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BUDDIES IN BAD TIMES THEATRE ANNOUNCES PROGRAMMING FOR ITS 2010 - 2011 SEASON

Canada's Home for Queer Culture
Artistic Director **Brendan Healy**

To be QUEER is to be a **SUBLIME OUTCAST**

It is with great excitement that Buddies in Bad Times Theatre announces its 2010-2011 Season.

New Artistic Director Brendan Healy says: "When I accepted the position of Artistic Director, I was aware of the company's important legacy and its need for renewal. As a queer artist, I identify with dissenters and mavericks. I have always considered myself an outsider, which affords me a perspective that is apart from mainstream ideals of beauty, art and love. I rebel against moral and cultural clichés around consumer-driven lifestyles, sexuality and identity politics. My vision for a queer theatre is one that embraces this outsider status in order to challenge established notions of morality, human relations, history and politics. In this age of cultural homogenization when difference is erased and divergence is feared, the queer point of view is more necessary than ever. This, my first official season, represents a bold reassertion of Buddies' relevance as an artistic and political force in our city."

Buddies' proudly continues its commitment to new play development, gender parity and diversity with five works written by women, two by First Nations artists, five world premieres of original Canadian works, and the return of our ever-popular annual *Rhubarb Festival* with a new Festival Director, Laura Nanni.

Next season, Buddies will also extend its reach nationally with two of the company's most successful recent productions embarking on cross-country tours. Both *Agokwe* and *The Silicone Diaries* will return to Buddies as they begin to travel the country with stops in Vancouver, Ottawa and Montreal.

And last, but not least, Buddies will open its doors to an international perspective with the English-Canadian premiere of a major queer work from abroad. Sarah Kane's brilliant and controversial play *Blasted* will finally get a professional Canadian production, outside of Québec.

The 2010-11 Season engages with the broader world. It fearlessly tackles experiences of citizenship, racialization, religiosity, marginalization and social repression. It is a season that encompasses the full complexities of contemporary existence with quintessentially queer humour, intelligence and ferocity.

Come join Buddies in the theatrical expression and celebration of its uniquely queer point of view.

2010 - 2011 PROGRAMMING

Buddies in Bad Times Theatre presents
The Canadian English-language premiere of

Blasted

By **Sarah Kane**

Directed by **Brendan Healy**

Featuring **David Ferry, Michelle Monteith** and **Dylan Smith**

Set and Costume Design **Julie Fox**

Lighting Design **Kimberly Purtell**

Sound Design **Richard Feren**

September 22 – October 10, 2010

A middle-aged journalist and a young woman hole up in a hotel room. Outside, a war rages on. What begins as a sordid love story takes on a nightmarish dimension as violence between the couple escalates. An armed soldier appears in the room and brings with him the terrifying fragments of a world blown apart by war.

Sarah Kane's landmark play, lambasted by British critics when it was first performed in 1995 as "a disgusting feast of filth" (Daily Mail), is now considered one of the most important plays to emerge out of the English-speaking world in the last twenty years. This is a rare chance to see an unforgettable modern classic in a production that unites some of Canada's most accomplished theatre creators.

Previews September 22 – 26

Opens September 28

Runs to October 10

Shows Tues – Sat 8pm, Sun 2:30pm

Buddies in Bad Times Theatre presents

The Silicone Diaries

Created and Performed by **Nina Arsenault**

Directed by **Brendan Healy**

Dramaturgy by **Judith Rudakoff**

Production Design **Trevor Schwellnus**

Sound Design **Richard Feren**

November 25 – December 11, 2010

The Silicone Diaries is Nina Arsenault's tour de force account of her transition from an awkward man into a jaw dropping silicone bombshell, a process that spanned eight years, sixty surgical procedures and a lifetime of preparation. After a sold-out run last season, Buddies is thrilled to welcome back this inspirational, hilarious and harrowing encounter with one of the most provocative queer voices in the country as she wrestles with the contradictions that surround the pursuit of inner and outer beauty.

