



News Release & Factsheet

Festival offers Ten, 10-Minute Plays, starting this Halloween

(Ottawa, October 10, 2013) New Theatre of Ottawa's *Extremely Short New Play Festival (E.S.N.P.F.)* returns with another exciting line-up of original works from established and emerging playwrights. And to top it off, Opening Night is on All Hallows' Eve, October 31. Performances are @ 8:00 PM, Tuesday to Saturday and run until November 10 at the Arts Court Theatre (special matinee showings are on Nov 2, 9, and 10 @ 2:00 PM).

New and fresh faces to the Festival include Karen Balcome (*Alice*), Caitlin Corbett (*Loyal Opposition*), Tim Ginley (*There's More to the Picture*), Wynn Quon (*Top Job*) and Stephanie Turple (*Denial*). Returning *E.S.N.P.F.* veterans include Jessica Anderson (*Terminal Journey*), Lawrence Aronovitch (*Book of Daniel*), and Pierre Brault (*Coach of the Year*). They are joined by screenwriter/director Keith Davidson (*Out of Gas*) and Ottawa playwright Laurie Fyffe (*Seeing*).

Last year was stellar for New Theatre of Ottawa (NTO); the company gained several Capital Critic and Prix Rideau Awards, including wins for best direction. NTO's artistic director, John Koensgen, returns to direct all ten works for this new season. Koensgen will be collaborating with an 'extremely' capable cast: Eric Craig, Maureen Smith, Brian Stewart, and Colleen Sutton.

The plays will thrill but NTO won't stop there. The company has some new staging tricks and treats that are bound to delight audiences. In a joint effort between local filmmaker/photographer Andrew Alexander and professional animator Jeremy O'Neill, John Doucet's minimalist set will explode with enough eye candy to last long after Halloween. Vitalized by Vanessa Imeson's clever costume designs, this is an evening to see at least twice, to catch all the goodies the Festival offers.

Tickets can be purchased online by visiting newtheatreottawa.com or in person at the Arts Court Theatre office, 2 Daly Avenue, suite 240, Ottawa, ON, between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm. For interview requests or to find out more about this year's production please contact Mark Turcotte at publicitynto@gmail.com or call 613.315.5175.



NEW THEATRE
OF OTTAWA

Festival Factsheet

The 10-minute Play Format

Short plays can be traced back to the very origins of the Theatre. In ancient Greece, dramatists traditionally included a short satyr play with their trilogy of tragedies presented at the dramatic competitions. The “official debut” of the 10-minute play as a genre is usually traced back to the Actors Theatre of Louisville’s 1977 Humana Festival of New American Plays. What began there as a quirky exercise in “Polaroid playwriting” has since evolved into nothing short of a theatrical phenomenon—an exciting and powerful new format that has altered the theatrical landscape with its possibilities. 10-minute plays are no longer a fad. They are a legitimate form of theatre that has proven highly popular with audiences around the world including Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines, Dubai¹.

World's Shortest Play

Samuel Beckett wrote a drama in 1969 called *Breath* which doesn't last more than 25 seconds.

What People are saying about the Extremely Short New Play Festival

"As a playwright I'm inspired by the challenge of trying to create an entire universe and story to present in just 10 minutes, and I commend New Theatre of Ottawa for giving Ottawa audiences the opportunity to hear from so many talented writers. With 10 plays being presented this year, audiences are sure to enjoy their evening."- Lawrence Aronovitch, Playwright

"The Extremely Short Play Festival is one of Ottawa's most outstanding and important theatrical events of the year." - Chris Ralph, Artistic Director & Co-founder The Acting Company

¹ Short Plays http://www.theatrehistory.com/misc/short_plays.html.

10-Minute Plays http://www.theatredatabase.com/20th_century/ten_minute_plays.html



The Plays

Karen Balcome (*Alice*): *Woman meets sculpture.*

Caitlin Corbett (*Loyal Opposition*): An encounter between Laurier's wife and mistress.

Tim Ginley (*There's More to the Picture*): The cost of crime and death.

Wynn Quon (*Top Job*): High finance is more than monkey business.

Stephanie Turple (*Denial*): A play about something and nothing.

Jessica Anderson (*Terminal Journey*): One last plane trip.

Lawrence Aronovitch (*Book of Daniel*): Being young, jewish and in Montreal during the 1976 Olympics.

Pierre Brault (*Coach of the Year*): A hockey coach gets an unexpected visit.

Keith Davidson (*Out of Gas*): A trailer trash tale.

Laurie Fyffe (*Seeing*): A meeting of mind, body and souls.