



THEATRE SMASH

2008|2009 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2008|2009 was truly a groundbreaking year for Theatre Smash. After a short hiatus used to plan and regroup after our successful first season, we were thrilled to announce not one but two productions for our second season: the Canadian premiere of Igor Bauersima's *Norway.Today* and the world premiere of Layne Coleman's *Tijuana Cure*. Almost 1200 people saw both Dora-nominated productions, including two high school groups who participated in post-show talkbacks, and we continued to strengthen our partnerships with local arts organisations such as the Goethe-Institut of Toronto and Theatre Passe Muraille.

Both shows were also financial successes, resulting in fair wages for our artists, and a small surplus with which to start our third season. I would like to thank our Board, Artistic Producers, and most of all, our many individual, corporate, foundation and government supporters. We couldn't do it without you – and we look forward to sharing another great new work with you in March 2010.

Sarah Facey
President

ARTISTIC PRODUCER'S MESSAGE

Welcome to Theatre Smash's 2008|2009 Report to the Community. Inside these pages you will read about the results of our second season, whose theme, *On the Wire*, engaged our artists and audiences with what it means when your heart and relationships are on the line. The response has been outstanding – and we are thrilled to report that both shows were nominated this year for Dora awards by our colleagues in the theatre community.

Many people helped to make this second season possible: our Board, generous individual, corporate, foundation and government donors, and all of the wonderful volunteers who assisted with their time and talents along the way. We also want to thank all of the amazing artists we have had the privilege of collaborating with. We thank you, our community, for continuing to help make this huge dream a reality and hope to see you all this Autumn for the launch of our 2009|2010 season!

Sarah Baumann & Ashlie Corcoran
Artistic Producers

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sarah Facey (President),
Lee Maziarz (Vice President)
Frank Cipolla (Treasurer)
Linda Padfield (Secretary)
Graham Angus
Tim Evans
Mallory Gilbert
Laura Hughes
Patrick Kennedy
Kimberly Neil
Elisabeth Patrick

MANDATE

Theatre Smash develops and produces contemporary theatrical work with a global twist. We are particularly interested in engaging our audiences with new writing from Canada and beyond through our exploration of text, movement, space, and multi-media.

We develop scripts with both Canadian and international playwrights, and produce new Canadian pieces as well as premieres of contemporary international work. We also explore new translations of non-English scripts, and will eventually devise works with artists of different backgrounds (such as novelists, poets, non-fiction writers and musicians).

OBJECTIVES

- To produce a new work or Canadian premiere annually
- To embrace a global perspective by examining both new theatrical works and new theatre practices from around the world
- To develop working relationships with other independent theatre companies across the globe
- To be well-run, financially responsible and accessible to all audience members curious about independent theatre
- To set up a series of development programs for young artists, particularly playwrights, designers and directors



Steven McCarthy and Ieva Lucs in *Norway.Today* (Photo: Michael Walton)

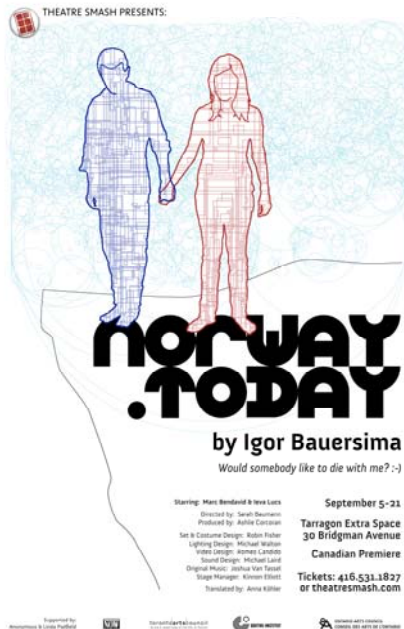
PRODUCTIONS

norway.today

by Igor Bauersima
Translation by Anna Köhler

Canadian Premiere

September 5-21, 2008
Tarragon Extra Space



*Would someone
like to die
with me?
:-)*

Since its 2000 premiere at the Düsseldorf Play House, *Norway.Today* has been staged more than 200 times and translated into 25 languages. It was not hard to see why the play has resonated throughout the world. *Norway.Today* is a play about growing up, a play that speaks vividly and candidly to the terrifying feeling of isolation many of us feel in today's technology-driven world. We were also excited to explore theatrical multi-media with a show in which video plays an integral role.

