

Tarragon Theatre OutReach Newsletter

Edition 3.1

September/October 2003

Tarragon Theatre's Season

"Is there a better evening of theatre to be had anywhere? Globe & Mail, 2003

Welcome to the thirty-third season at the Tarragon Theatre, committed, as always, to the development of Canadian theatre artists and audiences. This season boasts 8 exciting shows: 5 premieres, 1 English language premier, and 2 revivals. All our shows this season are written by Canadian playwrights and we are confident you and your students will enjoy a rich tapestry of theatrical experiences at the Tarragon this year.

Running September 23 to October 26, Jason Sherman's **Remnants** includes family intrigue, chance occurrences, power, fate and forgiveness woven together in a play that spans two continents and three decades. Beginning on October 7 is John Murrell's translation of Carole Fréchette's **Helen's Necklace** – a work of delicacy and great strength about a troubled woman and a troubled land. **Hello...Hello** by Karen Hines, an eclectic, modern musical about love, life and conflict, runs from November 5 to December 14.

Kristen Thompson's hit **I, Claudia** returns to the Extra Space from December 30 to February 8. Tickets are nearly sold out for this touching one woman mask show. In the new year, the Toronto premiere of Mieko Ouchi's **The Red Priest** opens in the Extra Space. From March 23 to May 2 we are transported into the opulent court of Louis XIV to witness a vivid and melodic love story. The final show of our season is **Simpl** by Peter Froelich. It runs from April 20 to May 30 and is a darkly comic peek into the lives of German beer hall comics Karl Valentin and Liesl Karlstadt.

These shows are recommended for grades 11+ however, mature and well-prepared younger grades can be considered. We continue to provide free study guides with lesson plans grounded in ministry curriculum for each school matinee booked. Study guides are also available for \$10 to educators not booking matinees. Please phone the OutReach department for more details.

Teacher Nights

Teacher Nights are designed to allow educators of all types from different regions to meet in a social setting and experience live theatre. The event features a pre-show chat with someone involved in the production and an opportunity for Q&A. A complimentary performance ticket and bar ticket is included. Each evening begins between 6:45pm and 7pm.

Reservations are limited to 25 educators and are accepted **one month** before each event. To book, please call Tarragon's OutReach department at 416.536.5018 X242. Please note that, due to the high volume of interest and limited space for such an event, a Visa or MasterCard number will be required to secure a space for the evening.

Please consult the website or our OutReach Handbook for show dates and times.

Educator Workshops



Richard Rose, **artistic director** Mallory Gilbert, **general manager** Andy McKim, **associate artistic director**
Kristen Van Alphen & Laura Bonfigli, **OutReach**

We are pleased to once again offer quality workshops for educators. Our workshops are 6 hours (including a lunch break) and cost \$60 each or \$150 for the 3-pack or \$200 the 4-pack. We also offer a special rate for pre-service teacher candidates.

Adapting Prose: from page to stage ** please note this is a **REPEAT** workshop

Back by popular demand, this workshop will provide guidance on turning literature into a play in a way that is both an interesting exercise and a stimulating way to create drama. The day will be led by writer, actor, teacher and former artistic director of Young People's Theatre, Maja Ardal.

Sunday, October 19, 2003 10am – 4pm, Tarragon Studios

Movement: the art of action

Movement is integral to setting the mood of a performance piece and is a powerful tool to facilitate scene transitions. Working with actor, choreographer and 2002 Spring Training movement instructor, Marc Richard, you will be guided through the initial creative steps of choreography, applying your work to music and building character through physical application.

Sunday, November 30, 2003 10am – 4pm Tarragon Studios

Mask Making: how to in high school

Mask work is an archetypal and timeless part of the exploration of drama. Working with Teodoro Dragonieri, mask expert, performer and teacher at Dante Alighieri Academy, participants will take part in a full day mask making exercise using materials and processes they can repeat with their own students.

Sunday, February 1, 2004 10am – 4pm, Tarragon Studios

Text Analysis: the world beneath the words

Led by professional actor, director, National Theatre School instructor, and 2000 Spring Training director, Kate Lynch, this day of study will provide guidance on how to unlock text for yourself and for students. Working with Shakespeare throughout the day, participants will develop an understanding of key elements and how to explore them.

Sunday, April 4, 2004 10am – 4pm, Tarragon Studios

Co-op has Grown

For more than 18 years Tarragon has hosted secondary school co-op students. Students learn how a theatre functions both artistically and administratively and develop practical skills in a supportive, professional environment. Each student is paired with a staff mentor whose role is to provide guidance and feedback throughout the co-op term.

We would like to thank all the candidates who applied to do their co-op at Tarragon. We are pleased to have placed five students: Imran Hack, **Emery CI**; Charissa Aldcroft, **Woburn CI**; Mimi Dendias, **Oakwood CI**; Madelaine Starowicz, **Northern SS**; and Nicole Camarra, **Madonna SS**.

