

Third Annual Tarragon Masterclass for Educators

Playwriting Lab

Monday, July 5 – Friday, July 9, 2004

Using our Young Playwrights Unit as a framework, this one-week workshop will take participants through a process using their own writing. The program will include creative exercises and text study useful in developing scripts as well as short seminars in how designers, actors and directors approach new plays. Don Hannah, noted playwright, novelist, director and instructor of Tarragon's Young Playwrights Unit for 8 years, will lead the program.

Please call Mary Wood at 416.536.5018 x411 or email mary@tarragontheatre.com for more information.

Tarragon's Youth – What this year's students had to say about the theatre...

There are a number of programs at the Tarragon that are supported by the fantastic youth in and around our city. Their talent, dedication and drive are inspirational to all of us and are a reminder of why we do what we do. I asked them to comment on their experience(s) here:

I love how everyone's so open and willing to listen. All ideas are considered and explored. There is never any negative energy coming from anyone. **Andrea Kwan, Spring Training**

Smiles were common, compliments were sincere, and laughing was never taken for granted. Not only did we get to spend two hours with an actor, director, and designer, but we got to spend every session with a published playwright. We learned from everybody, including each other. The feedback that I got was very useful towards the development of the play I was writing, and I also learned things I will value and remember for the rest of my life. **Mimi Dendias, Young Playwright's Unit**

The environment of the Tarragon Theatre is like no other building I've been in. You are surrounded by people who are all dedicated and motivated by the same force that drives you. There are different fond memories that are associated with each room of the building. The relationships that I've built with people in that theatre will stay with me forever. It's just really cool. **Michael Albert, Paprika Festival**

What's Inside...

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I definitely acquired a much wider understanding of drama and it's various parts. Tarragon was my first real dramatic training opportunity, and it was a fantastic and thorough introduction to a world which I knew nothing about. The Tarragon instructors don't treat you like children, they treat you as fledgling members of the dramatic community, a sentiment that inspires you to prove them right. **Kat Sandler, Spring Training**

I had commencement last Saturday and I received the OAC Co-op Award, I couldn't have done it without you and everyone at Tarragon. Thank you so much!!! **Ying Han, Cooperative Education**

Tarragon was such a supportive and open environment for my co-operative education placement. Being surrounded by the smiling faces of the staff and other co-op students that love their workplace made the experience here so positive and encouraging that I can't imagine having spent my year anywhere else! **Charissa Aldcroft, Cooperative Education**

In an effort to make **OutReach News** a useful educator resource document, as well as a current, effective communication method, we have chosen to include a resource section in each of the quarterly Newsletters. Edition 3.2 saw the inclusion of a Tarragon Timeline and brief history. Edition 3.3 included an article written about Judith Thompson as an educator. The following is a brief look at 20 years of the Spring Arts Fair

Celebrating 20 years of Spring Arts

Andy McKim, Tarragon's associate artistic director, inaugurated this free festival – it started as an adjunct to a book-sale – in 1985, and it has grown into an established and keenly awaited event ever since. Scheduled over two days of a spring weekend, the Fair is a celebration of the performing arts and works-in-progress. There are plays in many locations throughout the theatre, as well as dance, a young company, music, visiting companies, kids' programming, readings and street theatre. This showcase for new works often introduces work that goes on to full production. This is also the venue for the Spring Training Project performances and the reading of the Under 20's playwriting contest winner. Admission to the Tarragon Spring Arts Fair is **free**, and annual attendance has averaged two thousand people.