Like our inaugural production, *Norway.Today* explores a pivotal moment in the lives of young people. Based on a true story, the play is an existential romantic comedy about two lost souls searching for the meaning of life in death. Julie and August meet when Julie announces her intention to take her life in an internet chat room – and issues a challenge for someone to join her. August responds and they meet atop Pulpit Rock, a 2000 ft. cliff in Norway. On this last evening of their lives, the lines of life and virtual reality are blurred, and they discover that some things in life might just be scarier than jumping off a cliff.

AWARDS AND MENTIONS

Steven McCarthy was nominated for Best Male Performance for the role of August at the 2009 Dora Mavor Moore Awards.

“Genuine theatre magic... Look out for Theatre Smash, they've got an exciting future ahead of them.”
The Torontoist

“With the smart, poetic, yet blunt language of playwright Igor Bauersima, the strong acting choices of Steven McCarthy and Ieva Lucs, and the polished direction by Sarah Baumann, this is a production not to be missed.”
Keeping it Real Book Club Blog

“There's much to admire here.”
eye Weekly

CAST

Julie
Ieva Lucs

August
Steven McCarthy

CREATIVE TEAM

Director
Sarah Baumann

Producer
Ashlie Corcoran

Set & Costume Design
Robin Fisher

Lighting Design
Michael Walton

Sound Design
Michael Laird

Video Design
Romeo Candido

Composer
Joshua Van Tassel

Stage Manager
Kinnon Elliott

Assistant Producer
Jessi Linn Davies

Video Associate
Vincent Galvez

Production Manager
Kate Ann Vandermeer

Technical Director
Stefan Lenzi

Publicist
Laura Barron

Photographers
Michael Walton, Martha Haldenby

Graphic and Web Design
Robin Senior



Steven McCarthy and Ieva Lucs in *Norway.Today* (Photo: Martha Haldenby)

Tijuana Cure

by Layne Coleman
with the Generous Support of
Theatre Passe Muraille

World Premiere of a New
Canadian Play

March 10-28, 2009
Theatre Passe Muraille Backspace



Ieva Lucs in *Tijuana Cure* (Photo: M. Haldenby)

Previously seen at the Summerworks Festival in 2007, Theatre Smash was excited to present a full production of Layne's beautiful text, *Tijuana Cure*. Since our inception, developing new Canadian work has been a large part of our desired mandate. Layne actually read a very early draft of *Tijuana Cure* at our company launch in February 2006, so we were delighted that it was with his writing that Theatre Smash produced our first new Canadian piece.

Tijuana Cure, based on Layne's own true life experience, tells of the battle that he and his late wife, Carol Corbeil Coleman, fought against her abdominal cancer. The play details the hellish journey that Layne and Carol took to a diet based health clinic in Mexico. Their journey, however, is continually interrupted by the narrator's memories – memories of important experiences that shaped his life. Sometimes these recollections catch the narrator off guard – other times he intentionally grabs on to them. Through them he can avoid the certainty of his present nightmare.

Awards and Mentions:

Tijuana Cure was nominated for Outstanding New Play or New Musical at the 2009 Dora Mavor Moore Awards.

"Coleman's simple, unadorned straight-to-the-heart writing pulls you in." *The Globe and Mail*

"Ieva Lucs gives an "energetic, totally committed performance." *eye Weekly*

"More than an elegy, *Tijuana Cure* is a portrait not of the sick but of the partners who struggle and journey alongside them." *Toronto Sun*

*I feel like something is
tying me to this
woman.*

CAST

Ieva Lucs

CREATIVE TEAM

Director

Ashlie Corcoran

Producer

Sarah Baumann

Sound Designer

Michael Laird

Lighting Designer

Jason Hand

Assistant Director

Julia Lederer

Stage Manager

Kinnon Elliott

Assistant Producer

Isabelle Ly

Publicist

FLIP Publicity & Promotions Inc.

