

TARRAGON THEATRE PRESENTS CANADIAN PREMIERE OF *THE GOLDEN DRAGON*

“Number 6: Thai soup with chicken, coconut milk, Thai ginger, tomatoes, button mushrooms, lemon grass and lemon leaves (hot).”

TORONTO, January 19, 2012 – Tarragon Theatre presents *The Golden Dragon*, written by award-winning German playwright **Roland Schimmelpfennig** and directed by **Ross Manson**, artistic director of Volcano Theatre. *The Golden Dragon* stars **David Fox, Lili Francks, Tony Nappo, Anusree Roy** and **David Yee**. It previews **January 10**, opens January 18 and closes February 19, 2012 in Tarragon Theatre’s Mainspace. Tickets range from \$20-\$51 (inclusive of HST) and are available by calling the box office at 416.531.1827 or by visiting www.tarragontheatre.com

In the cramped kitchen of The Golden Dragon, a ‘Chinese/Vietnamese/Thai restaurant’, a crisis is unfolding: a young Chinese cook—the new one, the one who’s looking for his sister—has a toothache. Without residency papers, his decayed tooth must be wrenched out by another member of the kitchen staff. The missing tooth lands in a bowl of Thai soup of a flight attendant. In the apartment building above them, a young couple fights and eats takeout, while another man escapes from his apartment to the restaurant below to avoid watching his wife move out. The same man ends up drinking with the shop-keeper of the dry goods store next door to the restaurant, who is more connected to the young Chinese man than anyone suspects.

Schimmelpfennig, one of Germany’s most innovative and adventurous writers, tells stories of the dark side of our globalized world, stories of exploitation, greed, and our interconnectedness with others—even if it appears the fate of a young boy has nothing to do with us. *The Golden Dragon* is a mosaic of intersecting lives, depicting the rootless nature of many people’s modern lives and the parallel world of migrant workers.

“Roland Schimmelpfennig is the most produced living playwright in Europe, and this isn't an accident. His world is our world,” says director, **Ross Manson**, who also recently commissioned Schimmelpfennig’s *Peggy Pickit Sees the Face of God* for Volcano Theatre, as well as directing the Canadian premiere of Schimmelpfennig’s *The Arabian Night*. “He writes the urban experience we see on the streets around us – whether these streets are in Germany, or in any of the 40 or more countries that show his work. *The Golden Dragon* is one of his strongest plays – beguiling, hilarious, and deeply affecting.”

Roland Schimmelpfennig’s plays include *Push Up, On Greisswalder Street, Arabian Night, The Woman Before*, and *Peggy Pickit Sees the Face of God*. He first worked as a freelance journalist and author in Istanbul before studying as a theatre director at Munich’s Otto Falkenberg School. Schimmelpfennig was dramaturg at Berlin Schaubühne and house author at Deutsches Schauspielhaus in Hamburg. In 2010, Schimmelpfennig was awarded the Mühlheimer Dramatists Award for *The Golden Dragon*. Schimmelpfennig also received the highest Playwriting Award in Germany, the Else-Lasker-Schüler-Prize, to honor his entire oeuvre.

Ross Manson is an actor, director, and translator, and the founding artistic director of Volcano Theatre. He is the winner of a KM Hunter Artist Award (for theatre), has been nominated for numerous Dora Awards as both an actor and director (winning in the latter category), and has been nominated for The Siminovitch Prize in Theatre. He trained in England at the University of London (MA in Theatre, specialty in Directing), in Germany (directing apprenticeship, Stadttheater Freiburg), and in Canada (Banff School of Fine Arts). Directing credits include *Shine Your Eye* (part of The Africa Trilogy/Another Africa), *The Four Horsemen Project*, (Dora Awards for direction), *The Arabian Night, Variété* (Dora

Award), *Two Words for Snow* (Dora Award-winner, Governor General's Literary Award nomination), *Weather* (Canada and UK tour). Ross has also directed for the Blyth Festival and Canadian Stage. As an actor, Ross has appeared in film, television, radio, and in leading roles at over 20 theatres across Canada.

Tarragon Theatre presents
The Golden Dragon

Written by: Roland Schimmelpfennig

Translated by: David Tushingham

Director: Ross Manson

Starring: David Fox (*A Man Over Sixty*), Lili Francks (*A Woman Over Sixty*), Tony Nappo (*A Man*), Anusree Roy (*A Young Woman*) and David Yee (*A Young Man*).

Set and Costume Designer: Teresa Przybylski

Lighting Designer: Rebecca Picherack

Composer/Sound Design: Thomas Ryder Payne

Choreographer: Heidi Strauss

Assistant Director: Leora Morris

Stage Manager: Melanie Klodt

Opens January 18 and runs to February 19, 2012 (Previews from January 10)

Tarragon Theatre's Mainspace, 30 Bridgman Avenue

Tuesday-Saturday 8pm, Saturday matinees on January 21, 28 and February 4 at 2:30pm,
Sunday matinees at 2:30pm.

Tickets range from \$21-\$51 (including discounts for students, seniors and groups) and can be purchased through the box office at **416.531.1827** or visit **www.tarragontheatre.com**

Tues-Thurs 8pm and Sat & Sun 2:30pm matinees: \$18; Fri & Sat 8pm: \$22 (Discounts for students, seniors and groups)

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Tarragon Theatre's 2011/12 Season Sponsor is **BMO Financial Group**.

The 2011/12 media sponsor is **NOW Magazine**. Tarragon Theatre gratefully acknowledges annual operating support from the **Canada Council for the Arts**, the **Ontario Arts Council**, and the **Toronto Arts Council**.

ABOUT TARRAGON THEATRE

Tarragon Theatre is known for its creation, development and production of new Canadian work. Over our 40 years, more than 190 plays have premiered at Tarragon, including work by Morwyn Brebner, Kate Cayley, David French, Brendan Gall, Michael Healey, Ravi Jain, Wendy Lill, Joan MacLeod, Daniel MacIvor, Hannah Moscovitch, Morris Panych, James Reaney, Erin Shields, Jason Sherman and Judith Thompson, among many others. Tarragon presents new plays from all parts of the country, revives significant Canadian plays and produces international work, contemporary and classical. Tarragon has also been a pioneer in presenting Quebecois plays in translation notably works by Michel Tremblay, Carole Fréchette, and most recently, Wajdi Mouawad. The theatre offers extensive play development programs and an active outreach and education department. For more information visit www.tarragontheatre.com

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