

# TARRAGON THEATRE

2009-2010 SEASON

Press release # 7

For immediate release

## TARRAGON THEATRE PRESENTS THE WORLD PREMIERE OF AWARD-WINNING PLAYWRIGHT MICHAEL HEALEY'S COURAGEOUS

### Courageous

World Premiere

by Michael Healey

A co-production with Citadel Theatre, Edmonton

**Starring: Tom Barnett, Patrick Galligan, Erin MacKinnon, Melissa MacPherson,  
Brandon McGibbon, Tom Rooney, Maurice Dean Wint**

**Director: Richard Rose**

**Set and Costume Designer: David Boechler**

**Lighting Designer: Andrea Lundy**

**Sound Designer: Todd Charlton**

**Stage Manager: Kinnon Elliott**

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

**Courageous opens in the Mainspace on Wednesday, January 6, 2010 at 8:00 pm.  
Previews from Wednesday, December 30, 2009.**

In 2007 **Michael Healey** attended a conference on The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms run by the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada, to mark the Charter's twenty-fifth anniversary. It was here that he was inspired to write the second play of a trilogy (a companion play to 2006's *Generous*) examining the charter not as it was envisioned, not as it exists in the letter of the law, but as it is lived by ordinary, everyday Canadians.

**Courageous** examines the moral courage required to live in a progressive (some would say rights-crazy) society. In two interlaced one-act plays, people are forced to confront the usually invisible demands of a free, open and multi-racial culture. The first centres on Tom (**Tom Barnett**), a justice of the peace, an openly gay man – and a devout Catholic. When two gay men (**Patrick Galligan, Tom Rooney**) show up in his office demanding to be married, Tom must confront the limits of tolerance in a decision that will reshape his career and his relationships. The second act follows Todd (**Brandon McGibbon**), a young father struggling (mostly unsuccessfully) to support his family as he watches a newly-landed immigrant (**Maurice Dean Wint**) surpass him in every way. **Michael Healey** takes on our most cherished precepts in a show for the post-Charter generation.

**Michael Healey** trained as an actor at Toronto's Ryerson Theatre School in the mid-eighties. *The Drawer Boy*, his first full-length play, premiered in Toronto in 1999 and also won the Dora Award for best new play, a Chalmers Canadian Playwriting Award, and the Governor General's Literary Award. It has been produced across North America and internationally, and has been translated into German, French, Hindi, Portuguese and Japanese. His other plays include *The Road to Hell* (co-authored with Kate Lynch), *Plan B* (Dora Award, 2002), *Rune Arlidge* (nominated for the Governor General's award in 2004), *The Innocent Eye Test*, and *Generous* (Dora Award, 2006). Michael continues to work as an actor and will in fact be taking over Tom Rooney's roles during the play's run at the Citadel Theatre. Michael has been a playwright-in-residence at Tarragon Theatre since 1999.

An outstanding cast of seven has been assembled for **Courageous**. Six of these actors are returning to the Tarragon stage; **Tom Barnett** (*How It Works*, 2007), **Patrick Galligan** (*Elisa's Skin*, 2001) **Erin MacKinnon** (*House of Many Tongues*, 2009), **Brandon McGibbon** (*Side Man*, 2002), **Tom Rooney** (*Benevolence*, 2007), and **Maurice Dean Wint** (*Capture Me*, 2004). **Melissa MacPherson** will be making her Tarragon debut. Tarragon Artistic Director **Richard Rose** directs **Courageous**. The designers are **David Boechler** (set and costumes), **Andrea Lundy** (lighting), and **Todd Charlton** (sound). **Kinnon Elliott** is the stage manager.

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**Courageous** previews in Tarragon's Mainspace on Wednesday, December 30, opens Wednesday, January 6 and runs until Sunday, February 7, 2010.

Previews: Dec. 30, 2009 – Jan. 5, 2010

Regular run: Tuesday through Saturday at 8 pm  
Saturday & Sunday matinee at 2:30 pm

Prices start at \$19; seniors' and students' prices are available. Friday night and Sunday matinee rush are \$10.

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

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December 3, 2009