



## MEDIA RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACT: Josée Duranleau  
416.652.7672 | jduranleau@rogers.com

### **LKTYP is turning 40 and we're dropping our ticket prices! It's a party all season long!**

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(Toronto) Wednesday, May 11, 2005 - Today Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People (LKTYP) is thrilled to announce its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary line-up for its 2005/06 season, themed: *Who In The World Are You?* LKTYP has been a charitable organization dedicated to child development through the arts since 1966.

**Susan Douglas Rubes**, founder of the **Young Peoples Theatre** (as LKTYP was formerly known), returns today alongside current **Artistic Director Allen MacInnis** to announce an extraordinary season of programming AND to introduce a bold new move to make theatre accessible to all children and their families. LKTYP is dropping prices and introducing kids' pricing: **Kids will save up to 50%. Kids' show tickets now only \$15 or less. Adults save up to 33%. Adults never pay more than \$20.**

"I had three boys, and there was no decent, good quality theatre to take them to, not in New York, nor in Toronto. So when we moved here, I decided to start a children's theatre because I believed then and I do now that *only the very best is good enough for children.*"  
~ Susan Rubes

**Allen MacInnis** has programmed a whole year of plays that explore identity. It's an issue that comes up over and over in the life of a child. Every parent wants his or her child to feel comfortable in his or her own skin. Identity isn't just how we define ourselves either. It's also how we define others. There are life lessons to be learned about seeing beyond first impressions or prejudices.

"I am very grateful to lead this extraordinary company; founded by this extraordinary woman. It is the most important theatre job I have ever had."  
~ Allen MacInnis

Quite simply, it's a season with **NINE** wonderful new plays designed to make the theatre-going experience more meaningful and more accessible than ever for adults and the young people in their lives. The Nathan Cohen Studio will feature the return of ***Where The Wild Things Are***, co-produced by Carousel Players and Manitoba Theatre for Young People, which will be remounted in November after a sell-out run last season. The Studio line-up will also include Roseneath Theatre's production of ***Smokescreen***, a provocative look at drug use among teens.

Among the exciting programming in the Susan Douglas Rubes Theatre (Mainstage) is the Canadian Premiere of ***Bunnacula*** – a hilarious musical about mistaken identity and the pitfalls of jumping to conclusions. The Mainstage will also play host to the World Premiere of ***Hana's Suitcase***. Written by Emil Sher and based on the beloved book by Karen Levine, this inspirational play reinforces why we must teach tolerance and acceptance across multi-national boundaries.

#### **FOR THE LITTLE ONES**

##### **Where the Wild Things Are | STUDIO | HIT REMOUNT**

Written by **Maurice Sendak**

Adapted by **TAG Theatre of Glasgow**

Co-produced by **Carousel Players  
and Manitoba Theatre for Young People**

Previews start November 7th, 2005 | Recommended for ages 3 to 6

**Back by popular demand after a sellout run at LKTYP last season!** Sail along with Max to the land of the Wild Things. Join in as the audience helps to transform Max's bedroom into everything from a wild jungle to a rolling ocean for his many adventures. Don a mask and become part of the wild rumpus in this highly interactive play, based on the wildly popular book by Maurice Sendak.

## **Bunnacula** | MAINSTAGE | **CANADIAN PREMIERE**

Adapted for the stage by **Jon Klein**

From the book by **Deborah and James Howe**

Lyrics by **Jon Klein** and Music by **Chris Jeffries**

Previews start November 9th, 2005 | Recommended for ages 5 & up

When the Monroe family brings home a bunny, found while attending a Dracula movie, the family pets begin to suspect something is amiss with this fanged, nocturnal creature. Suddenly, the vegetables start losing their colour and Chester the cat suspects that bunny may in fact be a vampire. He conspires with Harold the dog to protect the household and that's when things really start getting out of hand. Don't miss this hilarious musical about mistaken identity and the pitfalls of jumping to conclusions.

## **The Man Whose Mother Was a Pirate**

STUDIO | **TORONTO PREMIERE**

Adapted for the stage by **Paula Wing**

From the book by **Margaret Mahy**

Previews start March 14, 2006 | Recommended for ages 4 to 7

*The Man Whose Mother Was a Pirate* tells the tale of a happy, numbers-obsessed accountant whose pirate mother insists he accompany her while she satisfies her urge to go to sea. Along the way, they encounter people who also pine to set sail, but cannot bring themselves to follow. Ultimately, it's an engaging story about knowing who you are, where you belong, and why a break from routine can be a good idea.

## **Russell's World** | STUDIO | **ONTARIO PREMIERE**

Produced by **Manitoba Theatre for Young People**

Written by **Herbie Barnes**

Supported by **Cineplex Galaxy**

Previews start April 17th, 2006 | Recommended for ages 6 & up

Moving to a new neighbourhood is hard on any child, but this new play helps kids face their difficulties and empathize with others. Each day while Russell waits for his mom to come home after school, he conjures up an exciting make-believe world of outer space treks and high seas voyages! Emphasizing the values of old-fashioned fun, this clever play invites kids to leave their videos and Game Boys on the shelf and explore their imaginations.

