STEP RIGHT UP, LADIES & GENTLEMEN!
SEE LIONEL THE MIRACLE MAN. WATCH HIM GROW BEFORE YOUR EYES!

Phoenix Theatre presents premiere production of new play.

Can a song in your heart actually make you grow?

Step behind the curtain, my good people and see Lionel, the world’s shortest tenor – standing only 4' 4" with a voice as big as a steeple. Watch his spirit grow as he journeys from rural Quebec to Hollywood stardom. Be amazed as his body grows to match his fame! Watch him inspire the people that he soon towers over!

Set in the 1920s amidst the spectacle of the sideshow and pageantry of celebrity, the Phoenix Theatre’s third show of the 2007/08 season, Lionel: The Miracle Man (February 14-23, 2008) examines fame and its perils.

Although written in 1993, with a public reading at the Theatre d’Aujourd’hui in 1994, this is the premiere production of Lionel: The Miracle Man. The play won the Prix TNM du théâtre épique award in 1994 and was shortlisted for the 2003 Herman Voaden National Playwriting Award. The playwright came to Victoria in November of last year to participate in a workshop with the director and cast.

Interested in the process of directing a play that had never been staged before, MFA candidate director Ewan McLaren was taken with the title character’s unstoppable spirit when he read Pan Bouyoucas’ script. “It’s a whimsical script that plays up our ideas of stardom, even when we empathize with the talented hero following his dream,” says McLaren. “We’ve had lots of fun making Lionel’s world a curious place where anything can happen.”

This is McLaren’s final production of his MFA program. He also directed last season’s The Street of Crocodiles, as part of the Phoenix Theatre’s Festival of Innovative and New Drama (FIND), and was Assistant Director for Wind in the Willows last November. He has worked extensively in Prague and with leading playwrights in Canada. Lionel is designed entirely by Department of Theatre undergraduate students with sets by Natasha Sharpe, costumes by Jennifer Quinn, lighting by Nathan Brown and sound by Tim Johnston. Music direction is by Candace Collin. The Stage Manager is Katt Campbell. The 10-member cast features Carey Wass in the title role with Nicole Fraisinet (Maggie), Jason Moldowan (Jade and the Reporter), Sam Mullins (Sunshine), Bryan Nothling (Father Ignace, Rosewater and Gaspar), Shaan Rahman (Newport, Moondog), Natasha Salway (Mother), Katie Takefman (Signora Eufema), Kaitlin Williams (Linda Brava) and Chris Wilson (Director, Worker, Emile). The play also features live violin accompaniment by Pauline Edwards and Isaiah Bell as vocalist.

Pan Bouyoucas is a novelist and a playwright who has received acclaim for his works in both English and French. His novel L’Autre was shortlisted for the Governor General’s award and Anna Pourquoi won the Prix littéraire des collégiens award. Bouyoucas’ plays Kill the Music and Le Pourboire were both awarded the Quebec Drama Festival’s Screener’s Award, and the latter won the First prize of the Concours Radiophonique de Radio-Canada.

Please join us for our FREE Pre-Show Lecture, Friday February 15 at 7:00pm with MFA director Ewan McLaren, who will speak about his experience of developing this new play from the script to premiere performance. This lecture is free of charge and open to everyone.

The performance schedule for Lionel: The Miracle Man at the Phoenix Theatre @ UVic is as follows:

Public Preview Performances 8pm: February 12 and 13
Evening Performances 8pm: February 14 (Opening Night), 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23
Matinee Performances 2pm: Saturday, February 23
Single Tickets: $10.00 - $20.00 (Previews $5.00)
Phoenix Box Office opens February 7 in person or by calling: (250) 721-8000.