

TARRAGON THEATRE

2009-2010 SEASON

Press release # 12

For immediate release

TARRAGON THEATRE PRESENTS ERIN SHIELD'S AWARD-WINNING PLAY IF WE WERE BIRDS

If We Were Birds

Mainspace Premiere

by Erin Shields

In association with Groundwater Productions

Starring: Philippa Domville, David Fox, Barbara Gordon, Stephanie Jung, Daniela Lama, Shannon Perrault, Geoffrey Pounsett, Karen Robinson, Tara Rosling

Director: Alan Dilworth

Set and Costume Designer: Jung-Hye Kim

Lighting Designer: Kimberly Purtell

Sound Designer: Thomas Ryder Payne

Movement Coach: Allyson McMackon

Stage Manager: Kristen Kitcher

Supported by: Richard Rooney & Laura Dinner

***If We Were Birds* opens in the Mainspace on Wednesday, April 21, 2010 at 8:00 pm.
Previews from Wednesday April 14, 2010.**

If We Were Birds is a riveting re-imagining of Ovid's masterpiece "Tereus, Procne and Philomela". When King Pandion (**David Fox**) marries his daughter Procne (**Phillipa Domville**) off to war hero King Tereus (**Geoffrey Pounsett**), Procne returns with him to Thrace and is separated from her beloved sister Philomela (**Tara Rosling**). After years of isolation in a foreign land, Procne begs Tereus to fetch her sister for a visit. When confronted with Philomela's beauty, Tereus' desire triumphs over reason igniting a chain of horrific events. This epic exploration of violence and revenge features a chorus of ravaged women (**Barbara Gordon, Stephanie Jung, Daniela Lama, Shannon Perrault, Karen Robinson**), plucked from the 20th Century's most brutal conflicts delivering a play that is both ancient and contemporary, mythic and immediate.

If We Were Birds played to sold out houses at the 2008 SummerWorks Festival and garnered the festival's most prestigious award for Outstanding Production.

Erin Shields is a playwright and actor who trained at Rose Bruford College of Speech and Drama in London, England. She is a founding member of Groundwater Productions

through which she creates, develops and produces much of her work. *If We Were Birds* is currently being translated into German as part of The German Theatre Exchange. Other recent creations include *The Epic of Gilgamesh* (Groundwater/Summerworks), Dora nominated *The Unfortunate Misadventures of Masha Galinski* (Groundwater/Canadian Tour) and *Dance of the Red Skirts* (Theatre Columbus). Upcoming Erin will remount *Montparnasse*, which just received the Alberta Theatre Projects' Enbridge Emerging playRites Award. Erin will also continue to tour with Small Wooden Shoe's *Dedicated to the Revolutions*.

An outstanding cast of nine has been brought together for ***If We Were Birds***, **Philippa Domville** (*Chimera*), **David Fox** (*Scorched*), **Barbara Gordon** (*Half Life*), **Stephanie Jung** (Tarragon debut), **Daniela Lama** (Tarragon debut), **Shannon Perrault** (Tarragon debut), **Geoffrey Pounsett** (*Alias Godot*), **Karen Robinson** (Tarragon debut), **Tara Rosling** (*Hush*). **Alan Dilworth** (Urjo Kareda Artist-in-Residence 2005/06) is directing and the designers are **Kimberly Purtell** (*How It Works*, lighting), **Jung-Hye Kim** (Tarragon debut, set and costumes), and **Thomas Ryder Payne** (*Hush*, sound). **Kristen Kitcher** is the stage manager.

If We Were Birds previews in Tarragon's Mainspace on Wednesday, April 14, opens Wednesday, April 21 and runs until Sunday, May 23, 2010.

Previews: Apr. 14 – April 21, 2010

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

Prices start at \$20; seniors' and students' prices are available. Friday night and Sunday matinee rush are \$10.

Tickets for ***If We Were Birds*** are available online tickets.tarragontheatre.com.

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March 23, 2010