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 7:30 pm
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 “magic 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 callered inside.

Theatre@UVic 2010/2011 Season

Vancouver’s ITSAZOO Productions making name for edgy political fare

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 clown 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.

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“ITSAZOO Productions dearly 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 7:30 pm with the writer and director of the play in conversation with Dr. Jennifer Wise. Information is available online at 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.