

The 23rd Annual NEW IDEAS FESTIVAL March 9 – 26, 2011

Since 1989, when it was co-founded by **Molly Thom** and **Kerri MacDonald** (who this year directs *Summer's End* in Week Two), Alumnae Theatre Company has hosted an annual festival of new works, which provides playwrights, directors, actors and technicians the opportunity to develop never-before-produced short scripts. It's all about the process.

The New Ideas Festival is now a juried, three-week annual festival of new writing, works-in-progress and experimental theatre, with a different program of plays each week, and a staged reading on Saturdays at noon. It is unusual among festivals, in that the scripts are read 'blind' by a committee that does not learn the writers' identities until the plays have been selected.

This year's festival presents 14 new works, ranging in length from 12 to 60 minutes. There's everything from comedy and mixed-up relationships, to dance, poetry, and a little tea with terror. Two of the plays, *Where Do You Get Off?* and *From Here To There And Back Again*, originated in Alumnae's Write Now! event last fall – a challenge to write a play based on a particular theme – a TTC trip, in this case - within a limited time frame.

WEEK ONE: Wednesday March 9 - Saturday March 12 (8pm / Sat. matinee 2:30pm)
Staged Reading: Saturday March 12 at noon

- ◆ **Where Do You Get Off?** by *M.P. Fedunikiw* / Directed by Lynda Yearwood (12 mins)
- ◆ **Frances And Marybeth** (Act I) by *Neale Kimmel* / Directed by Heather Keith (30 mins)
- ◆ **Missed Connections** by *Brianne Hogan* / Directed by Adam Crisman (20 mins)
- ◆ **Danse Macabre** by *Niall O'Reilly* / Directed by Sandra Burley (20 mins)

(Total running time with intermission: approx 1 hr 50 minutes)

Saturday Staged Reading, March 12 only:

- ◆ **Mythmaking** by *JP Larocque* / Directed by Sandra Henderson (40 mins + Talkback)

WEEK TWO: Wednesday March 16 - Saturday March 19 (8pm / Sat. matinee 2:30pm)
Staged Reading: Saturday March 19 at noon

- ◆ **Reflections** by *Flora Stohr-Danziger* / Directed by Annie MacMillan* (25 mins)
- ◆ **The Hidden Word In My Vocabulary** by *Richard Ballon* / Directed by Andrew Freund (15 mins)
- ◆ **Summer's End** by *Francine Dick* / Directed by Kerri MacDonald (15 mins)
- ◆ **Eve's Prayer** (Act I) by *Kelsey Blair* / Directed by David Suszek (30 mins)

(Total running time with intermission: approx 1 hr 50 minutes)

Saturday Staged Reading, March 19 only:

- ◆ **Moon And Murna** (Act I) by *Betty Jane Wylie* / Directed by Jeanette Dagger* (60 mins + Talkback)

* *Appearing with the permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association*

WEEK THREE: Wednesday March 23 - Saturday March 26 (8pm / Sat. matinee 2:30pm)

Staged Reading: Saturday March 26 at noon

- ◆ **Letting Go** by Neale Kimmel / Directed by Joanne Williams (15 mins)
- ◆ **From Here To There And Back Again** by Rosemary Doyle* / Directed by Cliona Kenny (15 mins)
- ◆ **Elegy For A Lost Bookmark** by Nicholas Sgouros / Directed by Valary Cook (15 mins)
- ◆ **Two Weeks In Normandy** translated & adapted by David Nicholson from *Villégiature* by Henry Meilhac
Directed by Anne Harper (30 mins)

(Total running time with intermission: approx 1 hr 45minutes)

Saturday Staged Reading, March 19 only:

- ◆ **Moon And Murna (Act II)** by Betty Jane Wylie / Directed by Jeanette Dagger* (60 mins + Talkback)

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- ◆ For complete show descriptions, production photos and cast and crew bios please go to alumnaetheatre.com/ideas.html

New Ideas Festival 2011 *The Details*

- Running Time:** The running time each week varies – times shown above for each play are approximate.
- Opening Nights:** Wednesday March 9, March 16 and 23, 2011
- Performances:** Wednesday March 9 – Saturday March 26, 2011
- Schedule:** Wednesday - Saturday 8:00pm
Saturday matinee at 2:30pm *(followed by a Talkback session)*
Saturday Reading Series at noon *(followed by a Talkback session)*
- Tickets:** Wednesday – Saturday (evening or matinees) \$15
Saturday Reading Series PWYC
Festival Pass *(good for the full three weeks plus the Reading Series)* \$35
- Location:** Alumnae Theatre, 70 Berkeley Street, 3rd floor Studio, Toronto
(SW corner of Berkeley and Adelaide St. East)
- Box Office:** 416-364-4170 (box 1) or email reservations@alumnaetheatre.com
Box Office opens one hour prior to each performance
Please note: Box Office does not accept credit or debit cards
Absolutely no latecomers.
- Next at Alumnae:** The world premiere of Catherine Frid's **GuineaPigging**
Directed by New Ideas co-founder, Molly Thom
On the Main Stage, April 15 – 30, 2011.
Our 2011/12 season will be announced shortly!

Alumnae Theatre Company (a non-union, not-for profit company) has been producing thought-provoking, challenging and rarely-performed plays since 1919.

Check our website at www.alumnaetheatre.com for press releases, production photographs, and a retrospective on how Alumnae Theatre shaped Toronto's theatre scene.