



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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THE BIRTH OF A REVOLUTIONARY DREAM

2010/2011 Season

Department Chair makes Phoenix debut with Spanish classic play

2 YERMA

November 11 – 27, 2010
By Federico García Lorca

Directed by Warwick Dobson
Set Design Allan Stichbury
Costumes Design Mary Kerr & Patricia Reilly
Lighting Eduardo Mier
Choreography Veronica Maguire
Movement Conrad Alexandrowicz
Dramaturge Kate Bessey
Music Director & Composer Jeffrey Pufahl
Stage Manager Chiara Guizzo

A young married Spanish woman's desire is denied while her country's hopes for democracy are shattered.

Free PreShow Lecture: November 12 at 7pm
with Marina Bettaglio, Assistant Professor in the Department of Hispanic and Italian Studies.

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 Maclvor
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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The controversial Spanish playwright, director and poet, Federico García Lorca was revolutionary. His poems and plays resonated with the common people of Spain and called for change. However, he was executed only days into the Spanish Civil War in 1936.

And so, it seemed to director and Chair of the Department of Theatre Warwick Dobson, that Lorca's classic play **Yerma** – on at the Phoenix Theatre at the University of Victoria from November 11 to 27, 2010 – must be about so much more than a woman's unfulfilled desire to have a family.

"Lorca was also a passionate republican who saw, in the 1931 victory of Manuel Azana's government, the hope of a bright new future for his country under the Second Spanish Republic," says Dobson. "Following an attempted coup by a group of Spanish army generals under the leadership of General Francisco Franco, these hopes were dashed."

Yerma tells the passionate and poetic tale of a young married woman as she struggles to become a mother in rural Spain. Trapped within the confines of an increasingly loveless marriage and judged by a repressive community, Yerma's increasing desperation leads her to an unconventional and reckless course of action. In Dobson's telling of the story, Yerma's longing for a child reflects the hopes and dreams of the republican women for the future of Spain. *"I began to see Yerma's unborn child as a symbol of the spark of revolution that was extinguished by the fascist victory in 1939," says Dobson.*

In his directorial debut with the Phoenix Theatre, Warwick Dobson brings together a comprehensive creative team to bring this metaphor to the stage – with an authentic Spanish flare! The set design by Allan Stichbury creates a symbolic space for the authentically-referenced period costumes of Mary Kerr and Patricia Reilly to play out. Local flamenco dance aficionado Veronica Maguire has instructed our cast of 23 students in the art of flamenco actions and gestures with Movement Director Conrad Alexandrowicz. Well-known local flamenco guitarist Gareth Owen is working with Composer and Music Director Jeff Pufahl, a MFA Directing candidate in the department. Dramaturge Kate Bessey, a longtime resident of Argentina, has assisted with dramaturgy and translations. Guest Lighting Designer Eduardo Mier is here from the Universidad Veracruzana in Xalapa, Mexico.

Lorca was an influential member of the avant-garde group "Generation '27" and a close friend – and would-be lover – of the famous Surrealist artist Salvador Dalí. The story of his execution has never been able to be verified and his body has never been found. **Yerma** is often associated with two other plays, including Blood Wedding, to form the Rural Trilogy. Lorca's work has influenced poets and artists across the world including the poet and politician Pablo Neruda, film director Luis Buñuel, artist Salvador Dalí and poet and musician Leonard Cohen.

Everyone is welcome to attend a **FREE preshow lecture** on **Friday, November 12** at 7pm with Dr. Marina Bettaglio, Assistant Professor in the Department of Hispanic and Italian Studies.

More information is available online at phoenixtheatres.ca or by calling **250-721-8000**.

The performance schedule for **Yerma** is as follows:

Public Preview Performances 8pm: November 9 & 10

Evening Performances 8pm: November 11 (Opening Night), 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27

Matinee Performances 2pm: Saturday, November 27

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

Season Subscriptions: Still available at \$33 for 3 plays

Phoenix Box Office opens November 2 in person or by calling: **(250) 721-8000**.