

THE CANADIAN STAGE COMPANY

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CANSTAGE TD DREAM IN HIGH PARK whips up a twister with *THE TEMPEST* starring Dora Award-winning actor Karen Robinson as Prospera, June 26 to Sept. 6

- Sue Miner, the successful candidate of the newly launched Directors Development Initiative will direct -

- Family Day Sundays return with free all-ages activities -

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Toronto, ON (January 21, 2009) – Martin Bragg, Artistic Producer of The Canadian Stage Company, is proud to announce the 27th Annual CanStage TD Dream in High Park. *The Tempest* will star Dora Award-winning actress **Karen Robinson** as Prospera, the sorceress of an enchanted isle, in this tale of political intrigue, fantastical creatures, magic, comedy and romance. Critically acclaimed director **Sue Miner** will direct. Previews begin **June 26**; the play opens **June 30** and continues to **September 6, 2009** at the open-air theatre in High Park. Performances run Tuesday through Sunday at 8 p.m. Gate opens at 6 p.m. Admission is PWYC at the gate and free for children 14 and under. **Family Days** return Sundays with free, all-ages, pre-show activities. For Dream information, contact **416-367-1652** or canstage.com.

The CanStage TD Dream in High Park is one of Toronto's most popular summer traditions. Since its inception in 1983, 1.3 million people have flocked to the park with their picnics to experience live professional theatre in a magical outdoor setting. The Dream has a long-standing tradition of providing accessible theatre to the public, advancing the professional development of artists and featuring actors in non-traditional roles.

Family Days, the popular, free, all-ages program for children, parents and family members will return featuring fun-filled activities including Shakespearean games, exploring the language of the Bard, backstage tours, an opportunity to meet the cast and more. Held at the **CanStage TD Dream in High Park** on **Sundays**, beginning **July 12 to September 6**, from **5 - 6:30 p.m.**, weather permitting. Registration is required. Registration requests will be accepted June through September. Contact 416-367-1652 or canstage.com for information.

The Tempest is widely considered William Shakespeare's last complete work. In this production Prospero becomes Prospera, the banished Duchess of Milan, who develops mystical powers while stranded on a remote and enchanted island for many years. Using magic to conjure up a powerful storm, she shipwrecks her usurping brother and his accomplices on the island to exact her revenge. Estranged relatives collide and new love grows where hostility and revenge once reigned.

Karen Robinson is an award-winning actress whose credits span the stage and screen. They include: Titania/Hippolyta in The Canadian Stage Company production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2007); the San Diego Repertory Theatre production of *'da Kink in my Hair* (awarded four NAACP Theatre Awards) and a London, England production of the play; the Stratford Shakespeare Festival's *Harlem Duet* and *The Duchess of Malfi*; Obsidian Theatre's *Two Can Play* (Dora Award nomination); Mirvish Productions' *The Adventures of a Black Girl In Search of God*; Soulpepper's *Nathan the Wise*, *The Play's the Thing* and *Endgame*; and Factory Theatre's *Riot* (Dora Mavor Moore Award). Her film and television credits include *The Border*, *Lars and the Real Girl*, *Owning Mahowny*, *Love, Sex and Eating the Bones*, *Slings and Arrows* and *Soul Food*.

Sue Miner is a critically acclaimed Toronto-based director. Selected from over 50 applicants, she was the successful candidate of **The Canadian Stage Company's** newly launched **Directors Development Initiative**. For the first time in The Canadian Stage Company's history, directors in their early and mid-careers were invited to submit proposals for the 2009 CanStage TD Dream in High Park. Part of the Company's ongoing commitment to support the professional development of artists, the successful applicant has the opportunity to direct a large-scale production involving a cast often over 15 actors, an audience of over 25,000 patrons and a longer run of 10 weeks over the summer.

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“It has been my dream for many years, to direct a production of *The Tempest* in High Park,” states Ms. Miner. “It has all the elements of Shakespeare’s most beloved works – romance, magical creatures, comedy and political intrigue – but with a sophisticated sense of closure and wisdom. And I love its location. We are consumed by the concept of desert island. *Survivor* has even made it a spectator sport on TV. Although we don’t care to ponder our fate of our car breaking down outside of Wawa, we oddly plan for our desert island scenario, what music would we take, which book etc. Usually in those fantasies we are not only beautiful but at one with earth, sand and sea. Perhaps we believe that only then can we be reborn and start anew with a clean slate.”

The inaugural production of the **CanStage TD Dream in High Park** was **Ms. Miner’s** first professional acting job after graduating from The National Theatre School in 1983. She turned her hand to directing in 1988, garnering a Dora nomination for her directorial debut, Mark Brownell’s *The Blue Wall*. Subsequently she has received numerous Dora Award-nominations for Direction and Outstanding Production, was nominated for the Pauline McGibbon Award on three separate occasions and was twice named one of Toronto’s Top-10 theatre artists by NOW Magazine. Last season she directed and co-adapted *Love You Forever... and More Munsch* (Dora Mavor Moore Award-winner for Best Theatre for Young Audiences production) at LKTYP. She has directed productions for Theatre Aquarius, Winnipeg Jewish Theatre, Shakespeare in the Rough, Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra, Theatre Direct Canada, Puppetmongers and many independent theatre companies. As co-artistic director of Pea Green Theatre Group with her husband Mark Brownell her work includes the musical *The Barbeque King*, *Conservatives in Love*, *Medici Slot Machine*, *Monsieur d'Eon is a Woman*, and *The Martha Stewart Projects*. When she is not directing, Ms. Miner teaches at George Brown Theatre School and Sheridan College. After *The Tempest* she will be directing *The Fantasticks* for Red Barn Theatre later in the summer of 2009.

The Canadian Stage Company is nationally and internationally acclaimed and Canada’s leading not-for-profit contemporary theatre company. Founded in 1987 with the merger of CentreStage and Toronto Free Theatre, the Company is dedicated to programming international contemporary theatre and to developing and producing landmark Canadian works which have been awarded some of the country’s most prestigious literary and performing arts honours, including the Governor General’s, Chalmers and Dora Mavor Moore Awards. The Company presents the richest variety of Canadian and international plays and musicals – from edgy and provocative work at the Berkeley Street Theatre to productions with universal appeal at the Bluma Appel Theatre and a summer of Shakespeare at the CanStage TD Dream in High Park. Canadian Stage has a long-standing commitment to education and enhancement programs for the public, nurturing theatre professionals, and developing new Canadian plays, while producing thought-provoking theatre and quality entertainment in Toronto, one of North America’s largest theatre centres. For more information, refer to canstage.com.

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CANSTAGE TD DREAM IN HIGH PARK PRESENTS *THE TEMPEST*

DATES: Previews: June 26 -29; opening date is June 30; continuing to September 6, 2009

TIMES: Tuesday – Sunday at 8 p.m. Gate opens at 6 p.m. (No performances Monday.)

LOCATION: High Park at Bloor St. W.+ High Park Ave. Near High Park subway station. Enter from Bloor St. Follow the road to Grenadier Café. Continue east on path opposite the parking lot marked by a sign.

TICKETS + INFO: PWYC at the gate. Suggested minimum \$20. Children 14 + under free. 416-367-1652 or canstage.com

FAMILY DAYS: Free, all-ages, pre-show activities at the Dream site Sundays, July 12 to Sept. 6, from 5 - 6:30 p.m. Registration required. Registration requests accepted June to September. Call 416-367-1652 or canstage.com.

DOGS AND SMOKING ARE NOT PERMITTED ON THE DREAM SITE

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