



## THESE ALUMNI ARE NOT JUST CLOWNING AROUND

Vancouver's ITSAZOO Productions making name for edgy political fare

2010/2011 Season

### 1 SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNI: DEATH OF A CLOWN

**October 14–23, 2010**

By Sebastien Archibald

Produced by ITSAZOO Productions

Directed by Chelsea Haberlin

Costume Design by Meredith Grantier

Set & Props Design by Kyle Sutherland

Lighting Design by Eugene Mendelev

Projection & Video by Michael Antonakos

Sound Design by Chris Adams

Stage Manager Lois Dawson

*This multi-media satire recounts the tale of Roy, a fun-loving clown who was born into an oppressive metropolis.*

**Free PreShow Lecture: October 15 at 7pm**  
with Sebastien Archibald and Chelsea Haberlin  
in conversation with Dr. Jennifer Wise.

### 2 YERMA

**November 11–27, 2010**

By Federico Garcia Lorca

Directed by Warwick Dobson

*Lorca's "tragic poem" chronicles the passion, frustration and anguish of a young married woman in rural Spain.*

### 3 TWELFTH NIGHT

**February 24– March 5, 2011**

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Linda Hardy

*Shakespeare's hilarious masterpiece of disguise, deception and desire.*

### 4 INSIDE

**March 17–26, 2011**

By Daniel MacIvor

Guest directed by David Ferry

WORLD PREMIERE

*Over the course of a single, life-changing day, a group of twenty-somethings become interconnected through a bar called Inside.*

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Robin Hood set in Vancouver's downtown eastside; the Enchanted Forest run like Disney World by a large company; a fun loving clown trying in vain to climb the corporate ladder; or the media exploitation of a gruesome crime... But whether his plays are fraught with humour and metaphors, or tackling his edgy, political subject matter head-on, ITSAZOO writer-in-residence Sebastien Archibald isn't clowning around.

Archibald writes plays that often reflect national news stories, sometimes presenting hypothetical situations of ethical conundrums that have since, in our ever-changing media landscape, actually happened. Heightening their connection to contemporary life, ITSAZOO Productions often performs his plays "outside the cage," in non-traditional locations like outdoor parks or city parking garages.

However, Archibald's play ***Death of a Clown*** is performed inside a theatre when it runs at the Phoenix Theatre at the University of Victoria from October 14–23, 2010. The play presents a critique of our corporate-obsessed world through the eyes of Roy, a floppy, fun-loving clown. Roy's world is a rigid and oppressive metropolis where everyone is preoccupied with success and climbing the corporate ladder. Roy tries to suppress his nature to fit in, but it's not until he meets a sassy radical clown named Anna that his life is thrown upside down.

*"At its core, Death of a Clown is about the freedom to act with reckless abandon for all the right reasons. It's about finding humanity in a dehumanized world,"* says Archibald. *"It serves as both a comment on the artifice of corporate culture and the artifice of theatre itself, with the down offering a way to transcend both."*

Originally written and performed at UVic in 2004 as a SATCo production (Student Alternative Theatre Company), the play was presented at the Victoria Fringe in 2006 and then chosen as a finalist in the Theatre BC National Playwriting Competition. It is being presented this October as the Phoenix Theatre's ***Spotlight on Alumni***. During their time together at the Department of Theatre, Archibald and ITSAZOO Co-Artistic Directors Chelsea Haberlin and Colby Wilson hatched their provocative new theatre company. In 2007, ITSAZOO moved their company to Vancouver and in 2008 was named Vancouver's Favourite New Company by *The Westender* magazine and awarded "M" Awards for "Best New Play" and "Favourite Actor" by Victoria's *Monday Magazine*.

***Death of a Clown*** features several UVic alumni, including performances by Sebastien Archibald, Cameron Anderson, Chris Wilson and Colby Wilson; costume design by Meredith Grantier; set and props design by Kyle Sutherland, lighting design by Eugene Mendelev and sound design by Chris Adams. Vancouver artistic contributions include performances by Leslee Brownlee and David Benedict Brown, projection and video design by Michael Antonakos and stage manager Lois Dawson.

*"ITSAZOO Productions clearly has the talent and skill to create fine professional work."* — *Times Colonist*

*"Archibald may well become one of our best playwrights if he continues to develop the abundant talent he displays with this work. Death of a Clown is a worthy contribution in its artistic content, production value and social interest."* — Vancouver.org

Everyone is welcome to attend a **FREE preshow lecture on Friday, October 15 at 7pm** with the writer and director of the play in conversation with Dr. Jennifer Wise. Information is available online at [phoenixtheatres.ca](http://phoenixtheatres.ca) or by calling **250-721-8000**. The performance schedule for ***Death of a Clown*** is as follows:

**Public Preview Performances 8pm:** October 12 & 13

**Evening Performances 8pm:** October 14 (Opening Night), 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23,

**Matinee Performances 2pm:** Saturday, October 23

**Single Tickets:** \$12 Student / \$18 Senior / \$22 Adult or Weekend 8pm (Previews \$6.00, available after 5pm)

**Season Subscriptions:** \$33 for 3 plays or \$44 for 4 plays.

Phoenix Box Office opens October 5 in person or by calling: **(250) 721-8000**.