"**** (out of four) profoundly moving" - Toronto Star
"***** (out of five) absolutely unforgettable" - Eye Weekly
"positively hypnotic" - Globe and Mail
"captivating theatre" - Xtra!

Opens November 25
Runs to December 11
Shows Tues – Sun 8pm

Buddies in Bad Times Theatre proudly welcomes
a **Union Eight Theatre** production

The Bird

by **Sonja Mills**

Directed by **Ruth Madoc-Jones**

Movement Director **Clare Preuss**

Featuring **Anna Chatterton, Lesley Dowey, Bruce Hunter, Veronica Hurnik, Caitlin Morris-Cornfield, Jimi Schlag and Astrid Van Wieren**

Sound Designer **Kevin Centeno**

Lighting Designer **Kimberly Purtell**

January 8 - 30, 2011

Kate, a marketing executive and Mia, her taxidermist spouse, host a cocktail party conceived by jealousy and mistrust. When strangers and family mix, hilarity and horror ensue. A contemporary lesbian drawing-room farce by acclaimed playwright Sonja Mills, *The Bird* is a frank examination of marriage (same-sex and the other kind), infidelity and the fall of capitalism.

Buddies is thrilled to welcome the return of Sonja Mills to our stage, almost fifteen years after the success of *Dyke City*.

Previews January 8 - 11

Opens January 12

Runs to January 30

Shows Tues – Sat 8pm, Sun 2:30

Buddies in Bad Times Theatre presents

The Rhubarb Festival

Toronto's 32nd Annual Convergence of Contemporary Performance

Festival Director **Laura Nanni**

Feb 16 – 27, 2011

As Canada's premiere experimental performance festival, *Rhubarb* offers Toronto audiences fresh, live encounters with contemporary theatre, performance art,

dance and music. For two weeks, Buddies is taken over by more than a hundred local and international artists. *Rhubarb* is an invitation for both artists and audiences to journey off predictable paths and move beyond the boundaries of convention.

Buddies is thrilled to welcome interdisciplinary artist and curator Laura Nanni as our new *Rhubarb Festival* Director.

Week One: February 16 – 20

Week Two: February 23 – 27

Deadline for Submissions: August 17, 2010

Buddies in Bad Times Theatre proudly welcomes
a **Native Earth Performing Arts** production

Tombs of the Vanishing Indian

by **Marie Clements**

Directed by **Yvette Nolan**

Starring Gemini Award-Winner **Michelle St. John**

Set Design **Jackie Chau**

Composer **Jennifer Kreisberg**

March 9 - 27, 2011

Three sisters and their mother are forced by the American government to relocate from Oklahoma to Los Angeles. As these four women try to reestablish connections to a new land, they each find themselves lost. Inspired by true events, *Tombs of the Vanishing Indian* is a poetic excavation of the lost stories of displaced Aboriginal people.

This show marks the reunion of Yvette Nolan and Marie Clements, seven years after their award-winning production of *The Unnatural and Accidental Women* at Buddies.

Previews March 9

Opens Mar 10

Runs to March 27

Shows Tues – Sat 8pm, Sun 2:30pm

Buddies in Bad Times Theatre

in association with **OutSpoke Productions** presents

SPIN

Created and Performed by **Evalyn Parry**

Directed by **Ruth Madoc-Jones**

Musicians **Anna Friz** and **Brad Hart**

Production Design **Beth Kates**

March 16 – March 28, 2011

Through a series of songs played live on a vintage bicycle, *SPIN* recounts a theatrical cycle of stories about bikes, women and advertising. Inspired by the incredible true tale of Annie Londonderry, the first woman to ride around the world on a bicycle in 1894, *SPIN* blends theatre, music and technology in a unique tribute to the bicycle as muse, musical instrument and instrument of social change.

