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Media Contacts: Erika Hennebury
416-975-9130 x40 erika@artsexy.ca

buddies

IN BAD TIMES THEATRE

Buddies in Bad Times Theatre presents

THE 30TH RHUBARB FESTIVAL

CANADA'S PREMIER NEW WORKS FESTIVAL

Feb 4 – 22, 2009

Festival Director **Erika Hennebury**

TORONTO, FEBRUARY 2009...CANADA'S PREMIERE NEW WORKS FESTIVAL TURNS 30. Buddies' announces a stellar line-up for the 2009 Rhubarb Festival of new works. For 30 years The Rhubarb Festival has offered Toronto artists a critic-free environment to experiment with contemporary theatrical explorations. Rhubarb encourages established artists to take new risks and emerging artists to explore the medium of performance creation in an inspired, encouraging space.

Buddies In Bad Times Theatre presents an exciting line-up of new, original, contemporary theatre, performance and dance for our 30th Rhubarb Festival. This year's festival kicks-off with a special feature presentation of acclaimed New York performer **Taylor Mac** in *The Be(a)st of Taylor Mac* as part of his cross-Canada tour. The 2009 line-up features a host of brave new offerings from by Toronto's hottest indie artists such as **Lex Vaughn, Jenn Goodwin, Erin Sheilds, Meav Beaty, Andrea Donaldson, Amos Latteire, Chad Dembski, Alex Wolfson, Susie Burpee, Michael Rubenfeld, Catherine Hernandez, Alistair Newton** and Halifax's **Secret Theatre**. Buddies is also proud to bring you a special presentation of **Public Recordings'** internationally acclaimed **/Dance/Songs/**.

Canada's oldest and largest new works festival is famous for playing fabulous host to the most outrageous acts you'll catch all year round. This year's line-up features one-of-a-kind performances you won't see on any other stage! We've got comedy, theatre, contemporary dance, drag, performance art and rock 'n' roll all under one roof. Once you're in the door you're in for a wild ride. Evening Passes are available for a lean \$17, and that gets you in to the shows of your choice that night. \$25 gets you a Week Pass so you can come and go, take your time and catch every show at your own pace. A limited number of Festival Passes are available for a mere \$60. Our Festival Pass gives you unlimited access to any performance on any night and comes with a copy of *Rhubarb-o-Rama*, edited by Franco Boni and featuring rare short plays by artists of Rhubarbs past such as **Jacob Wren, Darren O'Donnell, Moynan King, Daniel MacIvor** and more.

ABOUT RHUBARB

First produced by Buddies in 1979, Rhubarb is more than a festival; it is a commentary on theatre - on how we create it, on how we present it, and on how we experience it. Here we allow the *artist* and the *idea* to be the centre of attention. The trappings of traditional theatre are purged in favour of a stripped-down approach, where inspiration and invention are genesis. Over almost 30 years Rhubarb has seen exciting new work by a host of groundbreaking Canadian artists such as **Daniel MacIvor, Daniel Brooks, Guillermo Verdecchia, Don McKellar, Diane Flacks, Gavin Crawford, Sonja Mills, Darren O'Donnell, Sky Gilbert, Damien Atkins, Atom Egoyan, Jacob Wren, Ann-Marie MacDonald** (and many more).

"ANNUAL TONIC OF FRESH AND EXCITING THEATRE THAT INVIGORATES TORONTO"
- THE TORONTO STAR

ANNOUNCING THE 2009 RHUBARB FESTIVAL LINE-UP

WEEK ONE: FEB 4 – 8, 2009

GRAHAM & DIANE

8pm, The Cabaret

Created and performed by **Lex Vaughn**

Directed by **Walter Boscariol**

Meet Diane: A meek admin assistant who is trying her hand in the performing arts, after being inspired by a visit from corporate comedians at her workplace. Meet Graham: a brash and utterly foul-mouthed ventriloquist doll and Diane's only friend for twenty years.

A HISTORY OF THE CAGE

8pm, The Chamber

By **Amos Latteier**

A History of the Cage is a lecture/performance uses zoo architecture as a lens to explore a wide variety of topics including nature, freedom, spectatorship, identity, and our complex relationships with animals. The interdisciplinary performance blurs the genres of PowerPoint and documentary film, producing a unique synthesis of education and humour.

