



## MEDIA RELEASE

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 10, 2005*

### Shakespeare's *The Tempest* and Sophocles' *Electra* take downtown Toronto by storm this summer Canopy's 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season opens at Philosopher's Walk July 20<sup>th</sup>

Toronto, Ontario – Continuing its mandate of presenting Classical Works in an outdoor environment for downtown Toronto audiences, Canopy Theatre Company, in association with Hart House Theatre, is proud to celebrate its fifth anniversary this July and August. **William Shakespeare's *The Tempest*** and Sophocles' *Electra*, run in repertoire at Philosopher's Stage at Philosopher's Walk from Wednesday, July 20<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

Arguably the last play that the Bard wrote on his own, *The Tempest* is a story full of magic, monsters and illusion. **Joel Grothe**, Artistic Director of Canopy Theatre Company and Director of last summer's *The Merchant of Venice*, directs *The Tempest*. With the dichotomy of revenge and forgiveness at its heart, Grothe argues that the play is foremost about mirrors, the kind which reveal the secrets of humanity: "Hamlet tells the players that the essence of good acting is 'To hold a mirror up to nature', but there are many different kinds of mirrors, and we see all of them in *The Tempest*."

Playing the enigmatic magician Prospero is Toronto based theatre professional **Bruce Beaton**, known most recently from directing his own work '37 in last year's Summerworks Festival. Although this is Bruce's debut with Canopy, he is no stranger to performing outdoors in Toronto; his performance as Daedalus in the 2001 Ananke Theatre production of *Icarus* (Centre Island) received rave reviews. Toronto audiences will also remember Bruce from *Green* (Rhubarb! Festival), *The Rediscovery of Sex* and *The Yoko Ono Project* (Theatre Passes Muraille).

Other notable cast members of *The Tempest* include National Theatre School graduate and former Shaw Festival company member **Jamie Burnett** as Ariel. Jamie returns to Canopy this Season after last summer's compelling turn as Antonio in *The Merchant of Venice*. Fellow Merchant cast member **Byron Rouse** returns for his fourth Season - after impressively tackling the challenging role of Shylock - to play the drunkard Stephano. Newcomers to the company in *The Tempest* include Canadian College of Performing Arts trained **Brendan Rowland**, taking on the earthy monster Caliban. Ryerson Theatre School graduate **Jordan Kanner** returns to Toronto this summer - after his stop in Stratford last Season - to play Antonio while fellow Ryerson grad **Daniel Roberts** plays Trinculo. George Brown Theatre School graduates, **Alison Deon and Paul Kit**, play Miranda and Sebastian respectively.

Toronto based Opera and Theatre Director **Graham Cozzubbo**, most recently known for his direction of Karol Korczynski's *Canada House* at Theatre Passe Muraille, makes his Canopy debut by directing *Electra*. Graham brings impressive directorial credentials to the company; his North American credits include direction for the Opera companies of Calgary, Cincinnati, Edmonton, Houston, Quebec, Victoria, the Banff Centre for the Arts and the Canadian Opera Company. Toronto audiences may also remember Graham from his direction of *Krapp's Last Tape* for the DuMauier World Stage Festival and *The Ibsen Project* at Hart House Theatre; having collaborated on both projects with John Neville.

Sophocles' *Electra*, written around 409 B.C., is based on the legend of the House of Atreus.. On his return from the Trojan War, King Agamemnon was murdered by his wife, Clytemnestra, and her



lover, Aegisthus. Electra, the daughter of Agamemnon and Clytemnestra, wishes to avenge her murdered father. The classic is a tragic dramatization of the paradox of justice and vengeance finding echoes in our modern violence torn world. With several versions of the Electra story available, Graham Cozzubbo explains what distinguishes the Sophocles version from the others:

*Unlike Aeschylus and Euripides, Sophocles' Electra is a world where the living are obsessed with the dead. A liturgy and ritual all in preparation for murder. There is no pity in Sophocles' version, only terror. People infect each other with hate in a horrible dream which really happens. The heroes, Orestes and Electra, do not wake from this dream, there are no furies to seek justice, no words left for brother and sister in the end. Only silence.*

Playing the title role, is **Ginette Mohr**. With a B.F.A in Theatre from Simon Fraser University and an M.F.A in Theatre from York University, Ginette's work has been nominated for Montreal's Centaur Theatre Awards, New York's coveted Phil Hartman Comedy Award and Toronto's Dora Mavor Moore Awards (Theatre LMNOP's *Bird's Eye View*). Canopy's Associate Artistic Director and Director of last Season's acclaimed production of *The Trojan Women*, **Andrea Wasserman**, plays the plotting mother Clytemnestra. George Brown Theatre School graduate **Kate Gordon** takes on Electra's sister, Chrysothemis. **Joel Grothe** - who begins his study for an M.F.A in acting and teaching this fall at the University of Virginia – plays Orestes.

