

For release November 15, 2002

## **Robert Lepage to Receive Drama Bench Award at Preview of Theatre Museum Exhibit**

TORONTO – Internationally-acclaimed theatre and film director, actor, author and playwright **Robert Lepage** is this year's recipient of the **Herbert Whittaker Drama Bench Award** for outstanding contribution to Canadian theatre. Administered by the Canadian Theatre Critics' Association, the award recognizes performers, directors, playwrights, and designers who have contributed to the excellence of Canadian theatre.

The award will be presented at a preview of a new exhibition, Canadian Actors' Equity Association's **Silver Anniversary Photo Exhibition**, on November 25, 2002. The celebration of Canada's theatrical heritage takes place at the Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre from 6 to 8 p.m.

*Spring Thaw*, *The Farm Show*, *Dry Lips Oughta Move To Kapuskasing* and the *Vagina Monologues* are all brought together in a single collection celebrating more than 50 years of Canadian theatre. From the first professional stage production held after the Second World War to a modern opera premiered in April 2001, Canadian Actors' Equity Association's (CAEA) touring photo exhibit will enrich the Canadian theatre community. The display of 89 photos chosen from over 400 prints, slides and negatives submitted by theatre companies, schools and CAEA members from Trinity, Newfoundland to Victoria, B.C. captures seminal moments in Canadian theatre history.

Continuing in the Palladian Lounge is The Theatre Museum's exhibition ***The Theatre Museum: Our Heritage*** featuring 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 founding Chairman and Board member Herbert Whittaker.

CAEA's Silver Anniversary Photo Exhibition is the fourth exhibition by the Theatre Museum in Toronto. It is presented in cooperation with the Ontario Heritage Foundation, and will be on view in the Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre's Terrace Lounge until January 2003.

Canadian theatre celebrities, including **Billy Merasty**, **R.H. Thomson**, **Herbert Whittaker**, **Victor Young** and others from Toronto's theatre and museum communities will attend the gala.

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

Contact: Carol Rowntree, Tel: 416-690-6196

## **Theatre Museum Gala**

Tickets \$100 (includes annual membership)

November 25, 2002, 6 to 8 p.m.

For more information, contact:

Carol Rowntree: Tel: 416-690-6196 or Fax: 416-690-4306

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## **Exhibition Facts**

*The Theatre Museum: Our Heritage*

Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre

Palladian Lounge

189 Yonge Street (at Queen Street), Toronto

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 centre's 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:

Jane Ricketts, Exhibition Committee

Tel: 416-962-2992

OR

Contact Canadian Actors' Equity Association, Susan Porter, Curator

Tel: 416-703-2422

Open to theatre-goers until January 2003

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

For groups: 416-597-0965

French tours: 416-325-5015