ASSALAAMU `ALAYKUM (PEACE BE UPON YOU)

8:35pm, The Cabaret

Created and Performed by **Jon-Paul**

Because we need each other, we believe in one another, and I know that we're going to uncover what's sleeping in our souls. Who cares about a description? Take a chance on someone. What, you haven't got 25 minutes to spare?

SWEET ECSTASY: PLANS FOR AN ESCAPE ROUTE

8:45pm, The Chamber

Created and Performed by **Don Simmons**

Employing cinema's methods of emotional manipulation this performance will develop cinemagraphic moments into magical moments lived inside the theatre, questioning – which is more "real" our current lived experience, or the more fictional experience of the movies? This performance will explore the emotional rollercoaster of a Summer Blockbuster.

WHAT'S IT LIKE?

9:10pm, The Cabaret

Created and Performed by **David Bateman**

Directed by **Chad Dembski**

Mixing spoken word with stand-up, theatre, and performance poetry, *What's It Like?* provides a serio-comic response to the sincere, well meaning, yet frequently frustrating questions one is inundated with upon particular forms of personal disclosure.

MONTPARNASSE

9:10pm, The Chamber

A Sheep No Wool/Groundwater Productions presentation

Created and performed by **Maev Beaty** and **Erin Shields**

Created and Directed by **Andrea Donaldson**

Montparnasse is an erotic submersion into the world of artist models in Paris in the 1920s. Peek behind the canvas and discover a rich culture of voyeurism, paint, sexual autonomy, nakedness, identity, anonymity, jealousy, ego, cruelty and the Divine Muse.

Buddies In Bad Times Theatre presents
A RHUBARB FEATURE PRESENTATION
THE BE(A)ST OF TAYLOR MAC (New York)
THURS – SUN 4 SHOWS ONLY!
9:45pm, The Chamber (90min)
By **Taylor Mac**
Directed by **David Drake**

"the most distinctive and brilliant performer I've witnessed in ages." -- The Scotsman

A flamboyant chameleon of words, music, and sociopolitical tirades, visual and vocal phenomenon Mac employs gender-bending surrealism to explore the human condition and challenge the contemporary culture of fear.

WEEK TWO: FEB 11 – 15, 2009

OUT THE WINDOW

8pm, The Cabaret

Created by Liza Balkan and the Window Collective

Performed by **Liza Balkan**

August 2000: She saw something outside her apartment window. 8 years and hundreds of pages of court transcripts later a witness has questions - about truth, about memory, about perspective, about manipulation, about ...what happened.

MOON MISSION 3

8pm, The Chamber

Written and Directed by **Evan Webber**

Designed by **Sherri Hay**

Performed by **Ker Wells** and **Hannah Cheeseman**

Moon Mission 3 is a presentational history of two astronauts who set out to "return to the moon" in the year 2025: the third episode in a cycle of semi-fictional works about humanity's presence in outer space, and about the accident and achievement of collaboration.

FUTURE FOLK

8:35, The Cabaret

Created and performed by Sulong Theatre Collective: **Karen Ancheta, Romeo Candido, Aura Carcueva, Catherine Hernandez**

The vocabulary of Filipino folk arts tells the story of current day Filipina nannies.

SHE WALKS THE LINE

8:35pm, The Chamber

By **Hope Thompson**

Directed by **Patrick Conner**

Featuring **Sky Gilbert, Ryan Kelly, Geoffrey Pounsett, David Tomlinson** and more.
Private dick, Frances Lark has just hired divorcé, Tina Vance, as her secretary. Frances hopes Tina will be the girlfriend she's always dreamt of but Tina ain't playing...until a case of stolen goods and a desperate husband land the girls in a fight for their life – and each other.

THE SEXUAL ABERRATIONS: PART ONE

9:10pm, The Chamber

Written and Directed by **Alex Wolfson**

Performed by **Amy Bowles, Lindsey Clark** and **Liz Peterson**

The Sexual Aberrations: Part One is the first in a series of three plays by Alex Wolfson (*If I'm Me Today, Must I Tomorrow*) based on the Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality by Sigmund Freud. A play that explores the anguish, and possible redemption, that lies deep in us all.

WET DREAM

9:45pm, The Chamber

A surprise performance production

Written and Directed by **Chad Dembski**

Performed by **Andrea Davis, Ryan G.Hinds, Natasha Boomer, Bryn Jennings**
and **Ulysses Castellanos**

surprise performance presents the second part in a series of adaptation.
A mix of "A Midsummer Night's Dream", Freudian psychoanalysis and missed performances of the sex film industry. "...let them do what they can. I will walk up and down here, and will sing, they shall hear that I am not afraid...".

