

TARRAGON THEATRE

2007-2008 SEASON

Press release # 1

For immediate release

TARRAGON THEATRE PRESENTS THE WORLD PREMIERE OF MORRIS PANYCH'S BENEVOLENCE

Benevolence by Morris Panych

World Premiere

**Starring: Colin Heath, Stephen Ouimette, Tom Rooney, Jennifer Wigmore,
Gina Wilkinson**

Directed by Morris Panych

Set and costumes designed by Ken MacDonald

Lighting designed by Andrea Lundy

Music and sound designed by Thomas Ryder Payne

Stage manager: Maria Popoff

Supported by: C.A. Delaney Capital Management

**Benevolence opens in the Mainspace on Wednesday, September 26, 2007 at 8:00
pm. Previews from September 18, 2007.**

Please note that Tarragon has changed opening nights to Wednesdays.

He's passed him on the street a million times before. Only on this day, Oswald Eichersen (**Tom Rooney**) impulsively decides to give the homeless Lomy (**Stephen Ouimette**) a generous gift. Reluctantly, Oswald agrees to meet Lomy in a seedy porn house – and that's where his troubles begin, and a simple act of generosity becomes a life-changing event for both the recipient and the benefactor. Oswald finds himself forced to re-evaluate his relationship with girlfriend Audrey (**Jennifer Wigmore**), and begins an awkward friendship with street prostitute Jackie (**Gina Wilkinson**) (she wanted to be a paranormal psychologist, but strayed). And so begins Oswald's downward spiral from orthotics shoe salesman to fugitive – all masterminded by the fascinating and devious Lomy, who wants to return the favour to his new friend. With Panych's typical dark humour and desire to illuminate the unseen, he turns the tables on what true benevolence means.

Morris Panych plays that have debuted at the Tarragon include *The Dishwashers*; *Earshot*; *Vigil*, which since its 1996 presentation has had over 30 productions in Canada, the U.S., and Europe; *Lawrence and Holloman*, nominated for a Chalmers Canadian Play Award; *The Ends of the Earth*, which won the Governor General's Literary Award for

Drama and was produced in New York in 1996; *7 Stories*, which has been produced in New York, London, England and Hungary, and also received a Chalmers nomination; and *Girl in the Goldfish Bowl* which also won the Governor General's Literary Award for Drama in 2004, as well as the Dora Award for Outstanding Direction and Best Play. He is also an award-winning actor. He has directed over 30 productions in Toronto including two Dora nominations for directing: *White Biting Dog* at Tarragon and *The Overcoat* at Canadian Stage. He has been awarded Vancouver's Jessie Award for theatre fourteen times and the Sidney Riske Writing Award three times.

An outstanding cast and creative team have been brought together for ***Benevolence***. The production stars **Colin Heath** (Tarragon debut), **Stephen Ouimette** (*White Biting Dog*), **Tom Rooney** (*The Oxford Roof Climber's Rebellion*), **Jennifer Wigmore** (*Marcel Pursued by the Hounds*) and **Gina Wilkinson** (*Gravity Calling*). ***Benevolence*** is directed by **Morris Panych**, **Ken MacDonald** designs the set and costumes, **Andrea Lundy** designs lighting and **Thomas Ryder Payne** designs sound and original music. **Maria Popoff** is the stage manager.

Benevolence previews in Tarragon's Mainspace on Tuesday, September 18, opens **Wednesday**, September 26 and runs until **Saturday**, October 27, 2007.

Preview tickets:	September 18 to 25 at 8 pm	\$19
	September 23 at 2:30 pm	\$17 (reserved) & PWYC
Regular run:	Tuesday through Saturday at 8 pm	\$32 - \$38
	Saturday matinee at 2:30 pm	\$32
	Sunday matinee at 2:30 pm	\$17 (reserved) & PWYC

Seniors' and students' prices for regular performances, except Saturday night: \$20 - \$32

Tickets for ***Benevolence*** are available online through TO TIX @ www.totix.ca.

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