

PRESS RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT:
Nicole McLuckie
604.687.5315 x 243
publicity@artsclub.com



ARTS CLUB THEATRE COMPANY ANNOUNCES 2009/2010 SEASON

In the midst of a successful season—with record-breaking numbers of season ticket holders and attendees—the Arts Club Theatre Company is pleased to announce its lineup of shows for 2009/2010.

The musical you've been dreaming of, the "mother of all shows," TV star Eric McCormack as you've never seen him before, and the Arts Club's return to the New Revue Stage are just a few of the highlights of the season announced today by Artistic Managing Director **Bill Millerd**.

Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage

BLACK COMEDY September 10–October 11, 2009
IRVING BERLIN'S WHITE CHRISTMAS: THE MUSICAL November 12–December 27, 2009
MRS. DEXTER AND HER DAILY January 7–February 7, 2010
TEAR THE CURTAIN! March 11–April 11, 2010
BUDDY: THE BUDDY HOLLY STORY May 13–July 11, 2010
GLENGARRY GLEN ROSS July 22–August 22, 2010

Granville Island Stage

MOM'S THE WORD: REMIXED September 24–November 7, 2009
IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE November 26, 2009–January 2, 2010
NEVERMORE: THE IMAGINARY LIFE AND MYSTERIOUS DEATH OF EDGAR ALLAN POE January 21–February 6, 2010
BILLY BISHOP GOES TO WAR March 25–April 17, 2010
PARADISE GARDEN April 15–May 15, 2010 at the New Revue Stage
BECKY'S NEW CAR May 6–June 5, 2010
THE 25th ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE June 17–July 31, 2010

The new season includes four premieres of Canadian works, and at the Stanley for the holidays, the musical you've been dreaming of, *Irving Berlin's White Christmas: The Musical*, a tap-dancing delight brimming with tunes that will fill audiences with the joy of the season. The company is also delighted to welcome back "the Moms." The greatest highlights from the original *Mom's the Word* and its sequel will be combined in this premiere production—fondly known as "mother of all shows." In the summer production of David Mamet's electrifying play *Glengarry Glen Ross*, local boy Eric McCormack of TV's *Will & Grace* fame returns to the Arts Club after more than a decade away.

Bill Millerd said, "There is much to be excited about in this lineup but highlights for me are the world premiere of Electric Company's *Tear the Curtain!* on the Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage, which will be an exciting part of the Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad, and is a direct result of our Silver Commission Project. Second, the return to the New Revue Stage gives the Arts Club more opportunities to produce new plays from local playwrights. I would especially like to thank the Vancouver Foundation for giving us extraordinary support to help us make our transition back to the New Revue Stage."

Executive Director **Howard Jang** said, "Our audiences and especially our subscriber base has been growing for the last decade, establishing the Arts Club as the highest-attended theatre company in Western Canada. For next season, Bill has put together a playbill for *all* to enjoy, savour, and be entertained."

Season tickets for the Arts Club's thrilling 46th season **start at \$99 for the 5-show Stanley Series, making it the best entertainment value in town!** On sale March 24. Call the Arts Club Box Office at 604.687.1644 or go online at artsclub.com.

MORE INFO:

STANLEY INDUSTRIAL ALLIANCE STAGE

BLACK COMEDY

By Peter Shaffer

Director Dean Paul Gibson

September 10–October 11

An Enlightening Farce

Struggling artist Brindsley wants to impress his fiancée's visiting father, so he dim-wittedly breaks into a neighbour's flat and "borrows" the fancy furniture. But just as the last antique is set in place, a fuse blows and the lights go out! A litany of unexpected guests and mistaken identities throw the evening into chaos—but the darkness also sheds hilarious light on everyone's true character.

IRVING BERLIN'S WHITE CHRISTMAS: THE MUSICAL

Based upon the Paramount Pictures film written for the screen by

Norman Krasna, Norman Panama, and Melvin Frank

Music and lyrics by Irving Berlin

Book by David Ives and Paul Blake

November 12–December 27

The Musical You've Been Dreaming Of

Make your days merry and bright by warming to this unforgettable musical about love and friendship. Based on the classic holiday film, this tap-dancing delight brims with tunes—including "Blue Skies," "Sisters," and the ever-popular "White Christmas"—that will fill you with the joy of the season.

MRS. DEXTER AND HER DAILY

By Joanna McClelland Glass

Director Marti Maraden

A world premiere co-production with Canada's National Arts Centre English Theatre

January 7–February 7

Friendship, Maid to Order

PREMIERE

A finely crafted portrait of Mrs. D and Peggy, whose longstanding employer–servant relationship may be coming to an end. The women cross class and cultural boundaries in this tale of love and loss and loyalty, set in Toronto.

TEAR THE CURTAIN!

By Jonathon Young and Kevin Kerr in collaboration with Kim Collier and David Hudgins

A co-production with the Electric Company

Presented with the Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad

March 11–April 11

Murder, Mayhem, Movies!