WEEK THREE: FEB 18 – 22, 2009

Buddies In Bad Times Theatre presents
A RHUBARB FEATURE PRESENTATION
/DANCE/SONGS/

8pm, The Chamber (60min)

A Public Recordings production

Concept and Direction **Ame Henderson**

Created with and performed by **Chad Dembski, Claudia Fancello** and **Matija Ferlin**
Like a good rock concert, /Dance/Songs/ flirts with obscenity. It can be over-the-top and out-of-control. The performers let it all out in front of the crowd. It is abandoned and joyful, intimate and tender. Yes, it's a dance in the shape of a rock show, but maybe the best concert that you will never see.

AN EXERCISE IN FUTILITY: A NIHILISTIC TALE

8pm, The Cabaret

Written and Directed by **Michael Rubinfeld**

Performed by **Edwige Jean-Pierre** and **Anand Rajaram**

If nothing makes sense or seems to really matter, is anything actually happening? Join A and B as they share with you a whole bunch of bullshit in an attempt at reality.

DEAREST HEART

8:35pm, The Cabaret

Created and performed by **Jenn Goodwin**

Inspired by letters Jenn has written or received in the past; the ones she threw away...or should have, because they were too damn embarrassing/harsh/lame/corny/evil/sad and so on. *Dearest Heart* tells a simple tale, one letter at a time.

ANOTHER CITY ANOTHER LIFE

9:10pm, The Chamber

A Secret Theatre production (Halifax, NS)

Conceived and directed by **Dustin Scott Harvey**

Created with and performed by **Becky Siamon** and **Steven Bourque**

Another City Another Life is about the May 1968 Paris uprising. It is about the occupation of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet by two performers and a video camera.

LENI RIEFENSTAHL VS THE 20TH CENTURY

9:45pm, The Chamber

An Ecce Homo Production

Written and Directed by **Alistair Newton**

Performed by **Kaitlyn Regehr, Evalyn Parry, Noah Henne, Bryce Kulak, Chy Ryan Spain**
and **Matthew Eger**

Nazi propagandist and cinematic genius Leni Riefenstahl takes on superstar New York intellectual Susan Sontag in an ideological battle of the wills. It's fascinating fascism vs cultural camp as Ecce Homo looks cock-eyed into the icy stare of the fascist aesthetic; an expressionist cabaret on big themes for troubled times.

RHUBARB SPECIAL EVENTS

FESTIVAL KICK-OFF BASH

Wed, Feb 4, 10pm, The Cabaret

Celebrate Rhubarb's 30th Anniversary following the opening of Week One with libations, revelry and performances by very special guests.

FRIDAY LATE NIGHT SHORTS:

A double bill of new short works by **Susie Burpee** and **Diana Lopez de Soto**.

Fri, Feb 13 10:30pm, The Chamber

Sad Sam (revisited), created and performed by **Matija Ferlin**

Fri, Feb 20 10:30pm, The Chamber

SPECIAL EARLY EVENING EVENTS:

TALKING TO CHRIS DUPUIS

Chris Dupuis aka the “Barbara Walters of the performance art scene”, interviews three participants from the 2009 Rhubarb Festival and shows you a side of these artists you never new existed.

Thurs, Feb 5, Thurs, Feb 12, Thurs, Feb 19, 7pm

YOUNG CREATORS’ UNIT PRESENTATIONS

Sat, Feb 14, Sun, Feb 15, Sat Feb 21, Sun Feb 22, 6:30pm

Under the direction of Evalyn Parry, Buddies In Bad Times Theatre’s Young Creators Unit provides a supportive and artistically rigorous space for four queer-identified artists (age 25 and under) to develop and perform their own original, 30-minute, solo performance piece to be presented at the Rhubarb Festival. The 2008/09 Young Creators’ Unit is

Kim Crosby, Rob Salerno, Cole J. Alvis, Tawiah M'carthy

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February 4 – 22, 2009

Evening Pass \$17, Week Pass \$25, *Festival Pass \$60

(*includes a copy of Rhubarb-o-Rama – limited availability)

BUDDIES IN BAD TIMES THEATRE

12 Alexander Street, Toronto, ON, Canada

Box Office: 416-975-8555

www.artsexy.ca