

# TARRAGON THEATRE

2008-2009 SEASON

Press release # 1

For immediate release

## TARRAGON THEATRE LAUNCHES SEASON WITH THE REMOUNT OF WAJDI MOUAWAD'S SCORCHED

Scorched by Wajdi Mouawad

Remount

translated by Linda Gaboriau, originally commissioned by the National Arts Centre

**Starring: Valerie Buhagiar, Sergio Di Zio, Jerry Franken, Sophie Goulet, Janick Hébert, Nicola Lipman, Alon Nashman, Sarah Orenstein, Alex Poch-Goldin**

**Directed by Richard Rose**

**Set and lighting designed by Graeme S. Thomson**

**Costumes designed by Teresa Przybylski**

**Sound designed by Todd Charlton**

**Stage manager: Stéfanie Séguin**

**Supported by: C.A. Delaney Capital Management**

**Touring Support: Sandra & Jim Pitblado**

**Scorched opens in the Mainspace on Thursday, September 4, 2008 at 8:00 pm.**

**Previews from September 2, 2008.**

Tarragon Theatre is very proud to launch its 38<sup>th</sup> season with the remount of the celebrated production of **Wajdi Mouawad's Scorched**. Back by popular demand, our 2007 production garnered critical praise winning the Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding Production and Outstanding Direction (**Richard Rose**). The acclaimed cast from the original production return with the addition of **Sarah Orenstein** (Nawal) and **Jerry Franken** (The Man). When the Tarragon production closes its run in Toronto it will tour to **Centaur Theatre** in Montreal (Oct. 7 – Nov. 2), **Manitoba Theatre Centre** in Winnipeg (Nov. 12 – Nov. 29) and the **Citadel Theatre** in Edmonton (Jan. 10 – Feb. 1).

The story centres on twins – a brother Simon (**Sergio Di Zio**) and sister Janine (**Sophie Goulet**) – who are summoned to the office of a notary (**Alon Nashman**) to hear the last will and testament of their mother, Nawal. They are both handed a letter written by their mother; one is to be delivered to their brother and one to their father. And the mystery begins - both thought their father was dead and never knew of a brother. The letters send them on a journey into their mother's past – to a Middle Eastern country engulfed in a civil

war where she was a political activist and later became a prisoner of war. The play also follows the life of Nawal (**Janick Hébert, Sarah Orenstein, Nicola Lipman**) – from her youth and her liberation through education to her final years spent in silence. Through poetic language and startling imagery, the play connects the origins of these three members of a family in startling and unforgettable ways.

Playwright **Wajdi Mouawad** has been described as “Lebanese in his childhood, French in his way of thinking and Québécois in his theatre”. He was born in Beirut, grew up in Paris and attended the National Theatre School in Montreal. One of Québec’s leading theatre artists, he is a celebrated playwright, adaptor, translator and director and is currently the Artistic Director of French Theatre at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa. He is the recipient of numerous awards and honours for his writing and directing, including the 2000 Governor General’s Literary Award for Drama (for *Littoral*).

An outstanding cast of nine has been brought together for ***Scorched***. The production stars **Valerie Buhagiar** (*Scorched*, 2007), **Sergio Di Zio** (*Léo*), **Jerry Franken** (*Remnants*), **Sophie Goulet** (*Scorched*, 2007), **Janick Hébert** (*Scorched*, 2007), **Nicola Lipman** (*Scorched*, 2007), **Alon Nashman** (*Democracy*), **Sarah Orenstein** (*Wild Mouth*) **Alex Poch-Goldin** (*Democracy*). Tarragon artistic director **Richard Rose** returns to direct the remount. The designers are **Graeme S. Thomson** (set and lighting), **Teresa Przybylski** (costumes), and **Todd Charlton** (sound). **Stéfanie Séguin** is the stage manager.

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***Scorched*** previews in Tarragon’s Mainspace on Tuesday, September 2, opens September 4 and runs until Sunday September 28, 2008.

Preview tickets:	Sept.2	\$20
Regular run:	Tuesday through Saturday at 8 pm	\$35 - \$45
	Saturday & Sunday matinee at 2:30 pm	\$35
	Friday Night Rush	\$15

Seniors’ and students’ prices for regular performances, except Saturday night: \$30 - \$35

**N.B.** - Since the demand for Sunday pay-what-you-can tickets has decreased over the last few years and the demand for subscriber tickets for a matinee has increased we have decided to change our Sunday pay-what-you-can ticket to a Friday Night Rush ticket.

Tickets for ***Scorched*** are available online [tickets.tarragontheatre.com](http://tickets.tarragontheatre.com).

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