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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# CENTAUR THEATRE COMPANY ANNOUNCES SENSATIONAL 2012-2013 SEASON!

**Montreal – March 14, 2012**

Centaur Theatre's 2012-2013 Season is worth shouting from the rooftops! Featuring extraordinary actors, dancers, and musicians from abroad and from up the Main, the lineup almost defies description ... and it's our largest season in years. You will want to put down those electronic devices, turn off that screen, roll off that couch and *get out and play!*

**In Brief:** Centaur Theatre invites you to **Get Out & Play** as we launch the 2012-2013 season, our 44<sup>th</sup>, and our biggest and most daring season in years.

We open boldly with the North American Premiere of an international Dance/Theatre/Music/Performance work directly from Aarhus Denmark inspired by the music and lyrics of Leonard Cohen **Dance me to the end on/off Love**. A Granhøj Dans creation, Oct 2 - Oct 21 and November 13 -18, 2012.

We follow with the Canadian Premiere of the Broadway hit comedy/drama **Good People** by Pulitzer Prize-winning author David Lindsay-Abaire, November 6 - December 2, 2012

In February, in co-production with The National Arts Centre, we stage the poignant story that rocked Canada in 1959, **Innocence Lost: A play about Steven Truscott**, by Beverley Cooper running January 29<sup>th</sup> to February 24<sup>th</sup> prior to its Ottawa run.

Next up, in time for St Patrick's Day, is SideMart Theatrical Grocery's riotous Irish yarn **TRAD**, by Mark Doherty, Feb 26<sup>th</sup> - March 24, 2013.

The Quebec English-language Premiere of **August, An Afternoon in the Country** by three-time Governor General's Award winning Franco-Ontarian playwright, Jean-Marc Dalpé, gives us a touching and humorous look at four generations of a Quebecois family, beautifully translated by Maureen Labonté, March 26 - April 21, 2013.

We end the season with a wonderfully raucous ride on a city bus with Axis Theatre's hilarious **The Number 14**, an international hit created in Vancouver and celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a North American tour playing Centaur, April 30 - May 26, 2013.

Our many ancillary events include **Brave New Looks:** Scapegoat Carnivale presents *The Bacchae*, **October 11 – 20** 2012; **Urban Tales**, our antidote to holiday sweetness, December 6 - 15, 2012; and the hottest two weeks in winter to bring the New Year in, the annual **Wildside Festival, Sweet 16 Edition**. January 3 -13, 2013.

## **Centaur's 44<sup>th</sup> Season Lineup**

**October 2 – 21 & November 13 - 18, 2012**

North American Premiere

### **DANCE ME TO THE END ON/OFF LOVE**

By the Granhøj Dans Company

A spellbinding performance steeped in the seductive and evocative music of songwriting legend **Leonard Cohen**. An international sensation! Combining theatre, dance, visual arts and live music, this ground-breaking work explores the architecture of the body and abandons itself to the irresistible sensuality, longing and melancholy that define the lyrics and music of *Dance Me to the End of Love* and other songs by Leonard Cohen. Created by the world renowned Granhøj Dans company in Aarhus, Denmark, the production has been lauded by international critics for its brilliant imagination and broad appeal. Founded by Artistic Director and Choreographer Palle Granhøj, the thirteen member company has toured extensively around the world.

*Associant sur scène théâtre, danse, arts visuels et musique, cette oeuvre révolutionnaire explore l'architecture du corps humain et s'abandonne à la sensualité, au désir et à la mélancolie irrésistibles qui définissent les paroles et la musique de Dance Me to the End of Love et autres chansons de Leonard Cohen. Créée par la compagnie de renommée mondiale Granhøj Dans d'Aarhus, au Danemark, la production a reçu les éloges des critiques internationales pour l'imagination brillante dont elle fait preuve et le vaste attrait qu'elle suscite. La célèbre compagnie qui a été fondée par le directeur artistique et chorégraphe Palle Granhøj a fait d'innombrables tournées autour du monde.*

**November 6 - December 9, 2012**

Canadian Premiere

### **GOOD PEOPLE**

By Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright David Lindsay-Abaire

Directed by Roy Surette

Production Co-Sponsor: Norton Rose Canada

 **NORTON ROSE**

Set in Boston's tough, working class, Irish neighbourhood known as 'Southie', **Good People** is the powerful and ferociously funny story of a single mom who loses her job at a dollar store. Desperate to provide for her disabled adult daughter and avoid eviction, she tracks down an old flame and begs him for work. He is a successful doctor who has escaped his Southie past and lives in wealthy Chestnut Hill. Their opposing worlds collide, revealing what it means to be destitute in a culture that pursues the American dream and believes opportunity comes to those who work hard enough.

