

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday June 20, 2011 (For Immediate Release)

“O.D. ON PARADISE” RETURNS TO QUEEN STREET WEST

Theatre Museum & friends plan 1980s overdose .

(TORONTO) – Theatre Museum Canada, Linda Griffiths and Andrew Moodie bring 1980s hit O.D. ON PARADISE back to Queen Street West for a reading at the Rivoli (344 Queen Street West) as part of “PARADISE NOW” , a series of exhibitions, events, performances and concerts aimed at remedying the city’s collective cultural amnesia.

CAST (alphabetical order):

Raoul Baneja
Rick Campbell
Carly Jones
Ari Millen
Mackenzie Muldoon
Birgitte Solem
Astrid Van Wieren
Rick Waugh

Producer: Duchess Productions & Andrew Moodie Productions
(in partnership with Theatre Museum Canada)
Writer: Linda Griffiths and Patrick Brymer
Admission: \$10
Where: The Rivoli - (334 Queen St. W.)
When: Sunday June 26,
2:00pm

Linda Griffiths will also read short excerpts from her novel THE PARADISE PLAY.

DORA & LIBEL WINNER

Winner of 2 Dora Mavor Moore Awards in 1983 (Outstanding New Play & Outstanding Set Design) ,this is the play that brought the police into Theatre Passe Muraille and spawned a law suit between THE TORONTO STAR and the cast.

This eight character social comedy is about a group of Canadians who go to Jamaica for a one week package deal. There’s a blue collar family and a group of young professionals who find themselves thrown together in a place of startling beauty and illusive danger. They (of course) smoke the sacred herb and transcend their daily existence. All personal philosophies are questioned under the paradise sun.

A story in THE TORONTO STAR accused the actors of smoking actual marijuana on stage – they were, in fact, smoking strawberry tea. A Strawberry Tea Benefit raised money for the legal

action and THE STAR settled out of court.

O.D. ON PARADISE, directed by Clarke Rogers and designed by Jim Plaxton, was a run-away hit – playing eight weeks in 1981 to packed audiences who sat in a theatre filled with paper flowers and two tons of sand. It was revived a second year, selling out again....and then, the lawsuit. A vibrant new cast will overdose on Paradise – on June 26, 2011

ABOUT “PARADISE NOW”

www.ParadiseNow.ca

Toronto’s art history is being re-claimed as part of a mammoth exhibition aimed at ‘re-instating cultural memory’. Curated by artist Rae Johnson and Herb Tookey, this exhibit focuses on archiving the 80’s art scene on Queen St. W.

“Paradise Now” is the umbrella for everything folded into the upcoming summer events, including a signpost exhibit at MOCCA. A series of exhibitions, events, performances and concerts are aimed at remedying the city’s collective cultural amnesia. The idea is to celebrate a moment not quite forgotten, but no longer front of mind in an increasingly generic cultural landscape.

ABOUT THEATRE MUSEUM CANADA

Registered as a charity in 1991 by founding Chairman Herbert Whittaker, Theatre Museum Canada seeks to share the wonder of Canada’s rich theatre legacy with Canadians and theatre enthusiasts everywhere.

It has mounted temporary exhibits at venues like the Elgin and Wintergarden Theatre Centre, CNE, Toronto Reference Library, Harbourfront and its first permanent display space, the Walkway of Theatre History at Hart House Theatre. Its most recent exhibit, RISKING THE VOID: THE SCENOGRAPHY OF CAMERON PORTEOUS, presented in collaboration with the Shaw Festival and University of Guelph, toured to Niagara-on-the-Lake (Pumphouse Gallery), Toronto (DX) and Guelph (Macdonald Stewart Art Gallery).

Theatre Museum Canada’s programs include BACKSTAGE, the series of educational panel discussions exploring topics like the Roots of Native Theatre, The Role of the Stage Manager and the Canadian Players’ tour of KING LEAR.

One of its most important initiatives is the LEGEND LIBRARY, the online history project with R.H. Thomson interviewing pioneers of Canadian Theatre, including William Hutt, Martha Henry, Douglas Campbell, Paul Thompson, Susan Rubes and many more. The videos are found at www.TheatreMuseumCanada.ca

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