



ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS



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MEDIA RELEASE

Canada's First Theatre of Snow and Ice: Unprecedented Site-Specific Production Premieres on Olympic Plaza

February 6th- March 8th, 2009, Calgary, AB – Alberta Theatre Projects, The Only Animal and Ghost River Theatre proudly present *NIX* Created by The Only Animal premiering as part of the BD&P Stage 2 at the 23rd Annual Enbridge playRites Festival of New Canadian Plays.

Calgary has never before experienced a production such as *NIX*, a large-scale theatre work using snow and ice. *NIX* was conceived by Kendra Fanconi in response to an invitation from Alberta Theatre Projects to create a new work on a public site in Calgary. The goal would be to both entertain and reveal new creative possibilities in public places. The idea she proposed was to use the skating rink on Olympic Plaza, one of Calgary's most beloved and recognizable places, as the site of an original play. *NIX* uses the materials of snow and ice as both story inspiration and building material: a true theatre of snow and ice!

The set is made entirely from snow and ice both outdoors on the Plaza and inside a 44-foot geodesic dome covering over 1500 round feet. Objects in this world are made of snow or hand-blown glass that will mimic ice; set, light, and costume design have all involved technical innovations. This unique project has spanned years of planning, development and hundreds of miles traveled by its collaborators. Through it all, the creative team has been inspired by the mutable magic of snow and glass, fire and light: the audacity of a thaw where all is ice.

The story follows a few survivors through the fireworks at the end of the world. After a sudden onset ice-age wipes the world clean, a girl with a knack for infinity and a woman ten-and-a-half months pregnant set out to create the world anew. Enter the Arsonist. Zero is his hero. Peeved that the apocalypse got jammed along the way, he is here to finish the job. *NIX* is a frozen fantasy complete with flaming tuba, snowman death scene and an explosive love story that will melt the coldest heart of all. This play is a completely unexpected theatrical adventure: boundlessly imaginative, it is without precedent in this country.

(Audience Advisory: Mature Themes, Coarse Language, 12 years old and up)

Cast

Girl – Jennie Esdale
Arsonist – Rylan Wilkie
Pregnant Woman – Lucia Frangione

The Creative Team

Director: Kendra Fanconi
Playwright: Kendra Fanconi
Set Design: Carl Schlichting
Lighting Design: William Hales
Costume Design: Deneen McArthur
Composer & Musical Director: Mark Sylvester
Dramaturg: Vicki Stroich
Stage Manager: Marcella Hyde
Apprentice Stage Manager: Tuled Giovanazzi
Musicians: Ricardo Fonseca, Andy Kimber

The Only Animal is a Vancouver-based company that creates unique and often large-scale site specific theatre. Ghost River Theatre is a Calgary company well known for ambitious, politically-charged, collaboratively-created productions. Alberta Theatre Projects enriches the lives of audiences and grows that audience by producing a season of celebrated contemporary theatre and by taking a national leadership role in the development of new Canadian plays. These three companies collaborated extensively to bring *NIX* to Calgary audiences.



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NIX Previews February 6th, February 7th and February 10th, 2009, opens February 11th and runs until March 8th, 2009. Shows are Tuesdays through Sundays nightly at 8:30 PM with no matinees. **NIX** begins outside on Olympic Plaza's skating rink before the audience moves inside a 'snowdrift' on the rink for the remainder of the show. Though the 'drift' provides some protection from the elements, it's a wintry world. Audiences are advised to come prepared with warm layers of clothing, hats, mittens, boots and blankets. Dress as you would for a sleigh ride, and bring a friend to cozy up with! For tickets, please call our **Ticket Office at (403) 294-7402**, Ticketmaster at (403) 299-8888 or visit www.ATPLive.com.

Alberta Theatre Projects thanks our sponsors and partners for their support of the **23rd Annual Enbridge playRites Festival**: Enbridge Inc. (Title Sponsor), ConocoPhillips Canada (Naming Sponsor of the ConocoPhillips STAGE), Calgary Herald (Season Sponsor), Rogers Communications (Presenting Sponsor of the 2008/2009 Season), AltaGas Ltd., The Calgary Foundation, Gibson Energy Ltd. and McCarthy Tétrault LLP (Starring Role Sponsors), Burnet, Duckworth and Palmer LLP (Underwriting Sponsor BD&P Stage 2), DPH Focus, GLJ Petroleum Consultants, Hallmark Tubulars and Quicksilver Resources (Supporting Cast Sponsors) and CBC Television (Media Sponsor).

NIX is supported by Burnet, Duckworth and Palmer LLP (Underwriting Sponsor BD&P Stage 2), The Calgary Foundation (Starring Role Partner), VIVID Lighting Solutions (Starring Role Sponsor), The City of Calgary (Starring Role Partner), Bobcat of Calgary (Behind the Scenes Sponsor), Downtown Calgary Association (Behind the Scenes Partner) and Open Range Energy Corp. (Behind the Scenes Sponsor).

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For more information or interview requests, please contact
Jessica Dollard, Marketing and Communications Associate (Publicist)
Telephone: (403) 294-7433 ext. 1118 • Facsimile: (403) 294-7493
Cell: (403) 605-6212
Email: jdollard@atplive.com
www.ATPLive.com