An innumerable number of artists have graced the stages at the Tarragon Theatre but a number have also created stages from our offices, washrooms, hallways, elevators, stairwells, closets, windows, parking spots, rooftops, and adjacent forests, porches, street corners. Almost 2000 artists have appeared at the Spring Arts Fair over the last 20 years and this is just a small sampling:

A. Shay Hahn	Daryl Cloran	Jonathan Wilson	Oliver Dennis
Adam Nashman	Dave Carley	Jordan Pettle	Patrick Galligan
Albert Schultz	David Sereda	Judith Thompson	Paul Bettis
Alisa Palmer	Diane Flacks	Julian Richings	Paul Braunstein
Alison Sealy-Smith	Diego Matamoros	Julie Stewart	Phillippa Domville
Allegra Fulton	Don Hannah	Karen Hines	Randy Hughson
Alon Nashman	Eda Holmes	Kate Lynch	Richard Greenblatt
Andre Alexis	Edward Roy	Ken Garnhum	Richard Zeppieri
Andrew Massingham	Esmerelda Enrique	Kristen Thompson	Rick Roberts
Andrew Moodie	Florence Gibson	Layne Coleman	Ross Manson
Ann Marie Kerr	Franco Boni	Leah Cherniak	Sarah Stanley
Anne Anglin	Guillermo Verdecchia	Maja Ardal	Shari Hollett
Ben Campbell	Jackie Maxwell	Mark McKinney	Sky Gilbert
Brian Quirt	Jason Sherman	Mary Francis Moore	Stephen Ouimette
Bruce McCulloch	Jean Yoon	Mavis Gallant	Susan Coyne
Chris Abraham	Jim Warren	Melody Johnson	Tanja Jacobs
Chris Earle	Joan MacLeod	Morwyn Brebner	Teresa Pavlinek
Clare Coulter	Joe Ziegler	Nancy Beatty	Tom McCamus
Cynthia Dale	John Jarvis	Nancy Palk	Tony Nappo
Daniel MacIvor	John Mighton	Nicky Guadagni	Yanna McIntosh

Did you know that the following plays, later produced by the Tarragon, developed through the Spring Arts Fair: *2 Pianos, 4 Hands* by Ted Dykstra and Richard Greenblatt, *I, Claudia* by Kristen Thomson, *SIBS* by Richard Greenblatt and Diane Flacks, *Russell Hill* by Chris Earle, *Fathers and Sons* by Don Hannah, *The Two-Headed Roommate* by Bruce McCulloch and *Hello...Hello* by Karen Hines.

Spring Arts Fair Anthology

20 years of 10 minute plays

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Fair and one of the ways we are celebrating is through the release of an anthology of Spring Arts Fair office plays. The parameters for the office plays are as follows: less than 4 actors, less than 10 minutes, a desk, a chair and a playing space that is approximately 7' X 14'.

The release of this anthology, although celebratory, also marks recognition that these works are valid, valuable and a lot of fun. As you plan your upcoming year and are looking for some pieces to give to your students, think about a 10 minute Jason Sherman, Judith Thompson, Don Hannah or one of the other remarkable playwrights in this compilation.

Anthologies will be available for sale at the Spring Arts Fair.

STUDENT MATINEES 2004 – 2005

September comes quickly as you all know and if you're looking for ways to introduce your students to a world of culture and creativity, consider coming to the Tarragon. Many of our plays deal with subjects that are of interest and value to young people. Moreover, the theatre experience provides an effective way to meet requirements in the new arts curriculum.

We offer 1:30pm Wednesday student matinees in the Mainspace at the subsidized rate of \$10. *Helen's Necklace* is \$12 each. One complimentary ticket is issued for every 20 purchased; this may be used for teachers and chaperones. If a group leader cannot come to the teacher night for the show they have booked, we will reserve 2 complimentary tickets for a preview performance, subject to availability, so they may become familiar with the production in advance of their class trip. We also provide a study guide for selected productions and an information pamphlet outlining the many aspects of Tarragon Theatre.

Tarragon offers post-performance discussions so that students can comment on the work and ask their questions "in the moment" with various members of the cast. This experience provides excellent exposure to working professionals and allows students to have a voice, and to play a concrete role in the event.

We also offer pre-show morning workshops that explore the themes and content of the production that students will attend in the afternoon.

