

TARRAGON THEATRE OUTREACH NEWSLETTER

Edition 3.2

December 2003

Teacher Nights at Tarragon

Teacher Nights occur shortly before or after a Tarragon show opening and are designed to allow educators of all types (pre-service and in-service teachers, graduate students, non-traditional educators, etc.) from different regions to meet in a social setting and experience live theatre. The events feature 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.



Chris Earle and Andy McKim engaged in a captivating discussion

The first two teacher nights of the season have been extremely successful. Associate artistic director Andy McKim engaged costume designer Charlotte Dean in a conversation about her development as a designer and her work on Jason Sherman's *Remnants*. At the *Hello...Hello* teacher night, Andy and director Chris Earle talked about the complex dynamics of a writer-performer's relationship with a director. Having been on both sides of that relationship, Earle's perspective was quite unique.

The next Teacher Night is for Judith Thompson's *Capture Me* on January 8. Reservations are limited to 25 educators and are accepted **one month** before. 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.

Educator Workshops

There are still a few spots left in each of our upcoming educator workshops. Our workshops are 6 hours (including a lunch break) and cost \$60 apiece. We offer a special rate for pre-service teacher candidates.

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Mask Making: how to in high school

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

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.

Text Analysis: the world beneath the words

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

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.

Also available – one-week **Masterclass in Playwriting** with Don Hannah: Canadian novelist, playwright and instructor of Tarragon's Young Playwrights Unit. July 5 – 9, 2004

for more information please visit our website: www.tarragontheatre.com

Tarragon hosts T-dot orientation and first event...



T-dot is an exciting pilot program created by Tarragon Theatre in conjunction with 3 other performing arts organizations: Canadian Opera Company, CanStage and Soulpepper. The program offers 25 young people in grades 11 & 12 the opportunity to experience four very different theatre and opera productions in Toronto. In addition, members begin with an orientation and have 2 round-table discussion nights focused on sharing perspectives. The entire program of activities is free.

To identify students for the project, all four organizations approached teachers, with whom we have strong relationships, to assist us. We were looking for students from ALL disciplines who are curious, eager to try new things and interested in learning more about design, musical theatre, classical theatre, opera, and/or the role of the audience. The most important criteria were commitment to all 7 activities throughout the year and enthusiasm about the project.

Part of the project's main goal is to augment conventional design, music, acting and playwriting courses with a program of critical analysis – allowing students to attend a variety of performing arts events and challenging them to contemplate and discuss all aspects of what they are seeing. Each venue is offering a workshop on one specific topic, in addition to their performance.

Tarragon was the site of the T-dot orientation, as well as the first T-dot performance. On November 6, participants came to the theatre and met with associate artistic director Andy McKim and director Chris Earle to talk about new play development and particularly the role that preview performances play in the process. The event took place on the eve of the third preview for *Hello...Hello*, which Chris Earle was directing, and introduced the students to the role they play, for the director, designer, and performers, as part of a preview audience. The evening was a great success. Next up, T-dot participants will be meeting at CanStage to discuss elements of characterization and view a performance of *The Syringa Tree*.

TICKET OFFER FOR STUDENTS

Tarragon is currently home to two shows that are particularly suited to younger audiences.

HELLO...HELLO features a cast of four performers, all with ties to the Second City, plus a live musician. The show was programmed in our season partly because of the astute observations it makes about the world and also partly because it speaks very particularly to a new generation of theatregoers (patrons who we value). This is a romantic comedy for people who want more grit than fluff and this edgy quality is attracting smart young audiences to Hines' irreverent, disturbing and funny story about the state of our world today.

The other production is **JOB: The Hip-Hop Saga**. Written and performed by two very talented young men from Montreal, this is a visiting production that is returning to Tarragon. It received five-star reviews from the Toronto Star, CBC Radio, NOW Magazine and EYE Magazine. MC Abel and MC Cain take you on a lyrical trip with their retelling of the biblical story of Job. The entire story is told in the musical and lyrical style of hip-hop. Their rapid-fire delivery, wit and accomplished music sampling set them apart as truly innovative artists.

Students may purchase RUSH tickets at 50% off the regular price to either or both productions, on any day, by asking for this special offer.

TICKET OFFER FOR EDUCATORS

HELLO...HELLO and **JOB: The Hip Hop Saga** are the perfect shows to introduce young people to the power and relevance of theatre.

We would like to invite you to be our guest to see **either or both shows free of charge** so you can act as our spokesperson for these works. Please contact our box office at 416.531.1827 and let them know you are responding to this letter.

If you agree with us and want to promote either show to your students, please advise them of our current student offer (details on the left).

Hello...Hello runs until Sunday, December 14
Rush performances are Tuesday – Saturday at 8pm, Saturday at 2:30pm

JOB: The Hip-Hop Saga runs until Sunday, December 14
Rush performances are Tuesday – Saturday at 8pm

There are Sunday matinees at 2:30pm for each show and the tickets are pay-what-you-can.