*Campée dans « Southie », le quartier ouvrier irlandais réputé difficile de Boston, Good People est l'histoire puissante et parfois terriblement drôle d'une mere célibataire qui perd son emploi dans un magasin à un dollar. Prête à tout pour subvenir aux besoins de sa fille adulte handicapée et éviter l'expulsion, elle finit par retrouver un amour de jeunesse qu'elle supplie de lui donner du travail. Cette ancienne flamme est un brillant médecin qui a échappé à son passé dans Southie et s'est installé dans le quartier aisé de Chestnut Hill. Leurs univers que tout oppose entrent en conflit, révélant la vraie signification du mot dénuement dans une culture qui poursuit le rêve américain et croit que les occasions se présentent à ceux qui travaillent suffisamment dur.*

**January 29 – February 24, 2013**

**INNOCENCE LOST:** *A play about Steven Truscott*

By Beverley Cooper

Directed by Roy Surette

Featuring the NAC English Theatre Acting Company

Centaur Theatre Company / National Arts Centre co-production

Production Sponsor: The Montreal Gazette

**The Gazette**  
montrealgazette.com

In the summer of 1959, a sleepy town in rural Ontario was rocked by a tragedy that changed the community forever and sent shockwaves around the world. A 12-year-old girl named Lynne Harper was found raped and strangled to death. Days later, 14-year-old Steven Truscott was charged with her murder. After a two week trial by jury, the boy was found guilty and sentenced to hang, making him the youngest person to sit on Canada's death row. The riveting and poignant true story is seen through the eyes of a fictional character named Sarah, a fellow classmate of Steven and Lynne's as she deals with her own loss of innocence, her world turned upside down and a personal journey to find truth and justice. The play examines the nature of community and how good people make bad choices. Finalist for the 2009 Governor General's Award for Fiction.

*À l'été 1959, une ville somnolente de l'Ontario rural a été ébranlée par une tragédie qui a changé la collectivité à tout jamais et a provoqué des ondes de choc dans le monde entier. Lynne Harper, une jeune fille de 12 ans, a été retrouvée violée et étranglée à mort. Quelques jours plus tard, Steven Truscott, un adolescent de 14 ans était inculpé du meurtre. Après un procès de deux semaines devant jury, le jeune homme était déclaré coupable et condamné à mort par pendaison, ce qui faisait de lui le condamné à mort le plus jeune du Canada. Cette histoire vraie, à la fois fascinante et émouvante, est racontée à travers les yeux d'un personnage fictif nommé Sarah, une camarade de classe de Steven et Lynne, alors qu'elle est aux prises avec sa propre perte d'innocence, le chamboulement complet de son univers et sa quête personnelle de vérité et de justice. La pièce s'interroge sur la nature de la collectivité et la manière dont les bonnes personnes font de mauvais choix. Finaliste aux Prix littéraires du Gouverneur Général de 2009.*

**February 26 – March 31, 2013**

**TRAD**

BY MARK DOHERTY

Directed by Andrew Shaver

*A SideMart Theatrical Grocery Production*

Thomas is 100 years old and has one arm and his da has a wooden leg. Undeterred by their age and respective disabilities, the eccentrically rustic characters embark on an epic journey across the Irish countryside to find the last remaining successor in their family line, a son that Thomas fathered 70 years ago as the result of a fling. Surreal, moving, thoughtprovoking and uproariously funny.

