



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
March 19, 2008



University
of Victoria

PHOENIX THEATRE ANNOUNCES 2008/9 SEASON

2008/2009 Season

Award-winning new plays to classic Greek tragedies

1 SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNI: **LEGOLAND**

October 9–18, 2008

By Jacob Richmond

Produced by Atomic Vaudeville

Meet industrious teenage outcasts, Penny and Ezra Lamb – Canada's youngest drug cartel and pop star stalkers.

2 **DARK OF THE MOON**

November 6 – 22, 2008

By Howard Richardson and William Berney

Directed by Brian Richmond

A dramatic love story set in the dark magic and rich music of the deep South.

3 **LA RONDE**

February 19 – 28, 2009

By Arthur Schnitzler

Follow the trail of love, passion and seduction through Vienna's society in the 1890s.

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 betrayed by her husband.

The Phoenix Theatre at the University of Victoria announces their 2008/09 season of four plays, continuing their forty-two-year tradition of showcasing the youth, energy and talent of students in the Department of Theatre.

"Our season programming seeks to provide diverse experiences for our students," says Brian Richmond, Chair of the Department. "From large-cast ensembles with southern gospel-inspired music to Greek classics complete with choruses, our students can explore their talents through many rich creative opportunities."

Students at the Department of Theatre participate in all areas of the production – on stage and backstage – as a vital part of their academic curriculum in acting, design, stage management, set and costume construction, sound and lighting operation and front of house management.

The 2008/09 season begins October 9 – 18, 2008 with a look at the accomplishments of past theatre graduates with the Phoenix's SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNI. This year they welcome back several alumni with **Legoland**, written by Jacob Richmond and produced by Victoria's Atomic Vaudeville, including Jacob Richmond, Brit Small, Celine Stubel and Amitai Marmorstein. **Legoland** follows the adventures of industrious teenage siblings Penny and Ezra Lamb – who may be Canada's youngest drug cartel – and their rehabilitation after an international incident with pop star "JK47." **Legoland** was awarded best play or favourite play at Fringe Festivals and other theatre festivals across Canada and the United States, including New York Frigid Festival (2007) and Toronto Summerworks Festival (2006).

In November, Brian Richmond will direct **Dark of the Moon** by Howard Richardson and William Berney. With a large cast of 24 actors, this dramatic love story between John, a witch boy, and Barbara Allen, a small-town Baptist girl, is set in the 1920s, deep in the South Appalachian Mountain region. The production, running November 6 – 22, 2008, will also feature southern gospel music under the direction of John Mills-Cockell, who joined Richmond this past year as Composer and Music Director in the acclaimed production of **Wind in the Willows**.

In the new year, the Phoenix will present **La Ronde** from February 19 – 28, 2009. Written by Arthur Schnitzler in 1897 and not produced until 1921, the play was deemed obscene at the time! It follows the trail of love, passion and seduction from lover to lover across Vienna's society at the end of the 19th century. Its witty language provides clever commentary on the sexual mores and class ideology of the day.

The final selection of the 2008/09 season is Euripides' **The Medea**, the classic Greek tragedy of a woman betrayed by her husband. First performed in 431 BCE, Medea story is a powerful tale of passion, jealousy and revenge, based on the myth of Jason and Medea. **The Medea**, running March 19 through 28, 2009 will be directed by Linda Hardy, Associate Professor in the Department of Theatre, who directed the Phoenix's production of **Tartuffe** in 2006.

The Department of Theatre will also continue to offer its **Festival of Innovative and New Drama (FIND) – Studio Series** in collaboration with the Department of Writing in March 5-7, 2009.

Subscriptions for the 2008/09 season are now available for as little as \$33 for 3 mainstage shows. More season information as well as subscription order forms are available online at <http://finearts.uvic.ca/theatre/box-office>, or order through the Phoenix Box Office or by calling 721-8000.

Phoenix Theatre

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