

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Lorraine Kimsa theatre For Young People invited to take part in
NEW VISIONS/NEW VOICES 2008
At the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts**

Monday, October 29, 2007 (Toronto, ON) - The Lorraine Kimsa Theatre For Young People (LKTYP) is proud to accept an invitation to be part of the Kennedy Center's tenth **New Visions/New Voices** festival, to be held Friday, April 25 - Sunday, April 27, 2008 in Washington, DC.

LKTYP'S entry, *Pobby and Dingan*, written by playwright **Paula Wing** after the book by Ben Rice, and to be directed by Stewart Arnott, is one of seven plays selected from theatre companies from around the world. In the play, we meet Kellyanne and her imaginary friends Pobby and Dingan. When the two friends go missing, no one could be happier than her brother Ashmol. But after Pobby and Dingan vanish, Kellyanne's health deteriorates and Ashmol must find them in order to save his family.

The Kennedy Center's New Visions/New Voices is a biennial festival dedicated to new plays and musicals written for young people. Projects at various stages of development are submitted by theatre companies across the world and are judged by two separate panels, based on the quality and potential. After being selected, the playwright, director, and composer of the work are invited to the Kennedy Center to present their work.

While at the Kennedy Center, playwrights, directors, music directors, composers, and actors work collaboratively in a weeklong intensive. After revisions, rewrites, and rehearsals of the new plays and musicals, the works are presented as rehearsed readings during the three-day national conference for theatre professionals, educators, and others interested in the field.

LKTYP's Artistic Director Allen MacInnis is thrilled with the honour of having *Pobby and Dingan* take part in this prestigious festival and added that, "this recognizes the importance of our play development work at LKTYP and comes at a time when we are working at full artistic capacity on this important area of our mandate."

Lorraine Kimsa Theatre For Young People (formerly Young Peoples Theatre) is the largest Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA) company in Canada and a significant institution in the Canadian professional theatre community. Over its 42-year history LKTYP has produced many of the most important works that now form the canon of plays for young audiences in this country. Learning is at the centre of everything we do and LKTYP is renowned as the showplace for presenting important TYA work developed elsewhere. In addition to being a producer and presenter of theatre, LKTYP has also been home to a year-round Drama School for youth since 1969.

At the centre of LKTYP's artistic policy is a desire to have a positive and lasting impact on the emotional, social, and intellectual development of young people in order for them to grow into the unique and wonderful people they were born to be. At LKTYP we also believe that the more challenging, the more hostile, the more 'isolated within-the-crowd' our world becomes, the more we need art to help us interpret the universe, connect with each other, and imagine a better future. If adults need this, kids need it more.

For more information about the Kennedy Center please visit www.kennedy-center.org. For more information about the Lorraine Kimsa Theatre For Young People please visit www.lktyp.ca

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