*Thomas a 100 ans et un seul bras. Son père Joe, a une jambe de bois. Sans se laisser dissuader par leur âge et leurs infirmités respectives, ces personnages à l'excentricité rustique se lancent dans un voyage épique à travers la campagne irlandaise à la recherche du dernier survivant de leur lignée familiale, un garçon, fruit d'une aventure que Thomas a eue quelque 70 ans auparavant. Une histoire surréaliste, émouvante et désopilante qui donne à réfléchir.*

**March 26 – April 21, 2013**

Quebec English-language Premiere

**AUGUST, AN AFTERNOON IN THE COUNTRY**

By Jean-Marc Dalpé

Translated by Maureen Labonté

On a lazy August afternoon in the middle of a heat wave, Monique and her fiancé show up at the family farm to celebrate their engagement with a bottle of champagne. Her relatives, four generations of women, are preparing a special dinner in their honour. At first, pleasantries are shared on the family verandah, but as the afternoon progresses, cracks behind the easy-going facade begin to surface, revealing painful truths and admissions that provoke a startling end to the reunion. A three-time recipient of the Governor General's Literary Award, playwright Jean-Marc Dalpé is one of the most celebrated figures in French Canadian literature.

*Par un chaud après-midi du mois d'août, en pleine vague de chaleur, Monique et son fiancé se rendent à la ferme familiale pour fêter leurs fiançailles, une bouteille de champagne à la main. La famille de Monique, composée de quatre générations de femmes, prépare un repas spécial en leur honneur. Au début, tout le monde échange des civilités dans la véranda familiale, mais au fur et à mesure que l'après midi avance, on commence à voir apparaître des fissures derrière la façade de complaisance, révélant des indiscretions et de pénibles vérités qui mettent fin d'une manière surprenante à la réunion de famille.*

**April 30 – May 26, 2013**

Montreal Premiere

**THE NUMBER 14**

By the Number 14 Creative Collective

Directed by Wayne Specht

An Axis Theatre Production

After touring Canada, Europe, Asia and the Middle East, with two runs at The New Victory Theatre on Broadway, **The Number 14** and its busload of wacky characters set their GPS to Centaur Theatre! Planning to roll on stage in high gear, the hilarious performers in this knockabout comedy will entertain and amaze with their wild shenanigans using acrobatics, song, mime and the imaginative use of masks inspired by commedia dell'arte. Those on board include an inebriated schoolteacher and her kindergarten class, fare beaters, strangers who fall in lust, and an off-the-wall real estate agent who uses the city bus as her boudoir.

First produced by Axis Theatre and Touchstone Theatre, Vancouver, **The Number 14** received four Jessie Richardson Awards, a New York Drama Desk nomination and a Dora Mavor Moore nomination.

*Après des tournées au Canada, en Europe, en Asie et au Moyen-Orient, et deux séries de représentations au New Victory Theatre sur Broadway, The Number 14 et son autobus rempli de personnages loufoques ont programmé leur GPS pour se produire au théâtre Centaur! Déferlant à plein régime, les interprètes hilarants de cette comédie vous divertiront et vous étonneront grâce à leurs fumisteries délirantes qui font appel à l'acrobatie, la chanson, le mime et à l'utilisation imaginative de masques inspirés de la commedia dell'arte. Parmi les nombreux passagers, on retrouve une institutrice ivre et sa classe de maternelle, des filous qui voyagent gratuitement, de parfaits inconnus en proie au désir sexuel, et une agente immobilière excentrique qui se sert de l'autobus comme boudoir. Produite pour la première fois en 1992, par Axis Theatre et Touchstone Theatre, de Vancouver. The Number 14 a obtenu une nomination au New York DramaDesk, quatre prix Jessie Richardson et une nomination aux prix Dora Mavor Moore.*

**QUEBEC'S FLAGSHIP ENGLISH THEATRE** also presents exciting productions that showcase emerging theatre artists.

## **2012-2013 Ancillaries**

### **BRAVE NEW LOOKS**

#### **THE BACCHAE**

By Euripides

Directed by: Andreas Apergis

New Translation by: Andreas Apergis and Joseph Shragge

First performed in 405 BC, *The Bacchae* is Euripides' last play and greatest accomplishment. Scapegoat Carnivale's adaptation/translation of the classic Greek tragedy is set during the Second Great Awakening, an ecstatic religious revival that took place in a field in Cane Ridge, Kentucky in 1801.

