

Adolescence, Small Towns and Confronting the Unknown in a Dark Prairie Comedy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 9th 2008, Calgary, AB – Alberta Theatre Projects proudly presents the first show of the 2008/2009 Season, ***Unity (1918)*** by Kevin Kerr, a dark prairie comedy exploring the consequences of a crisis hitting a small town as the world itself begins to dissolve.

Featuring the hottest young talent in Calgary, ***Unity (1918)*** gathers many Alberta Theatre Projects favourites back on our stage, including numerous Betty Mitchell Awards Winners (**Elinor Holt, Karen Johnson-Diamond, Jamie Konchak, David Trimble, Tyrell Crews**). **Glenda Stirling** returns to Alberta Theatre Projects to direct the play the Globe and Mail called “**a work of powerful and moving familiarity... also painfully funny**”. Stirling previously directed *Rabbit Hole* at Alberta Theatre Projects, for which she received a Betty Mitchell Award Nomination.

Unity (1918) follows three young women on the cusp of adulthood in Unity, Saskatchewan, struggling to cope and comprehend the destruction of WWI and the threat of the Spanish Flu. Mary (**Julie Mortensen**) waits for her soldier fiancée to return from the war and Beatrice (**Ellen Close**) dedicatedly knits socks for the boys overseas while Sissy (**Georgina Beaty**) prepares for the end of the world. The arrival of a blind veteran (**Tyrell Crews**) upends the town, as a strange flu quickly descends.

A winner of the Governor General’s Award for Drama, Kevin Kerr’s ***Unity (1918)*** courageously examines growing up at the end of the world, when one is faced with the loss of community; an amusing, touching, and intensely human portrait of small town life on the prairies.

Unity (1918) runs from **September 23rd through October 11th 2008**, with shows Tuesdays through Saturdays at 7:30 PM and Saturdays and Sundays at 2:00 PM. All performances on the ConocoPhillips STAGE in the Martha Cohen Theatre, 215 – 8 Ave SE. For tickets, please call our **Ticket Office at (403) 294-7402**, Ticketmaster at (403) 299-8888 or visit www.ATPLive.com

CAST

(In alphabetical order)

Sissy : **Georgina Beaty**

Beatrice: **Ellen Close**

Hart: **Tyrell Crews**

Rose: **Elinor Holt**

Doris: **Karen Johnson-Diamond**

Sunna: **Jamie Konchak**

Mary: **Julie Mortensen**

Michael / Glen / Man 2: **Bruce Novakowski**

Stan / Man 1 / Chaperone: **David Trimble**

Company

Director: **Glenda Stirling**

Set & Costume Design: **Roger Schultz**

Lighting Design: **David Fraser**

Composer/ Sound Designer: **Dewi Wood**

Production Dramaturg: **Amy Lynn Strilchuk**

Stage Manager: **Amy Lippold**

Assistant Stage Manager: **Michael Howard**

Alberta Theatre Projects thanks our sponsors for their support of ***Unity (1918)***: **ConocoPhillips Canada** (Naming Sponsor of the ConocoPhillips STAGE), **Calgary Herald** (Season Sponsor), **Rogers Communications** (Presenting Sponsor of the 2008/2009 Season) and **Just the Ticket** (Cameo Appearance Sponsor – ***Unity (1918)***).

-30-

For more information, please contact

Amy Widdowson, Marketing and Communications Associate (Publicist)

Telephone: (403) 294-7433 ext. 1118 • Facsimile: (403) 294-7493

Email: awiddowson@ATPLive.com

www.ATPLive.com