Education Associate

Brendon Allen

Photographer

Martha Haldenby

Graphic and Web Design

Robin Senior

OUTREACH

"The program says that this is a love story but what I really held on to was how *Tijuana Cure* gave cancer and its victims a face and a name. I deeply enjoyed the show." – Katherine Snell (Grade 10)

The 2008|09 season was an important year for the growth of Theatre Smash's Outreach program as *Tijuana Cure* proved to be an outstanding show on which to build our Education and Outreach program. We were able, for the first time, to work with an Education Associate, Brendon Allen. Brendon developed and distributed a full study guide, which was also posted on our website. Two high school classes – from Bishop Strachan School and Parkdale Collegiate – attended performances and Q&A sessions with our actress. In addition, Theatre Smash's Community Outreach continued with talkbacks after several public performances.

FUNDRAISING

Theatre Smash gratefully acknowledges the support of our generous individual, foundation, corporate and government donors, and all of those who attended a Theatre Smash event in person or in spirit.

GOVERNMENT

Toronto Arts Council
Ontario Arts Council

CORPORATIONS

Anonymous
American Express
Bank of Montreal
Chubb Insurance
Investors Group
NOW Magazine
Power Corporation
TD Canada Trust
TELUS
Vale Inco

FOUNDATIONS

Anonymous
The George Lunan Foundation
The McLean Foundation



INDIVIDUALS

Rockets (\$1000+)

Anonymous
Graham Angus
John McKellar
Linda Padfield
Jim Scott

Comets (\$500-\$999)

Sarah Baumann
Marc Bendavid
Ashlie Corcoran
Murray Marchant & Susan Baumann
Ian Michael & Sarah Facey
Kim Neil
Janice Price
Dr. Craig Walker

Firecrackers (\$250-\$499)

Frank Cipolla
Dawn and Paul Corcoran
Victoria and Tim Coristine
Mallory Gilbert
Lee Maziarz
Jayne & Chris Minke
Elisabeth Patrick

Sparklers (\$100-\$249)

Esther Barlow
Tim Fort
Anne Hardcastle
Mary Heinmaa
Patrick Kennedy
Shivani Lakhanpal
Leah Landriault
Robert and Frances Leinster

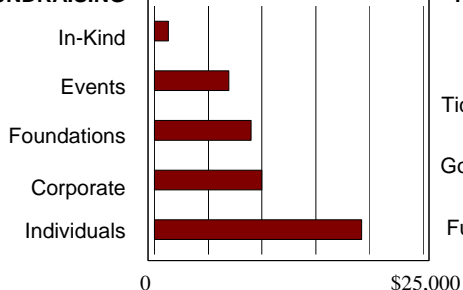
Ieva Lucs
William Marchant
Mitchell Marcus
Clare McIntyre
David Minke
Tyler Murree
Tony Nappo
June Anne Reid
Peggy Savage
Michelle Yeung

Friends (\$20-\$99)

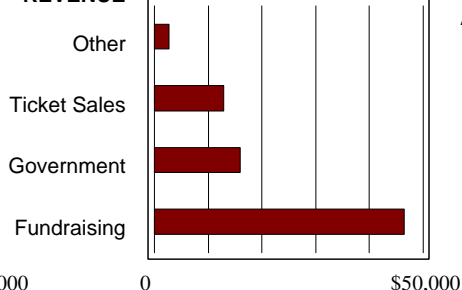
Morad Affifi
Richard Albert
Jen Barnes
Edmund Baumann
Ren Dorman
Don Duval
Mark Folkes
Ramona Gilmour-Darling
Kate Hodgert
Camilla Holland
David Jansen
Jeff Lillico
Doug and Marj Marchant
Lori MacIntyre
Andy McKim
Craig Morash
Hugh Neilson
Maida Rae
Laura Rocca
Julie Salverson
Murray and Elise Savage
Graeme Somerville
Graeme Stewart
Kristyn Ward
Susan Woodard

2008|2009 FINANCIALS

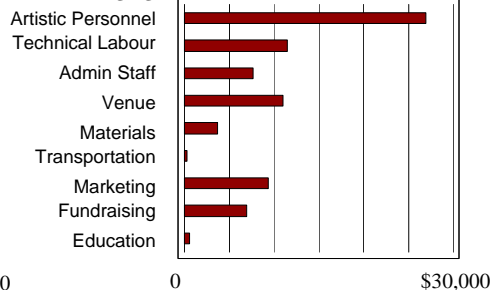
FUNDRAISING



REVENUE



EXPENSES



CONTACT

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