FELIX CULPA

March 4-April 8 2010 Chutzpah! The Lisa Nemetz International Showcase of Jewish Performing Arts

A WORLD PREMIERE OF TOM CONE'S NEW PLAY
Donald and Lenore

Vancouver BC – Chutzpah! and Felix Culpa are very proud to present the **world premiere of a new work by internationally renowned Vancouver based playwright Tom Cone**.

Lenore (Linda Quibell) has been performing her magical, musical floor show for ten years at the Tahitian Room in the Holiday/Everyday Airport Hotel, three floors below parking. She works with a succession of dangerous paroled convicts whom she all calls "Donald". Everything rides on tonight's performance: Donald Number Seven (Billy Marchenski) wants to shake up the act by inserting his own material, and Lenore has secret plans for taking them to a new level. But something inexplicable is going on. Why are planes being diverted from the airport? What has happened to Donald's lover Hernando? Who's in the elevator?

Donald and Lenore is a fiercely dark and comic play about survival, performance, American hegemony, tikis, incarceration, love and the power to resist annihilation with a little bit of glamour.

Donald and Lenore is also more than just a world premiere theatrical performance. For the entire run of the show, the Wosk Auditorium will be transformed into the Wosk Tahiti Lounge Cabaret. Cabaret seating and Tiki décor will contribute to the tacky glory of Lenore's subterranean lair and immerse audiences into the whole experience. Be one of the first to see this play and share in a unique evening.

"This is an exciting new production for the Chutzpah! Festival and we are tremendously proud to be presenting the world premiere of Tom Cone's latest work" stated Artistic Managing Director Mary-Louise Albert "It is a testament to the growth of Chutzpah! and the creative team behind Felix Culpa that we are able to bring such a high quality theatrical production to Chutzpah! audiences for an extended run during the Festival."

Tom Cone, winner of the Drama League Award for Playwrighting in New York, began his career with Vancouver's Playwrights Theatre Centre in 1974. Amongst his many achievements, Tom was Playwright In Residence at the Stratford Festival and is the author of *Herringbone, True Mummy, Cubistique* and the libretto for Vancouver Opera's *The Architect* (music by David MacIntyre). He adapted his play *Herringbone* into a musical (music by Skip Kennan, lyrics by Ellen Fitzhugh) which has had many productions across the United States, Canada and Great Britain including most recently at the Williamstown Theater Festival, McCarter Theater, Princeton NJ and La Jolla Playhouse, starring Tony Award-winner BD Wong (*M Butterfly, Law and Order*: *SVU*) and directed by Tony Award-winner Roger Rees (*Nicholas Nickleby*).

David Bloom is a Vancouver playwright, director, actor, fight choreographer and co-Artistic Director (with Linda Quibell) of Felix Culpa for whom he directed *Judith, The Monument*, and the North American premiere of Howard Barker's *Und*. With Patrick Pennefather and Linda Quibell, he is co-writing Felix Culpa's adaptation of *Cyrano de Bergerac* entitled *St.Cyr: Kandahar*.

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Linda Quibell is co-Artistic Director of Felix Culpa. As an actor she has appeared most recently with the Playhouse (*Top Girls*), University of Alberta (*Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*), Patrick Street Productions (*Into the Woods),* Pi Theatre (*8th Land*), Bard on the Beach (*Timon of Athens, Julius Caesar*). For Felix Culpa, she has performed and/or written many shows over the years, including *Revenge, Und, Salman Rushdie and Me…a love story, The Compleat Works of Love*, as well as the upcoming *La Vie, L'Amour* and *St. Cyr: Kandahar*.

Billy Marchenski (Donald) is an extremely versatile and hard-working actor, and one of the engines of the alternate theatre scene in Vancouver. He is a founding member of the fearless collective, Screaming Flea, for whom he recently played Bernice in *Tying the Knot*, directed by Paulo Ribeiro. His many credits include *Salome* by Oscar Wilde, Michael Springate's *Freeport, Texas* and *Macbeth*. He is a graduate of the performance program at the School for the Contemporary Arts at Simon Fraser University. Billy recently finished shooting his first major role in a feature film *Acts of Imagination*.

"No other company in town matches Felix Culpa's dedication to the power of words…" *The Georgia Straight*
"Felix Culpa [is] a small theatre company with a reputation…for testing the boundaries of modern theatre." *The Vancouver Sun*

Written By Tom Cone
Directed by David Bloom
Featuring Linda Quibell and Billy Marchenski
Set and lighting design by John Webber
Costumes by Karen Matthews
Compositions arranged by Peter Hurst www.felixculpa.com

Where: **Wosk Tahiti Lounge Cabaret at the JCCGV**

When: **Preview Saturday, March 6 @ 8pm**
Opening Sunday, March 7 @ 8pm
Mon-Thu, March 8-11 @ 8pm
Saturday, March 13 @ 8pm
Sunday, March 14 @ 4pm & 8pm
Mon-Thu, March 15-18 @ 8pm
Saturday, March 20 @ 8pm

Post Show Talk-Back March 9

Visit the Festival's website at www.chutzpahfestival.com for complete information. Tickets can be purchased by phone at the Chutzpah! Festival Box Office (604-257-5145), online at www.ticketstonight.ca and the Chutzpah! Festival website www.chutzpahfestival.com or in person at the JCCGV (950 W. 41st Ave). Online Tickets for The Idan Raichel Project can be purchased only through Ticketmaster (604.280.3311) www.ticketmaster.ca as well as by phone or in person through the Chutzpah! Festival Box Office (604-257-5145)

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