Written and performed by critically-acclaimed actor, singer and songwriter, Evalyn Parry, *SPIN* features Parry's unique talent as a raconteur. Her outspoken, personal and political creations hold out a powerful vision of social activism, while her irreverent wit holds nothing sacred.

Praise for Evalyn Parry: "**Equally funny and dangerous**" - **CBC Radio**

Previews March 16

Opens March 17

Runs to March 27

Shows Thurs – Sun 8pm

Buddies in Bad Times Theatre proudly welcomes
A **Cabaret Company** production

The Situationists

Written and Directed by **Sky Gilbert**

Starring **Gavin Crawford, Haley McGee** and **Gil Garratt**

Set Design by **Steve Lucas**

April 13 – 24, 2011

A male professor and his female student debate about how to create a truly revolutionary act. They are joined by a young male radical who declares that sex is the only way to provoke real societal change. As the threesome attempts to instigate radical situations, they find themselves embroiled in one. Have they succeeded in their cause?

Provocateur extraordinaire, Sky Gilbert, finds inspiration for his latest work in the ideas of the Situationist International, the infamous political and artistic movement which tore France apart in 1950s and 1960s.

Previews April 13

Opens April 14

Runs to April 24

Shows Wed – Sat 8pm, Sun 2:30pm

Buddies in Bad Times Theatre
in association with the **National Arts Centre**
Presents

AGOKWE

Written and performed by **Waawaate Fobister**

Director and Dramaturge **Ed Roy**
Original Music by **Marc Nadjiwan** Lighting Designer **Kimberly Purtell**
Set and Projection Designer **Andy Moro** Costume Designer **Erika Iserhoff**
Sound Designer **Lyon Smith** Stage Manager **Tracy Lynne Cann**

May 5 – 15, 2011

Agokwe is a tragic story of unrequited love between two teenage boys from neighbouring reserves. Brave and revealing, this spectacular one-man show speaks to homophobia, social isolation and the lost traditions of the Anishnaabe. Hot on the heels of a National tour, *Agokwe* returns home for this limited engagement.

Winner of 6 Dora Mavor Moore Awards including Outstanding New Play, Production of a Play, Direction and Performance.

“a riveting parable of hope” - Toronto Sun

“fiercely honest and original...Fobister brings down the house” - NOW Magazine

Opens May 5

Runs to May 15

Shows Tues – Sat 8pm, Sun 2:30pm

Buddies in Bad Times Theatre presents

The World Premiere of

Tightrope

Created and Performed by **2boys.tv (Stephen Lawson and Aaron Pollard)**

May 26 – June 5, 2011

Faced with daily reports of epidemic, natural disaster and war, how do we voice our rage and grief for the forgotten dead, the “disappeared”? Backed by a virtual choir of international singers and musicians, 2boys.tv lovingly craft *Tightrope*, a multi-media theatrical balancing act. A joyful reckoning of life and loss.

Buddies is pleased to welcome the return of international performance sensations 2boys.tv who last amazed us with their absurdist drag spectacle *Zona Pellucida*.

Praise for 2boys.tv:

“...magical mix of cabaret and video... nothing short of genius” – Montréal Mirror

“... the most technologically sophisticated, superbly staged, and intricately timed multi-media experience I have had in quite some time.” – San Francisco Bay Times

Previews May 26

Opens May 27

Runs to June 5

Shows Tues – Sat 8pm, Sun 2:30pm

BUDDIES' 2010/11 SEASON PASSES

Support Buddies proud theatrical tradition by ordering your very own Season Pass. As always, we offer Passholders **reserved seating**, **100% flexibility** and a truly unique array of shows to choose from.

THE OPTIONS

4 night pass *\$85 / **8 night pass** *\$120

Under 30

4 night pass *\$65 / **8 night pass** *\$95

*Please note that all advertised prices are subject to HST.

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

Order your Buddies' Season Pass before **July 4, 2010** and receive an **Admit One Voucher** (use it to bring a friend on one of your visits to Buddies).

Box Office 416-975-8555