#### **THE 16<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL WILDSIDE FESTIVAL**

Take a walk on the wild side! Experience the spectacular annual event that is all the rage among festival-goers. Co-curated by Artistic and Executive Director, Roy Surette, the exciting festival features two weeks of sensational, cutting-edge theatre by local, national and international independent theatre companies, including the jury-selected winner of the Best of the Fringe Award.

#### **URBAN TALES**

We are bringing back the humbug for the sixth edition of our **Urban Tales** series, created in collaboration with Théâtre Urbi et Orbi. Desperate for an evening that is not frosted with festive cheer? Come see Urban Tales, a Quebecois holiday tradition for grown-ups that has soared in popularity over the past 15 years, brought to you in a rather different spirit than that of Christmas.

#### **SATURDAY MORNING CHILDREN'S SERIES**

Spend quality time with the kids. Bring them to an affordable Saturday morning show! Featuring some of Montreal's finest local children's theatre companies, the engaging series promises to entertain and amaze young children and the young at heart.

#### **OUTREACH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

As the leader in theatrical outreach efforts in the Montreal community, Centaur Theatre produces the educational TOT program and the popular Thursday Chat-Ups and Sunday Talkback series.

#### **THEATRE OF TOMORROW HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM**

Attention all teachers! Each year, close to 3000 students attend special matinee performances through the exciting **Theatre of Tomorrow** (TOT) program. Centaur Theatre teams up with educators and provides participating high schools with a variety of resources, including tickets at special discount prices, instructional workbooks for teachers and the unique opportunity for students to meet the actors and creative team after the show.

#### **THURSDAY CHAT-UPS**

An inspiring, informative and entertaining lecture series designed to enrich your theatre-going experience. Meet well-known playwrights, directors, actors, designers, producers and other theatre artists, up close, in an intimate setting. Chat-Ups are held on select Thursday evenings @ 7 PM in the Seagram Art Gallery, prior to the 8pm show. Free Admission.

Outreach and Development Projects continued...

### **SUNDAY TALKBACKS**

Join Artistic and Executive Director, Roy Surette, and the cast for a lively post-show discussion following Sunday Evening performances. Ask questions about the play, the actors and the production and discover what happens behind the scenes. Free Admission.

### **VISITING COMPANIES**

#### **GEORDIE PRODUCTIONS**

Geordie will delight children and their families with two large-scale productions featuring prominent and award-winning actors and designers. The outstanding theatre company has entertained and engaged the imaginations of young audiences and grown-ups for over 30 years!

#### **IMAGO THÉÂTRE**

Imago presents the Quebec English-language premiere of *Thinking of Yu* by Carole Frechette. Translated by John Murrell and directed by Micheline Chevrier, the compelling play is about a woman who becomes obsessed with the story of Chinese journalist, Yu Dongyue, who spent 17 years in prison for having, along with his friends Lu Decheng and Yu Zhijian, thrown paint on a portrait of Mao in Tiananmen Square in 1989.

#### **JOIN US AS A SUBSCRIBER!**

You'll receive great benefits and help ensure that Centaur Theatre continues to present first class English-language theatre productions that everyone can enjoy.

#### **FLEXIBLE SUBSCRIPTION PACKAGES**

Build your 6, 5 or 4-Play package. The bigger the package, the better the deal! When you subscribe you **save up to 26%** and enjoy several advantages, including guaranteed seats to sell-out shows, free exchange dates and discounted tickets to all Centaur shows.

**2-FOR-1 STUDENT SUBSCRIPTION** Great savings! Each student sees six plays at less than \$10 a show and they both receive a 'Bring-a-Friend' pass.

**CURRENT SUBSCRIBERS** have until **May 4, 2012** to renew their reserved seats or choose new ones.

**CREATE YOUR OWN THEATRE NIGHT** Groups of 20 or more benefit from substantial savings on tickets. Centaur Theatre can help you plan a private theatre night, fundraiser or tax-deductible corporate event. Call 514-288-1229 ext. 245

**SPECIAL RATES FOR SENIORS AND UNDER 30s!**

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