



For Release October 25, 2001

Brent Carver to Receive Drama Bench Award at Preview of Theatre Museum Exhibit

TORONTO – Actor Brent Carver is this year's recipient of the Herbert Whittaker Drama Bench Award for outstanding contribution to Canadian theatre. He will receive the award at a celebration of theatrical heritage at the Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre.

Administered by the Canadian Theatre Critics' Association, the award will be presented at a gala preview of a new exhibition, *The Theatre Museum: Our Heritage*, on November 5, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Canadian theatre celebrities, including John Neville, Don Harron, Dinah Christie, Tom Kneebone, Albert Schulz, Allegra Fulton, Ken Gass, Brian Macdonald and others will attend the gala. Future stars may also be spotted, as young actors offer interactive interpretations of some of the exhibition pieces.

The Theatre Museum: Our Heritage features over 200 artifacts, depicting the dynamic growth of theatre, opera and ballet in Toronto.

"The exhibition traces the rise of Toronto's theatre, from its days as a touring town to its present independent stage," said Herbert Whittaker, founding chairman of the Theatre Museum and designer of the exhibition

The Theatre Museum: Our Heritage is the museum's third exhibition in Toronto. It is presented in cooperation with the Ontario Heritage Foundation, and will be on view in the Elgin and Winter Garden's Palladian Lounge until early May 2002.

The Theatre Museum Corporation is a registered charitable organization, with a mandate to collect, document, preserve, study, display and interpret the heritage of theatre in Canada, and to communicate its power and wonder.

For further information, contact: The Theatre Museum, Tel: 416-837-2516, Fax: 416-351-0217.

The Ontario Heritage Foundation is a not-for-profit agency of the Government of Ontario, dedicated to preserving, protecting and promoting Ontario's heritage for all of us to enjoy now, and for others to experience in the future. For more information about the Foundation, visit www.heritagefdn.on.ca.

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Theatre Museum Gala Opening Fundraiser

Members' Reception: \$50

November 5, 2001, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

For more information, contact:

Nona Macdonald: Tel: 416-961-2516 or Fax: 416-968-7067

Exhibition Facts

The Theatre Museum: Our Heritage

Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre

Palladian Lounge

189 Yonge Street (at Queen Street), Toronto

Open to theatre-goers until May 2002

Public tours: Thursdays: 5 p.m., Saturdays: 11 a.m.

For groups: 416-597-0965

French: 416-325-5015

The exhibit traces the rise of Toronto's theatres, from its days as a touring town to its present independent stage. The evolution of the Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre's productions from vaudeville to opera, musical and drama, and the theatres' restoration by the Ontario Heritage Foundation are showcased. Among the many treasures on display are a magnificent costume from an Opera Atelier production, a rare print of Jenny Lind as La Figlia del Reggimento, a model of George Luscombe's theatre for Toronto Workshop Productions and a vintage photograph of the Grand Opera House, which once graced Adelaide Street.

For further information, contact:

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