

PRESENTATION HOUSE THEATRE APPOINTS NEW ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

The Presentation House Theatre Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Kim Selody to the position of Artistic Director, Presentation House Theatre. Kim Selody brings extensive experience in the Canadian and international theatre industry to this role.

Kim Selody's appointment marks an exciting new stage in the development of Presentation House Theatre, which has been presenting a professional theatre season since 2005. 2011/12 will see an expanded focus on building Presentation House Theatre's role within the North Vancouver community and cementing its reputation as a top class presenter of professional theatre.

Presentation House Theatre Board Chair David Murray welcomed Kim Selody to the role on behalf of the Board of Directors.

"On behalf of the Board of Presentation House Theatre I am excited to welcome Kim Selody to this position of artistic leadership at Presentation House – Kim brings a demonstrated commitment to the pursuit of artistic excellence and fostering of creativity in theatre to our stage.

"Kim also brings more than 30 years of experience as a writer, actor and director in Canadian and international theatre to Presentation House, experience he looks forward to drawing on in the re-visioning of Presentation House Theatre's role in the community of North Vancouver, and the Greater Vancouver theatre scene more broadly.

"Presentation House Theatre is a vital part of what makes North Vancouver a great place to live, and Kim will ensure PHT remains both a vibrant and engaged part of the growing North Shore arts scene."

David Murray also thanked outgoing Artistic Director Brenda Leadlay for the great personal and professional investment of her talents in the theatre and for her role as the driving force behind bringing professional theatre to the North Shore.

"I am very pleased and excited to be returning to the West Coast and taking the helm of Presentation House Theatre. In my early years as a theatre professional, I had the opportunity to perform, direct and teach at PHT. The lower mainland of BC has some of the most dynamic and interesting theatre going on in the country. I look forward to joining the conversation as both a presenter and producer," Kim Selody said.

Kim Selody joins a recently expanded team of professional staff at Presentation House Theatre. In 2011 Presentation House Theatre has added a full time Marketing Director and Office Manager to their staff team as well as a new General Manager, Technical Director and Box Office Manager.

Presentation House Theatre's 2011/12 Third Street Theatre Series, sponsored by CN opens on Thursday 13 October 2011 with *KISMET one to one hundred*, a Chop Theatre Production Presented by Presentation House Theatre. Find out more www.phtheatre.org

For interviews contact Merran Aguilera 604.973.0106.

BACKGROUNDER

About Kim Selody

Kim has worked as a writer, director and actor in Canadian theatre for over 30 years. From the fall of 1991 to the spring of 1996 Kim served as the Artistic Director of the Playwrights Theatre Centre (formerly The New Play Centre). During that time he restructured the organization to include playwright development, as well as producing new works; created the Vancouver New Play Festival, the Seedlings Projects, and over saw the merger of The New Play Centre and the Betty Lambert Society to become the Playwrights Theatre Centre. In September of 1999, he took over as Artistic Director of Carousel Players in Southern Ontario until 2006. He was a Theatre Officer at the Canada Council for the Arts from 2006 until present.

Kim has directed over 100 professional theatre productions across Canada, in Germany, the Netherlands, England, the US, and Quebec. He has written several plays for Young Audiences including adaptations of THE HOBBIT and SILVERWING, collaborating with Quebec composer Denis Gougeon. Other recent directing credits include the world premier of John Murrell's THE ODYSSEY for the Banff Centre, MTP and the N.A.C. Kim directed and co-created the International co-production of BAKING TIME with the Oily Cart Theatre in London, England. He wrote and performed in THE LAST DROP. Recent projects include co-creating and directing THE CAT CAME BACK with Fred Penner and Jay Brazeau.

Kim has directed new plays for The Arts Club Theatre, City Stage, Caravan Farm Theatre, The Vancouver Playhouse, Prairie Theatre Exchange, Playwrights Workshop Montreal, Western Canada Theatre Company and The National Arts Centre. Green Thumb Theatre, Axis Theatre, Manitoba Theatre for Young People, The Globe Theatre, Prairie Theatre Exchange, Carousel Theatre, Dynamo Theatre in Montreal (en francais); several of which have won awards. He has developed and directed the new work of many playwrights including Tom Cone, David King, Morris Panych, John Lazarus, Jeff Pitcher, Bruce McManus, Ian Ross and Nicki Cavendish, including dramaturgical development and the original director of the MOM'S THE WORD collective and SUSPECT : A GAME OF MURDER in 1984 and directed a Dutch version in Rotterdam in 1990. Kim ran the first anglophone EXERCISE D'ENSEMBLE for the National Theatre School in 1990.

