERWHELMING DEMAND

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: Sept. 30, 2006; Opens Oct. 5, running until Oct. 19 | Recommended for ages 10 & up

Tickets: \$20 adults; \$15 kids (18 & under); Previews: \$10; all prices incl. GST | Group rates available

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

About LKTYP: Dedicated to child development through young people's theatre since 1966

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-

Media contact: **Josée Duranleau** | Duranleau Media Relations | **416.652.7672** | josee@duranleau.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 MEDIA PARTNERS

GOVERNMENT & FOUNDATION PARTNERS



Canada Council
for the Arts
Conseil des Arts
du Canada

torontoartscouncil
An arm's length body of the City of Toronto



Canadian
Heritage
Patrimoine
canadien

METCALF
FOUNDATION

