



THEATRE SMASH presents  
the Toronto premiere of

# THE UGLY ONE

BY MARIUS VON MAYENBURG

*"Your face is unacceptable."*

**For Immediate Release** (December 13, 2010 – Toronto) **Theatre Smash** proudly presents the Toronto premiere of German playwright Marius von Mayenburg's ***The Ugly One***. A razor sharp black comedy about getting ahead in today's image-driven and consumer-based culture, ***The Ugly One*** premieres in Fall 2011 at Tarragon Theatre's Extra Space.

Lette is a successful engineer who is also unspeakably ugly. His boss and wife confirm it: his face is "unacceptable." His plastic surgeon is reluctant to operate – Lette's face is so ugly it will have to be rebuilt from scratch. The surgeon's efforts are rewarded when Lette emerges from the operation an Adonis. His life changes overnight: his wife finds him irresistible, he becomes an overnight star at his company, and he is fawned upon wherever he goes. But this dream life soon becomes a nightmare, as Lette's surgeon begins to offer his face to anyone who can pay.

*"A delectable black comedy...I have not seen a more imaginative, inventive or disturbing theatrical vision."* – Evening Standard (UK)

*CurtainUp London's* best new play of 2007, ***The Ugly One*** catapults us with mesmerizing speed into a terrifying world where everyone is identically beautiful, identically narcissistic and identically detached from those around them. Four actors play eight parts, with no variation of costume, makeup or even character names. ***The Ugly One*** received its premiere in 2007 at the Schaubühne Berlin and in the UK at the Royal Court Theatre Jerwood Upstairs. The piece has been produced all over the world, including Europe, Australia, and America.

Theatre Smash's production of *The Ugly One* features the design talents of **John Gzowski** (sound), **Camellia Koo** (set and costume), and **Michael Walton** (lighting).

Now celebrating its 6<sup>th</sup> year, **Theatre Smash** is a Dora-nominated, Toronto-based company dedicated to developing and producing contemporary theatrical work with a global twist. This season, Theatre Smash will also host Collective Creation workshops for students as well as "Directors Acting," a one-week directing masterclass led by Micheline Chevrier. The company's previous productions include the world premiere of Graeme Gillis' *A Boy Called Newfoundland*, 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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