



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
February 20, 2009



Festival of Innovative & New Drama

STUDIO SERIES 2009

March 5, 6 & 7, 2009

Charlie Dies at the End

By Graham Roebuck

Directed by Emily McArthur

In Conclusion

By Stacey Ashworth

Directed by Tyler Longmire

Heart Throb

By Jessica Bloom

Directed by Lisi Tessler

Concrete Monsters

By Will Johnson

Directed by Emily McArthur

The Scraps

By James Roney

Directed by Madeleine Wilson

2008/2009 Season

4 THE MEDEA

March 19 – 28, 2009

By Euripides

Directed by Linda Hardy

A disturbing yet powerful Greek tragedy of the revenge of Medea, a woman whose passion and love lead to her own destruction

Phoenix Theatre Media Contact:

Adrienne Holierhoek

Marketing & Communications Manager,

Department of Theatre, University of Victoria

email: aholierh@finearts.uvic.ca

www.phoenixtheatres.ca | 250-721-7992

Box Office: (250) 721-8000

FESTIVAL SHINES LIMELIGHT ON EMERGING ARTISTS

UVic Theatre and Writing departments collaborate to present an evening of innovative and new drama

Innovation is in the air! Emerging playwrights, directors and actors of the University of Victoria's Departments of Writing and Theatre are gearing up for the **Festival of Innovative and New Drama: Studio Series**, opening March 5 for three nights until March 7.

Originally called the PlayWrites Series in the 1980s, the **FIND Studio Series** was resurrected in 2003 to present staged readings, in which plays from drama writing students are directed and performed by theatre students with scripts in hand in a small intimate setting with minimal props and costumes. The **FIND Studio Series** provides an important experience for writers and directors alike, creating a chance to collaborate together – an experience that most would not receive outside this educational environment. The festival provides directing students with an opportunity to work closely with emerging playwrights to achieve a better understanding of the plot, character development, metaphors, and concepts the playwright is trying to express.

FIND Studio Series 2009 presents five very diverse plays in the Barbara McIntyre Studio Theatre at the Phoenix Theatre. During intermissions, audience members are invited into the lobby to enjoy a funky, relaxed coffee-house setting for an opportunity to socialize and discuss the plays.

Among this year's selections is ***Charlie Dies at the End***, a short comedy written by Graham Roebuck, who is both a writing and theatre student. *"Working closely with a director has helped me to refine my original draft, as we are able to influence each others' concepts of the play to some extent and build a unified whole,"* said Graham.

Emily MacArthur is another theatre student who is directing two of the plays, each completely different from the other. One is Graham Roebuck's comedy and the other is a darker tale, ***Concrete Monsters***, a one-person show about inner turmoil and navigating the messy terrain of a crumbling life. *"It is a challenge to be working with two such different plays, where one is a ultimately requires great comedic timing and the other requires a thorough grasp of the different elements in one character's personality,"* said Emily.

The three remaining plays are: ***In Conclusion***, written by Stacey Ashworth and directed by Tyler Longmire in which Samuel, a 30-something cabbie grapples over his past with hopes to achieve life over death; ***Heart Throb***, written by Jessica Bloom and directed by Lisi Tessler about a teenage boy, his girlfriend and a couple who create an ad-hoc sense of family after a horrific triple murder; and ***The Scraps*** written by James Roney and directed by Madeleine Wilson about a boy who helps a con man take advantage of a senior citizen.

FIND Studio Series opens at the Phoenix Theatre on March 5, 6 and 7.

Evening Performances starting at 7pm: Thursday March 5, Friday March 6 & Saturday March 7

Play Schedule: Play rotation changes each night. See schedule at www.phoenixtheatres.ca

Tickets: \$2.50 for each play | \$10 for the entire evening of 5 plays

Tickets available at the door only, beginning at 6pm.