This summer, downtown Toronto audiences once again have the opportunity to enjoy a picnic under the stars and Canopy's impressive roster of young theatre professionals as they tackle the Bard and a Greek Classic.

*The Canopy Theatre Company dedicates its 2005 Summer Season to the dearly departed  
Dr. Ronald Bryden, mentor and friend of the company.*

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Canopy Theatre Company & Hart House Theatre present

William Shakespeare's

## The Tempest

Directed by Joel Grothe

Wednesdays and Fridays @ 8pm

PWYC – Tuesday July 19<sup>th</sup> & August 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 8pm

Sophocles'

## Electra

Directed by Graham Cozzubbo

Thursdays and Saturdays @ 8pm

PWYC – Tuesday July 26<sup>th</sup> @ 8pm

### Philosopher's Stage at Philosopher's Walk

80 Queen's Park - just steps south from the Museum Subway station.

*Stage is located off of Philosopher's Walk next to the Edward Johnson Building and the Law Faculty on the campus of the University of Toronto.*

**July 20<sup>th</sup> – August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2005**

**TUESDAYS to SATURDAYS @ 8pm** (House Opens @ 7:30pm)

#### Tickets:

(see end of release for Box Office contact info):

Adults - \$10, Students and Seniors - \$8

Pay What You Can Tuesdays

*B.Y.O.B. -Bring Your Own Blanket (Lawn chairs welcome around edge of seating area)*

[www.canopytheatre.ca](http://www.canopytheatre.ca)

## THE PLAYERS

<u>CAST – THE TEMPEST</u>	<u>CAST – ELECTRA</u>
<p><b>Bruce Beaton*</b> <i>Prospero</i>  <b>Jamie Burnett</b> <i>Ariel</i>  <b>Brendan Rowland</b> <i>Caliban</i>  <b>Byron Rouse</b> <i>Stephano</i>  <b>Matt Selby</b> <i>Ferdinand</i>  <b>Daniel Roberts</b> <i>Trinculo</i>  <b>Doug Floyd</b> <i>Gonzalo</i>  <b>Jordan Kanner</b> <i>Antonio</i>  <b>Paul Kit</b> <i>Sebastian</i>  <b>Alison Deon</b> <i>Miranda</i>  <b>Sarah Warren</b> <i>Iris</i>  <b>Erika Brodzky</b> <i>Juno</i>  <b>Susan Bond</b> <i>Ceres</i>  <b>Jessie Ryder-Hughes</b> <i>Francisco</i></p>	<p><b>Ginette Mohr</b> <i>Electra</i>  <b>Andrea Wasserman</b> <i>Clytaemnestra</i>  <b>Kate Gordon</b> <i>Chrysothemis</i>  <b>Joel Grothe</b> <i>Orestes</i>  <b>John Illingworth</b> <i>Paedagogus</i>  <b>Erik LeGendre</b> <i>Aegisthus</i>  <b>Annie Grier</b> <i>Chorus</i>  <b>Sophia Kolinas</b> <i>Chorus</i>  <b>Erika Brodzky</b> <i>Chorus</i>  <b>Sarah Warren</b> <i>Chorus</i>  <b>Carolyn Hall</b> <i>Chorus</i></p>
<u>PRODUCTION – THE TEMPEST</u>	<u>PRODUCTION – ELECTRA</u>
<p><b>Joel Grothe</b> Director  <b>Doug Floyd</b> Producer  <b>Brian Sison</b> Designer  <b>Angela McQueen</b> Costume Designer  <b>Kathryn Clark</b> Choreographer  <b>Mark Purvis</b> Assistant Director  <b>Alasdair James</b> Stage Manager  <b>Deborah Gann</b> Assistant Stage Manager</p>	<p><b>Graham Cozzubbo*</b> Director  <b>Doug Floyd</b> Producer  <b>Brent Krysa</b> Designer  <b>Andrew Morris</b> Sound Design  <b>Rupal Shah</b> Assistant Director  <b>Jessie Schanzle</b> Stage Manager</p>

<p><b>Tickets:</b>            UofTtix            (416) 978-8849  <a href="http://www.uofttix.ca">www.uofttix.ca</a></p>	<p><b>Media inquiries:</b>            Doug Floyd - Producer            416.946.0314  <a href="mailto:doug.floyd@utoronto.ca">doug.floyd@utoronto.ca</a></p>
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[For website listing please use [www.canopytheatre.ca](http://www.canopytheatre.ca)]

Media Tickets Now Available:

Please call 416.946.0314 or email [info@canopytheatre.ca](mailto:info@canopytheatre.ca) to reserve

