



MAX REIMER, ARTISTIC MANAGING DIRECTOR

EXCITING CASTING ANNOUNCED FOR 2011/2012 SEASON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | May 24, 2011 - Vancouver, BC... Old friends and new faces will be on stage at the Vancouver Playhouse next season.

In the season opener, ***Tosca Cafe***, **Peter Anderson** (*The Overcoat, The Love List*), and **Dean Paul Gibson** (Actor: *Romeo & Juliet, Stones in His Pockets, Humble Boy*; Director: *True West, Toronto Mississippi*) will be joined by **Rex Harrington**, former principal dancer with the National Ballet of Canada. Mr. Gibson will play the bartender while Mr. Anderson and Mr. Harrington will both play several characters.

Mr. Harrington joined the National Ballet of Canada in 1983 and became a principal dancer in 1988. He has been made an Officer of the Order of Canada, been inducted to Canada's Walk of Fame and made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. He is currently an artist-in-residence with the National Ballet of Canada and came out of retirement in 2010 to perform in their production of *Onegin*. More recently, Mr. Harrington has been a guest judge on the television show *So You Think You Can Dance Canada*.

Created and staged by **Carey Perloff** and **Val Caniparoli**, ***Tosca Cafe*** is a blend of ballet, modern dance, 20th century music, Italian opera, beat poetry and theatrical storytelling. It is based on the real San Francisco establishment that was founded in 1919 and has been a home to artists, thinkers and socialites throughout the decades.

A co-production with Theatre Calgary and American Conservatory Theater, ***Tosca Cafe*** will be further developed and rehearsed in Calgary this summer. This Canadian premiere of ***Tosca Cafe*** will play in Calgary September 13 to October 2, 2011 before coming to Vancouver October 8 to 29.

The New Year begins with the multi-Tony Award-winning ***Red*** by **John Logan**. ***Red*** is a moving and compelling account of **Mark Rothko**, one of the greatest artists of the 20th century, as he takes on his greatest challenge yet: to create a definitive work for an extraordinary setting.

In this Vancouver Playhouse/Canadian Stage/Citadel Theatre co-production, Jessie Award-winning Vancouver actor **Kevin McNulty** (*The Music Man, Fiddler on the Roof*) will play the pivotal role of Rothko and Toronto actor **David Coomber** will play Ken, his young assistant. Mr. Coomber was recently in *Bullet for Adolf* directed by Woody Harrelson for Children at Play Productions.

Kim Collier, 2010 Siminovitch Prize-winner and Canadian Stage Associate Artist will direct ***Red***. **Andrew Creeggan** of the Canadian music trio The Creeggan Brothers, and formerly of the Barenaked Ladies, will compose original music for the production.

Red will play at Canadian Stage in Toronto from November 19 to December 17, 2011 before coming to Vancouver from January 14 to February 4, 2012. It then plays at Edmonton's Citadel Theatre from February 11 to March 4, 2012.

Following **Red** is Catalyst Theatre's **Hunchback**, conceived by **Jonathan Christenson** and **Bretta Gerecke** (Set & Costume Designer *Beyond Eden*). This darkly romantic musical is a surprising new take on Victor Hugo's famous story from the multi-award-winning creative team at Catalyst Theatre (*Frankenstein*, *Nevermore*). The cast features **Ryan Reid** who was last seen at the Playhouse in the multi-Jessie Award-winning *The Drowsy Chaperone*.

Commissioned by The Citadel Theatre, **Hunchback** will play at the Vancouver Playhouse from February 18 to March 10, 2012. It is a presentation of Catalyst Theatre with The Cultch.

Casting for **La Cage aux Folles** began on Sunday, May 22, with a special *La Cage* edition at Apocalypstick, the weekly drag show at The Cobalt. The usual host of the evening is **Isolde N. Barron**, aka **Cameron Mackenzie**, who is Assistant Director on *La Cage* with director **Max Reimer**. Sunday's event was hosted by **Peach Cobblah**.

Casting for **God of Carnage**, the last show on the Mainstage, and **Gunmetal Blues**, the opening show in the Recital Hall, is also under way.

Subscriptions are now on sale for the Playhouse's 2011/2012 season – call 604 873 3311. Single tickets will go on sale August 15. For more information visit www.vancouverplayhouse.com

The Vancouver Playhouse Theatre Company is British Columbia's premier regional theatre company, producing engaging plays of the highest calibre since 1962.

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Media Contact:

John McHenry
Marketing & Communications Manager
Direct Line: 604 638 5540
jmchenry@vancouverplayhouse.com