

For Immediate Release



Theatre Smash presents the world premiere of

A BOY CALLED NEWFOUNDLAND

BY GRAEME GILLIS

“This family is making a comeback. This family is doing 200 sit-ups and laps in the pool. This family has been down before but it’s back in the game now and it’s going... to... win!”

(Toronto – September 29, 2009) – Theatre Smash proudly presents its first world premiere of a Canadian play, **Graeme Gillis’ *A Boy Called Newfoundland***. A dark and quirky family comedy from Cape Breton-born-Gillis, ***A Boy Called Newfoundland*** will run March 26 to April 11 at Tarragon Theatre’s Extra Space.

Newfoundland “Flounder” Willow is an awkward, 15-year-old cadet. A loner who is scared of being alone, he thrives on stability, order, and rules. Newfoundland’s life revolves around his family, his synthesizer, his French-camp love Evelyn, and his parents’ family business – *The Romantic Times*, a self-published newspaper. When his mother returns home from her second honeymoon without her husband, Newfoundland and his sisters, Brigid and Arley, struggle to recreate the home and family they once knew.

Playwright **Graeme Gillis** is Associate Artistic Director of the Ensemble Studio Theatre (EST) in New York City. His play *The Moon Bath Girl* premiered to critical acclaim at EST’s prestigious Marathon of One-Act Plays, where it was praised by *The New York Times*: “Mr. Gillis’s play carves out a recognizable slice of life.” His work has been presented at theatres and festivals throughout the United States and Canada, including: the Williamstown Theatre Festival, the Source Theatre, Cherry Lane Theater, Mulgrave Road Theatre, and the Summerworks Festival. He is a two-time resident of the Banff Centre for the Arts PlayRites Colony and the recipient of several Canada Council for the Arts Fellowships. He is also a member of the Actors Studio.

A Boy Called Newfoundland was originally written for Youngblood at EST. It has received development and support from the Banff Centre for the Arts, Rattlestick Theater, Theatre at Lake George, and Gateway Theatre.

Now celebrating its 5th year, **Theatre Smash** is a Dora-nominated, Toronto-based company dedicated to developing and producing contemporary theatrical work with a global twist. Led by Artistic Producers **Ashlie Corcoran** and **Sarah Baumann**, **Theatre Smash** engages audiences with contemporary works, welcoming influences from around the world. The company’s critically acclaimed productions include the North American premiere of Welsh playwright Abi Morgan’s *Tiny Dynamite*, the Canadian premiere of Swiss playwright Igor Bauersima’s *Norway Today*, and the first professional production of Layne Coleman’s *Tijuana Cure*.

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