OutReach Has Grown

The OutReach department is proud to introduce this

year's OutReach team, which includes the appointment of 3 new collaborators. Joining the team are Laura Bonfigli, Joanna Falck and Avery Swartz. Still working with OutReach are Kristen Van Alphen as OutReach Director, Mary Wood as our OutReach Consultant and Andy McKim, the associate artistic director of Tarragon Theatre.

The new OutReach Associate is Laura Bonfigli who has been working with Tarragon Theatre for 7 years, beginning as a high school co-op student! Laura has just completed her Masters degree in Canadian Theatre Studies from Drama Centre at the University of Toronto. Laura can be contacted at 416.536.5018 x242 and, among other things, will be taking reservations for teacher nights and educator workshops, and coordinating the publication of our study guides.

Joanna Falck will be helping research and edit study guides as part of her responsibilities in the newly created position of Literary Coordinator. She is currently completing her PhD at the University of Toronto, writing her thesis on Canadian new play development.

Avery Swartz joins us after 4 years with Oakville's Festival of Classics; she holds a BFA in Theatre Administration from Ryerson University. Avery will be coordinating group sales and student matinees. For more information, or to book, Avery can be reached at 416.536.5018 x228.

Tarragon Theatre is pleased to welcome Laura, Joanna and Avery to the staff and we hope you will be able to join us at our many OutReach events this season where you will be able to meet them.

Moving On...

Mary Wood, former OutReach Associate at the Tarragon Theatre, is a full time Drama teacher at Branksome Hall. She continues to work with Tarragon as the primary OutReach Consultant. We sat down to talk a bit about her past and her present...

LB: How did you get involved with the Tarragon Theatre?

MW: During teacher's college at UofT we were told we would have to do a 5-week unpaid internship in education – though not necessarily in a traditional school setting. I had looked at educational materials from other theatres that I had seen while on Practicum and thought that there was an opportunity to bridge the world of the arts and educational communities and bring the arts into the high school classroom. So I called a few theatres and came in for a meeting with Kristen Van Alphen at Tarragon; she had started earlier that season and was very interested in developing a positive relationship with the educational community...and the rest is "outreach history"!

LB: What were your main responsibilities as OutReach associate and now as the OutReach consultant?

MW: When you're part of a grassroots organization, you really do everything from working the concession on a student matinee or decorating the studio to create a warm teacher night atmosphere, to writing grants to foundations and meeting with potential corporate sponsors, coordinating and writing study guides, leading talkbacks, administrating youth programs and constantly

meeting with professional artists to discuss future educator or youth workshop possibilities. Now, I still write the lesson plans for the study guide and take part in the development of educator workshops. I also go to the teacher nights. It's so great to connect with everyone!

LB: What kind of approach do you take as a teacher introducing students to dramatic arts?

MW: My approach is based on two things, one of which I learned from Judith Thompson when I took a playwriting course from her at U. of Guelph: the drama is all around us; we don't need to look elsewhere. We need to look at our lives and write about our individual or collective reality. The other is something I learned from watching *The End of Pretending* by Charlotte Corbeil-Coleman and Emily Sugerman. I make honesty our main objective, we tell honest stories, not necessarily autobiographical, but honest, we try to rinse out stereotype.

LB: You had the opportunity to assistant direct the Spring Training Program in 2001 - what was that experience like?

MW: It was phenomenal. I got to work with Mary Francis Moore who is a professional actor/director but also trained in Drama and Education at Concordia so she was the ideal mentor. I also was able to have creative input into the process, which was quite thrilling. And we had a group of 12 students who were driven and committed. There's nothing like the excitement of putting on a show! True bonding happened!

LB: Why do you enjoy teaching?

MW: It's complex and without sounding cheesy here it goes; I enjoy spending my time with young people, with the next generation of policy makers, artists, lawyers and doctors. Learning happens through discussion among a group of people and we all have to work together for that learning to take place. My students teach me just as much as I teach them.

Finish these sentences:

My favourite memory from my own education is...

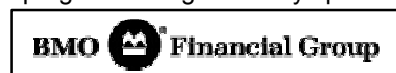
Ms. Biggs taking the North American Literature class to all the neighborhoods of the books we read: The diner in *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz*, *The Tin Flute's* St. Henri and the east end of *Les Belles Soeurs*.

My mentor is/was... Judith Thompson. She taught me so much about theatre and writing, for which I'll always be grateful. Professors Lesley Shore and Anna Faraone both role modeled what a great teacher is in the most honourable way.

Upcoming Events

The Paprika Festival call for submissions is now on the website. The Festival aims to foster the development of young artists and increase the exposure of their work with public performances in a professional environment. It is for artists under the age of 21 with project submissions between 5 and 30 minutes long. Please advise any of your students who might be interested.

Educator programs are generously sponsored by:



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Kristen Van Alphen & Laura Bonfigli, **OutReach**