Kim has taught Clown, and Physical Theatre at several professional training institutions, colleges and Universities including U.B.C., Simon Fraser University, Langara College - Studio 58, and The National Theatre School. He has given workshops at several international festivals in Montreal, London England, Vancouver, Winnipeg and Seattle as well as to students in over 100 elementary and secondary schools in B.C. and across Canada. He trained as an actor at Camosun College in Victoria in 1975 and as a clown in 1982 in Paris with Phillippe Gaulier and Monika Pagneaux. He has also studied with Eugenio Barba of the Odin Theatre, Denmark in Montreal in 1983.

From 1979 to 1987, Kim created and performed in over 18 plays with Axis Mime Theatre in Vancouver, touring extensively including festivals in Montreal (1983 and 86), Winnipeg (1986), Vancouver (1980 and 86) and London, England (1987). The most successful of these were FOOLS ANGEL (critically acclaimed in Montreal and London) and SYNTHETIC ENERGY (Jessie Awards for Outstanding New Play and Outstanding Production, 1985). Other writing credits include INGENIOUS SPECULATIONS for the Belfry Theatre, 1998; ONLY BIRDS AND FOOLS FLY (Axis Theatre touring Children's Festivals, 1983) IDENTICAL ISLANDS (for Axis Theatre 1983 and M.T.Y.P.1992). His adaptation plays SUDDENLY SHAKESPEARE and LOVERS AND LIARS (for Carousel Theatre), MURMEL, MURMEL, MORTIMER , MUNSCH (for P.T.E.), JELLY BELLY (for P.T.E.) THE HOBBIT and THE ICE CREAM STORE and MORE (M.T.Y.P) are still being done. His play, THE DIPLOMAT, was produced by Odyssey Theatre in Ottawa in 1990. For six seasons, he toured across Canada and into the U.S. as a performer in the highly successful COMET IN MOOMINLAND for M.T.Y.P. He has performed the piece in French in Montreal and Cantonese in Hong Kong. Kim has also directed and appeared in THE STORY OF THE LITTLE GENTLEMAN produced by M.T.Y.P. and recently toured to the N.A.C. in Ottawa. In 1991 he created, directed and performed in CLOWNS IN CHAOS for the Vancouver International Comedy Festival. He has also hosted at the Ottawa International Jazz Festival and The Vancouver International Comedy Festival with a live chicken as co-host.

Kim has received several awards for his work including two Dora Awards for outstanding productions for Young Audiences for his work in Ontario; Three Jessie Awards for Outstanding New Play, Outstanding production, and Outstanding Ensemble for his work in British Columbia. He has also received a special award for Innovation in Programming at the Playwrights Theatre Centre. His adaptation of *The Hobbit* was nominated for the Chalmers Award for Plays in Canada in 2001, as was *THE LAST DROP* in 2002. Each year at Carousel Players, his works have received a Dora nomination for “outstanding production” in the TYA category.

About Presentation House Theatre

Presentation House Theatre exists to create meaningful connections through the performing arts that reveal the human experience by developing, producing and presenting a dynamic and diverse mix of theatrical productions. PHT is further committed to nurturing an atmosphere of cultural inclusiveness in its programming and promotional events.

Since 1978 Presentation House Cultural Society has overseen the maintenance of the Presentation House Arts Centre and operates Presentation House Theatre, an intimate 158-seat theatre situated in the rapidly expanding Lower Lonsdale community of North Vancouver. In 2005, PHT began producing the Third Street Theatre Series to become the only professional theatre company on Vancouver’s North Shore and a vital component in the cultural life of North Vancouver. Presentation House Theatre’s vision for its professional season entails a fusion of accessibility, diversity and artistic risk that is appealing but challenges and educates our audiences about new artistic practices. Our strategy is to produce a mix of Canadian plays, which are largely unknown to North Shore audiences, alongside well-known plays from the classic and or/contemporary connection.