## **FOR PRE-TEENS**

**Duel at Dawn** | OUTDOORS

**WORLD PREMIERE**

Written by **Glenda MacFarlane**

Supported by **AGF**

Previews start October 2nd, 2005 | Recommended for ages 10 & up

*Duel at Dawn* is the dramatic and interactive re-telling of the last duel fought in Toronto between Samuel Jarvis and John Ridout. This story of honour, pride and conflict resolution takes the audience on a riveting theatrical trek through historic events in our neighbourhood. The setting for the play is the grounds around St. James Cathedral on King Street, where a plaque alluding to the 1817 event hangs in the church entrance.

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

Written by **Emil Sher**

Based on the book *Hana's Suitcase* by **Karen Levine**, published by **Second Story Press**

Previews start March 4th, 2006 | Recommended for ages 10 & up

It's March 2000. A child's suitcase arrives from Auschwitz for an exhibit at the tiny Children's Holocaust Centre in Tokyo, Japan. Spurred on by children at the Centre, Fumiko Ishioka, curator and teacher, begins to search for more information about the life of Hana Brady. Hana's name, her birthdate and designation (Waisenkind or orphan), all painted on the side of the suitcase, are the only clues. In the stage version of this remarkable true story, the narrative begins with the relentless search by Fumiko, leading her from Tokyo to Prague to Toronto until she uncovers the details of Hana's story and the fate of her family at the hands of the Nazis. Hana, Fumiko and the children of the Holocaust Centre emerge as symbols of why we must teach tolerance and acceptance across multi-national boundaries.

## **SeeSaw** | MAINSTAGE | ONTARIO PREMIERE

Produced by **Green Thumb Theatre**

Written by **Dennis Foon**

Supported by **CIBC World Markets Children's Miracle Foundation**

Previews start January 24th, 2006 | Recommended for ages 9-12

Meet four ordinary kids coping with the ups and downs of their lives: Paige a popular yet insecure girl, Adam the tough bully who is also a budding artist, shy Josh who learns magic tricks in order to become invisible, and Charla the new girl who wants to be everybody's friend. This new production of a Green Thumb favourite helps students examine the influences of violence, body image, and materialism, and how they affect the way kids interact with their schoolmates and parents. Deftly exploring issues of bullying, self esteem, fitting in and "doing the right thing", *SeeSaw* is a fast-paced exploration of parents, the shifting nature of relationships, and the value of friendship.

## **FOR TEENS**

### **The Other Side of the Closet** | STUDIO

Produced by **Youtheatre**

Written by **Ed Roy**

Previews start October 24th, 2005 | Recommended for ages 12 & up

Premiered in 1997 by LKTYP and Youtheatre, this award-winning play tells the story of Carl, a gay teenager who confronts his sexuality, and the subsequent homophobic reactions of his peers. Fast-paced, intense and compelling, this extraordinary production tackles issues of identity, conformity, self-respect and tolerance, while fostering an understanding of those who are different.

### **Smokescreen** | STUDIO

Created & Produced by **RoseneathTheatre**

Written by **David S. Craig**

Previews start February 27th, 2006 | Recommended for ages 13 & up

Set in a counsellor's chaotic office, *Smokescreen* is the story of Trent, a charismatic but troubled young man who has been convicted of trafficking marijuana. The counsellor at first seems no match for the smart, talkative teen, who can answer all her questions with considered rationalizations for legalizing marijuana. The counsellor's skills as a social worker are tested to the limit as she tries to help both Trent and his father who has turned him over to the police.

### **COMBO PACKAGES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE:**

**ALL FOR ONE:** all 9 great shows for one low, low price: \$126 (adult pass); \$108 (kids pass).

**THREE FOR FUN:** any 3 shows for just \$51 (adult pass); \$39 (kids pass).

LKTYP is also ensuring that every production has designated "**PAY WHAT YOU CAN**" performances. With the generous assistance of **Sun Life Financial**, LKTYP is offering PWYC performances for **ALL** its productions this season. PWYC tickets are available at the Box Office on the day of performance only, with a suggested minimum contribution of \$5 per ticket (cash only please).

**About LKTYP:** 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 weekend performances for family audiences, integrated school programs weekdays for students, workshops for teachers and a year-round Drama School.

Throughout its 40th season, LKTYP will offer opportunities to help kids grow into enthusiastic, unique and compassionate people -- the kind of people that will make our world an even better place for the next 40 years.

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW EXCLUSIVELY TO SUBSCRIBERS;  
ON SALE TO THE PUBLIC JULY 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2005**

**For more information regarding the 2005/2006 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary season  
please call the LKTYP box office at 416.862.2222 or visit us online at [www.lktyp.ca](http://www.lktyp.ca)**