PREMIERE

The innovative Electric Company premieres a stylish thriller inspired by the real history of the Stanley Theatre, which opened as a movie house with Lillian Gish's first talkie in 1930. This multimedia spectacle features your favourite Hollywood film noir archetypes: the femme fatale, the hardboiled detective, the girl Friday, the mob boss, and more.

BUDDY: THE BUDDY HOLLY STORY

By Alan Janes and Rob Bettinson

May 13–July 11

The World's Most Successful Rock 'n' Roll Musical

"Peggy Sue," "That'll Be the Day," "Oh Boy," "Not Fade Away"—the list of hit songs penned by Buddy Holly goes on and on. By his untimely death, the legend had already changed popular music forever. Vibrant and celebratory, *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story* highlights the talent and passion that lives on in his music and continues to thrill audiences long after they dance out of the theatre!

GLENGARRY GLEN ROSS

By David Mamet

Starring Eric McCormack

July 22–August 22

Show Me the Money, Money, Money

Tough times call for tough measures in a Chicago real-estate office. In this cutthroat world, four hungry, backstabbing salesmen peddle questionable investments in a contest to become top dog.

Slumping sales? Can't close the deal? You're fired! David Mamet's explosive masterpiece of workplace power struggles gone awry stars Eric McCormack of TV's *Will and Grace* as you've never seen him.

GRANVILLE ISLAND STAGE

MOM'S THE WORD: REMIXED

By the Mom's the Word Collective

September 24–November 7

The Mother of All Shows

PREMIERE

They're back! The shockingly funny Moms reunite to bring highlights from the smash hits *Mom's the Word* and *Mom's the Word 2: Unhinged* to Granville Island. In this premiere production, they'll share their true, intimate tales of the heartache and joy of parenthood, from bun in the oven to the terrible twos to the terrifying teens.

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

By Philip Grecian

Based on the classic film by Frank Capra

Director Dean Paul Gibson

November 26–January 2

The Holiday Heart-Warmer Returns

"Every time a bell rings an angel gets his wings." In this holiday favourite, George Bailey's guardian angel swoops in to remind him that faith, hope, and family make life truly wonderful.

NEVERMORE: THE IMAGINARY LIFE AND MYSTERIOUS DEATH OF EDGAR ALLAN POE

Production conceived by Jonathan Christenson and Bretta Gerecke

Presented with the Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad

A Catalyst Theatre production, presented with The Cultch and the PuSh Festival

January 21–February 6

A Musical Fable for Adults

"All that we see or seem is but a dream within a dream." So wrote Poe nearly two hundred years ago. His lingering myths are fused with music in this enthralling, fantastical rendering of the Gothic dreamscape of his life, revealing the psychology of the man whose haunting, darkly comic writings resonate in each of our tell-tale hearts.

BILLY BISHOP GOES TO WAR

Written and composed by John Gray with Eric Peterson

March 25–April 17

The Boy Who Became a Hero

This tour de force—featuring a pianist and one actor playing 18 characters—follows the trajectory of Billy Bishop's career from ne'er-do-well cavalry officer to the nation's most-decorated soldier. Both comic and dramatic, the myth of the daring WWI flying ace is told through story and song in one of the most popular musicals in the Canadian canon.

PARADISE GARDEN [at the New Revue Stage]

By Lucia Frangione

April 15–May 15

Where Anything Is Possible

PREMIERE

Local boy Day, a free spirit, lives next door to worldly Layla, a career-driven intellectual. The two have nothing in common. Or do they? Over time these divergent souls come to understand each other in a way neither thought possible. A contemporary tale of romance and cultural divides so engaging it will change the way you see the girl (or boy) next door!

BECKY'S NEW CAR

By Steven Dietz

May 6–June 5

Finding the On-Ramp to Happiness

Becky is married. Check. With one son, in college. Check, check. Living a perfectly ordinary life. Check. But she wants more. When an unexpected offer for just that—from a dashing millionaire, no less—falls into her lap, Becky embarks on a comic and poignant joyride that may change everything forever.

THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

Music and lyrics by William Finn

Book by Rachel Sheinkin

Conceived by Rachel Feldman

June 17–July 31

The H-i-l-a-r-i-o-u-s Musical Comedy

It's the funniest thing in seven consonants! Jubilant and touching, this Tony Award–winning musical comedy pits quirky prepubescent overachievers against one other in the spelling challenge of a lifetime. Amid infectious songs such as “My Friend, the Dictionary,” “Woe Is Me, and “I Speak Six Languages,” the nerdy and wordy learn that winning isn't everything.

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The Arts Club Theatre Company, now in its 45th season, is a not-for-profit registered charity that operates two theatres on a year-round basis, the Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage and the Granville Island Stage.

The company also tours a three-show mini-season throughout the province annually.

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