Brief Tarragon Timeline

1971	Tarragon's first production – David Freeman's <i>Creeps</i> .
1972	Mallory Gilbert starts as theatre manager
1974	First tour – Michel Tremblay's <i>Hosanna</i>
1975-1976	Tarragon shuts down for a re-evaluative sabbatical
1978	Mallory Gilbert appointed general manager
1980	Maggie Bassett Studio is created as Tarragon's teaching studio
1982	Urjo Kareda succeeds Bill Glassco as artistic director
1982	First Playwrights Unit
1984	Andy McKim appointed associate artistic director
1985	First Tarragon Spring Arts Fair
1987	Tarragon purchases the building at 30 Bridgman Ave.
1987	First Extra Space Production
1990	First Spring Training Project
1998-1999	First Under 20 for Under 20's playwriting contest
1999	First Young Playwrights Unit
1999	First Educator workshop
2000	Major interior renovations lobby, washrooms and studio
2000	First Teacher Night
2001	Urjo Kareda passes away
2001	First Paprika Festival
2002	Richard Rose is appointed new artistic director of Tarragon
2002	Surrounding community adopts the name "Tarragon Village"
2003	First WorkSpace production – Judith Thompson's <i>Capture Me</i>

This brief timeline is indicative of many of Tarragon's "firsts", however it inevitably leaves out some fascinating details:

- Atom Egoyan was in our first playwrights unit
- Fabrizio Filippo, Christopher Morris, Jordan Pettie, Nina Aquino & Nicole Stamp have all been part of our Spring Training Unit
- The Tarragon has premiered over 175 Canadian works by such celebrated and award-winning playwrights as David French, George F. Walker, Judith Thompson, John Murrell, Joan MacLeod, Morris Panych, Jason Sherman, Guillermo Verdecchia, Ann-Marie MacDonald, Daniel Brooks, Diane Flacks, Richard Greenblatt, Ted Dykstra, Ken Garnhum, Michael Healey, Mavis Gallant, Kristen Thomson
- Tarragon has received the Lieutenant Governor's Award 5 times in the past 7 years

The Tarragon Theatre emerged at a time where artists were reacting against the regional theatre movement and needed to find an alternative avenue for performance. Thus, the "alternative theatre movement" began in 1968 with the development of Theatre Passe-Muraille, the Factory Theatre Lab opened in 1970 and the Toronto Free Theatre in 1971. Arguably, a similar movement had already begun in 1959 with George Luscombe's Toronto Workshop Productions. All of these theatres were founded on similar principles – it was time for the voice of the Canadian artist to emerge.

Both financially sound and aesthetically challenging, the Tarragon has attracted local, national and international artists and audiences. We currently have over 4000 subscribers and last year our total attendance was over 46,000 people. We offer numerous OutReach programs aimed at both students and educators and we look forward to seeing you at one of our events!

Resource List

The following resources are available for purchase at the Tarragon Theatre:

Bill Glassco and Tarragon Theatre by Denis Johnston

Describes the early years of Tarragon, specifically, its founding by Bill Glassco, the first four seasons, and beyond. Includes a good bibliography and production credits from 1971-1975.

Theatre Memoirs

A collection of writings and recollections on the last half-century of English Canadian Theatre by such respected Canadian theatre professionals as Urjo Kareda, Sharon Pollock, Wendy Lill, Ric Knowles and Dennis Foon.

Scripts

Tarragon endeavours to create chapbooks for each work that premieres here. These scripts are available for sale at the concession during the run of the production. In addition, we also carry a variety of published scripts from previous productions. The availability of these scripts is subject to change.

Study Guides

Study guides are produced at the theatre for certain productions each season. These guides are offered as an additional resource to groups attending performances and include pre and post show lesson plans in addition to discussion topics, theme analysis and interviews with members of the production team.

www.tarragontheatre.com is also an extremely valuable resource. The site has up to date information about our season, rentals, new play development activities, history, administrative details and extensive OutReach programming.

Upcoming Youth Programs

The following programs take place in the Spring but have quickly approaching submission deadlines. Each program is free for participants but they all require a tremendous amount of commitment and dedication. Please visit our website at www.tarragontheatre.com for further information about all of our youth programming – including applications, submission deadlines and/or restrictions and program dates.

Spring Training Project

This year's Spring Training Project's facilitator, director, and primary instructor will be actor, writer, director, educator and former artistic director of Young People's Theatre (now LKTYP), Maja Ardal. She will be using Bertholt Brecht's *Caucasian Chalk Circle* as the foundation for the 2004 participant's collective creation. As always, the program will be multidisciplinary in scope, allowing students to work with numerous instructors in a wide variety of artistic disciplines.

Young Playwrights Unit

Tarragon's intensive unit for young writers has been immensely successful for the past 5 years. Don Hannah, Canadian playwright and novelist, instructs this free program for youth between the ages of 15-19. Like the Spring Training Project, this program is multidisciplinary in nature so participants have the opportunity to work with many different artists.

Under 20 for Under 20s

The 6th annual Under 20 for Under 20s playwriting contest deadline is quickly approaching. Works must be submitted by artists under 20 years of age and they must be no longer than twenty minutes in length; they can not have had a professional production, and should require no more than four actors to perform. The winner will receive \$250. Their play will receive a professional workshop reading at the Spring Arts Fair.

Paprika Festival

The Paprika Festival is an annual juried event comprised of new works of theatre, created and submitted independently by young artists. The festival aims to foster the development of young artists and increase the exposure of their work with public performances in a professional environment. Lastly, the festival promotes inclusion by ensuring free participation for artists and audiences alike. The festival is **currently seeking applications** of new theatre projects for its 3rd year. Held at Tarragon Theatre, the festival runs from March 18 – 28. Submissions are accepted from any interested group across the GTA – all participants must be under 21 years of age. Please visit www.tarragontheatre.com/paprika for restrictions and deadlines.

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

December 5
Paprika Festival
Submissions

January 29
Spring Training Project Applications
Young Playwrights Unit Applications
Under 20 for Under 20's Contest Submissions

February 13
Interviews for Spring
Training Project and
Young Playwrights Unit

This newsletter was compiled by Laura Bonfigli with contributions from Kristen Van Alphen. Special thanks to Catherine Matzig and Avery Swartz. For questions, concerns, comments, or feedback, please contact:

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Educator Programs are generously sponsored by:

