

## BULLYING AND IDENTITY TAKE CENTRE STAGE AT LKTYP

**TORONTO, ON (Tuesday, December 6, 2005)** - Lorraine Kimsa Theatre For Young People is proud to present **Seesaw** by Dennis Foon, Canada's foremost playwright for young audiences. Produced by Vancouver's Green Thumb Theatre **Seesaw** sketches a vivid portrait of schoolyard relationships with the bully, the new kid, the shy one, and the kid who needs to be popular. It's a play about fitting in and falling out and it runs on the Mainstage from January 24 to February 17, 2006.

Meet four ordinary kids -and their parents - coping with the ups and downs of their lives: Paige a popular and 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 is worried about making friends. This new production helps students examine the influences of violence, body image, and materialism, and how they affect the way kids sculpt their identity and their relationships with schoolmates and parents. In particular, the play deftly explores bullying behaviour from the physical to the emotional, and from fitting in to "doing the right thing". **SeeSaw** is a fast-paced exploration of these issues using a talented cast and innovative puppets to create a highly imaginative theatrical experience.

The Vancouver Sun called **Seesaw** " a fast-paced, imaginative and entertaining look at peer pressure, bullies and the struggle to fit in..."

A 2003 survey of Ontario high-school students by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health found that one in three students reported being bullied at school. Children who are bullied are likely to suffer adverse consequences academically, psychologically and socially. The Ontario government recently announced that mandatory anti-bullying programs will be in every Ontario school as the provincial government attempts to combat the "hidden problem" of verbal abuse, physical threats and intimidation.

With the Ontario government unveiling its plan to fight bullying, **Seesaw** is both a timely and relevant play.

Directed by Richard Greenblat, featuring Tamara Lashley, Adam Underwood, Jeff McMahan, Tara Gilroy-Scott and Jayne Walling.

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

Written by **Dennis Foon** | Produced by **Green Thumb Theatre**

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

January 24th to February 17, 2006

First public performance Saturday, January 28 at 2:00 PM | Recommended for ages 9-12

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

**BOX OFFICE: 416 862-2222 | Schedule & ONLINE TICKETS at [www.lktyp.ca](http://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.

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For information, interviews or visuals please contact **Josée Duranleau | Duranleau Publicity | 416.652.7672 | [jduranleau@rogers.com](mailto:jduranleau@rogers.com)**

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