



Liverpool
International
Theatre
Festival

MEDIA RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Liverpool Welcomes World-class Theatre for 10th Anniversary Festival

Liverpool, Nova Scotia. May 10, 2010

The Liverpool International Theatre Festival, to be held from May 19 to May 23 at Liverpool's historic Astor Theatre, is pleased to welcome 11 amateur theatre companies to its milestone tenth anniversary competition. In addition to companies from Nova Scotia and British Columbia, the festival lineup includes international participants from the United States, Italy, the Czech Republic, Iran, and Wales.

Audiences are sure to be entertained by performances offered in a variety of genres, including comedy, drama, avant-garde, and theatre-in-development. Some of the international plays will even be performed in their native language, although they have been specifically chosen for their ability to transcend language barriers.

Sayeh Theatre, from Iran, will offer audiences a glimpse of traditional Iranian storytelling with their play about a woman who tries to have a relationship with a lifeless rope. Sayeh Theatre was founded in 2001, when a young group of actors came together to share their different cultures and stories, exploring what they have in common and how they differ. Their interest in theatre and their interaction with other countries' cultures has inspired several plays, which they have performed at domestic and international festivals.

Italy's Appunti e Scarabocchi will perform Anton Chekov's *The Swan Song*, a one-act play full of poignant drama about an aging actor near the end of his career. Locked in the theatre overnight with his prompter, the two men laugh, cry, remember their youth, recite famous passages, and act out their favourite characters. It will be amazing to see an Italian company tackle a Russian play performed here in Canada!

Good Coffee Theater, from the Czech Republic, is offering a remarkable play called *Through the Ears of Autumn*. Enigmatically described as a "tango on the male and female sides of ourselves," the piece is a playful exploration of roles, transformation, and relationships. The company of young actors, musicians, and artists is a dynamic group that brings a different perspective to the theatre, challenging the conventional structure of gender and relationships. Please note: this show may not be suitable for anyone under 16, and if you are offended by topics related to sexuality, you may want to pass on this show.

Bard-to-Go, from Michigan, will perform their original play, *Lovestruck*. This play, a lively collage of Shakespeare's most famous love scenes, has romance, gossip, tragedy, and scandal to rival any modern soap opera. The show was specifically designed for Bard-To-Go's student outreach mission in its



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home state—it presents Shakespeare in a non-traditional “hip” fashion while maintaining the integrity of the original content—but it can be enjoyed by young and old alike.

Also from the U.S., The Barnstormers Theater will present the drama *Fin and Euba*, a story about two friends in a mill town in Florida trying desperately to escape their small-town life and fulfill their life ambitions. The Barnstormers, located in Ridley Park, Pennsylvania, is the third oldest continuously operating community theatre in the United States (the company recently celebrated its centennial).

Finally, in a bit of adventure-driven theatre, Liverpool’s own Winds of Change will be directed by Welsh director Neil Maidman, of Blackwood Little Theatre, in the hilarious production *Last Tango in Liverpool*. This play will be developed, rehearsed, and performed completely within the week of the festival, giving the public a unique opportunity to observe a theatre production’s progression from start to finish in only a few days’ time. Audiences can watch rehearsals at the Liverpool Curling Club on Wednesday, May 19 and Friday, May 21, from 2 – 4 pm.

In addition to this stellar international lineup of plays offered during the festival’s five days, LITF invites audiences to attend daily “coffee critique” discussions of the previous day’s performances, theatre workshops, nightly entertainment, and opening and closing ceremonies.

Visit our website at www.litf.ca for more information about the festival lineup and to purchase tickets. Tickets are also now available at the Astor Theatre box office, by phone at (902) 354-5250, or online at www.astortheatre.ns.ca.

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