



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RUSSELL'S WORLD REVEALS THE POWER OF IMAGINATION

TORONTO, ON (Tuesday, March 21, 2006) – Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People is proud to present the Ontario premiere of Herbie Barnes' *Russell's World*. Featuring Barnes in the title role, the play is a warm and humorous look at the topical issue of latch-key kids. Produced by Manitoba Theatre for Young People, *Russell's World* runs in the Studio from **April 17th to 30th**.

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.

Barnes' theatrical look at a latch-key kid sheds light on what has been called a national crisis in child-care. A study released by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in October 2004 found that Canada has a severe shortage of available regulated child-care spaces – enough for fewer than 20 per cent of children aged six years and younger with working parents.

A Toronto-based director, writer, actor and teacher, **Herbie Barnes** has been both a student and teacher at Second City in Toronto. Herbie's film and television credits include *Tipi Tales* for APTN/Treehouse, *Spirit Rider* with Graham Greene, *Dance Me Outside* with Adam Beach, and *The Rez* for CBC.

Featuring **Herbie Barnes** as RUSSELL; **Christian Murray** as JACKET/BOOK/THING and **Jan Skene** as BEAR/BOOK/THING.

Directed by Jan Skene; Set, Costumes and Puppets by **Linda Leon**; Lighting by **Bill Williams**; Music by **Cathy Nosaty**; Puppet Co-designer and Builder **Shawn Kettner**; Stage Management by **Georgette Nairn**.

Russell's World was commissioned and originally produced at Manitoba Theatre for Young People by Artistic Director Leslee Silverman in April 2005. The premiere production was directed by Jim Warren with the following cast: Herbie Barnes, Jan Skene and Chris Sigurdson. MTYP acknowledges Theatre Calgary's Petro-Canada Play Advancement Series in the development of the script.

Russell's World | STUDIO | ONTARIO PREMIERE

Opening April 17th runs to April 30th, 2006 | Recommended for ages 6 & up

Produced by **Manitoba Theatre for Young People**

Written by **Herbie Barnes**

Supported by **Cineplex Entertainment**

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