***Private Jokes, Public Places* by Oren Safdie**

A young female architecture student presents her thesis for a public swimming pool to an all-male jury. As each man challenges her ideas, a power struggle begins, which leads to a radical conclusion. Canadian Oren Safdie's play comes to Tarragon after its successful off-Broadway run.

Mainspace Grade 11+
September 29, October 6, 13 & 20

***No Great Mischieff* by David Young and the company**

adapted from the novel by Alistair MacLeod

The long history of the Clan MacDonald begins in 1779 as Calum Ruadh leaves Scotland to begin a new life on Cape Breton Island. Haunted by the stories and songs of their ancestry, two brothers seek to reconcile their past with their present. From the writer of *Glenn* and *Inexpressible Island* comes this adaptation from the award-winning novel by Alistair MacLeod.

Mainspace Grade 9+
November 17 & 24 and December 1 & 8

***Helen's Necklace* by Carole Fréchette**

in an English version by John Murrell

Last season's critically acclaimed hit returns for a limited 4-week run at Tarragon.

"If you're looking for a piece of theatre that's simple yet profound, then look no further than Tarragon Theatre and *Helen's Necklace*." *Toronto Star*

Return engagement, starring Susan Coyne and Sanjay Talwar, directed by Eda Holmes

Extra Space Grade 11+
November 24 and December 1 & 8

***Bea's Niece* by David Gow**

Anne, a novelist, must choose between the truth and her own perceptions of reality in order to survive mental illness. She finds safety and comfort in visits from others, including her Aunt Bea, who provides practical and hilarious advice. From the writer of *Cherry Docs* comes this comic, psychological and spiritual mystery.

Mainspace Grade 11+
January 12, 19, & 26 and February 2

***Half Life* by John Mighton**

co-produced with Necessary Angel

Two nursing home residents rekindle what might have been a wartime romance. The award-winning team behind *Possible Worlds* brings us this poetic and moving meditation on identity, aging and the nature of memory. What shines through when memory fades away?

Mainspace Grade 11+
March 9, 16, 23 & 30

For more information on student matinees, please call 416.536.5018 and speak to someone in our OutReach or Group Sales departments.



We would like to congratulate the participants in this year's Paprika Festival, which was an unprecedented success. Both the artistic merit of the productions and the dedication and commitment of the participants were incredible. We are pleased and proud to have hosted this incredible group of artists.

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.

We also say goodbye to founding artistic producer Anthony Furey as he comes to the end of his 3-year term. We'd like to welcome incoming artistic producer Natasha Mytnowych.

**If you missed this talented group of artists at the Festival,
please note that they will be remounting their productions at the 20th annual Spring Arts Fair.**

Under 20 for Under 20's Playwriting Contest

The Under 20's contest was held for the first time six years ago and since then it has become an integral part of our annual Spring Arts Fair. We accept submissions from Ontario resident writers who are under the age of twenty and whose plays are no longer than twenty minutes in length. They cannot have had a professional production and should require no more than four actors to perform. The winner receives \$250 and a professional workshop reading at the Spring Arts Fair.

This year's winning script is: **Four Sons** by **Michael Albert** of Thornhill. In choosing this piece the jury said that, among the strong entries this year, Mr. Albert's play showed a clear voice and considerable talent for definitive characterization, honest dialogue, and a taught structural development.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Tarragon's annual festival of performing arts relies heavily on the work of volunteers - it could not happen without the dedication of over 150 individuals!

Volunteer positions include ushering for performances, concession and ice cream sales, assisting with the silent auction, costume sale, and celebrity barbeque!

Shifts are in two-hour blocks on Saturday, May 29 and Sunday, May 30 from 12-2pm, 2-4pm, and 4-6pm. A food voucher is provided and there is a special volunteer breakfast on Saturday, May 29 at 10:30 AM.

If you are interested in volunteering at this fantastic event, please contact Avery Swartz at 416-536-5018 ext. 228 or email avery@tarragontheatre.com.

High school students can receive credit for volunteer hours.

This newsletter was created by Laura Bonfigli, OutReach Associate at the Tarragon Theatre.
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