

**A WORLD PREMIERE, A PERPLEXING MYSTERY & SOME CRAZY COMMEDIA DELL'ARTE**  
**Eclectic and enchanting theatrical performances at Chutzpah! 2010**

**Vancouver BC –**

“Theatre is an integral part of Chutzpah! and this year we are taking another big leap forward”, stated Artistic Managing Director Mary-Louise Albert. “Being able to bring Vancouver audiences the **world premiere** of Tom Cone’s new play *Donald and Lenore* is tremendously important and exciting for the Festival. We are transforming an entire space exclusively for the run of the show into the Wosk Tahiti Lounge Cabaret which will not only provide a special ambiance to enjoy the actors on stage that much more, but will provide theatregoers with a new experience. Audiences are sure to be intrigued and enchanted by Christian Murray as he unravels the mystery of *Underneath The Lintel*, and if you need some laugh-out-loud fun Israel’s Commedia Dell-Arte inspired antics of *Odysseus Chaoticus* will not disappoint.”

**DONALD AND LENORE**

Chutzpah! is very proud to present the **world premiere of a new work by internationally renowned Vancouver based playwright Tom Cone**, author of *Herringbone*, *True Mummy*, *Cubistique* and the libretto for Vancouver Opera’s *The Architect*. This is also the first time that Chutzpah! has presented a play for the entire duration of the festival.

*Donald and Lenore* is a wild and seductive play about survival. Set in a Tahitian lounge, three floors below an airport hotel parking lot, a ruthless diva and a nervous convict create paradise in a bomb shelter, passionately performing their existential cabaret until no one is left. Is their salvation a new audience, or is it time to leave? Now the play begins.

*Donald and Lenore* is 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!

*Presented with Felix Culpa*

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

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

Where: Wosk Tahiti Lounge Cabaret at the JCCGV

## UNDERNEATH THE LINTEL

The return of an overdue library book—113 years late—piques the nascent detective skills of an uptight Dutch librarian who embarks on a quixotic, globe trotting pursuit of the anonymous borrower and returner. The scribbled note “I was here” in the book’s margin and a yellowed claim check from a London dry cleaner are the first two clues. His quest to unravel the mystery then leads him to a post office box in Dingtao, China; a government records bureau in Bonn; a sound and photo archive in New York; and an attic in Australia.

Christian Murray, superb in the role of the Librarian, leads the audience on a winding trail through history to a mystery that dates back to the Crucifixion and a figure who may be more man than myth.

*Underneath the Lintel* is a 90-minute one act play which premiered in 2001 in Los Angeles and then ran for over a year in New York City at the Soho Playhouse. The play has also enjoyed successful runs in Seattle, Portland, Edmonton and London, England.

Director **Mary Vingoe** is the founding Artistic Director of the Magnetic North Theatre Festival. She is also a co-founder and past Artistic Director of Toronto’s Nightwood Theatre, a founding Co-Artistic Director of The Ship’s Company Theatre in Parrsboro NS and a co-founder and former Artistic Director of The Eastern Front Theatre in Halifax. Vingoe has directed for major theatres across the country.

**Christian Murray**, who plays the Librarian, is formerly of Jest In Time Theatre and starred in the award winning play, *God’s Middle Name* by Jennifer Overton. Murray also premiered a new musical recently at Mulgrave Road Theatre in Guysborough, which he co-wrote with Mary Colin Chisholm, titled *By The Dark of The Moon*. In 2001 he won a Gemini Award for his writing work on *This Hour Has 22 Minutes* and in 2006 he was short listed for the CBC Literary award.

Writer **Glen Berger** is an award-winning playwright living and working in New York City. His plays include *Great Men of Science, Nos. 21 and 22, The Wooden Breeks, O Lovely Gloworm, Bessemer’s Spectacles, The Birdcatcher* and *I Will Go* (included in best American short plays of 2001/02.)

“A ‘tour de force’ performance by Murray...amusing and thought provoking.” - *Kate Watson the Coast*

“...powerfully human and ultimately sublime.” *Variety*

“Underneath The Lintel is an intriguing piece, poetic, funny and touching...it ultimately reminded me of how important it is to find passion in life and to go after it. And Christian is the perfect actor for it –he captures the loneliness and the fragility of the character who emerges from a grey existence into a world of glorious technicolour with great subtlety.” *Marcia Kash*

“...a cosmic puzzle that makes The Da Vinci Code seem like a game of hide-and-seek.” *Variety Magazine*

By Glen Berger  
Produced by Frankie Productions  
Starring Christian Murray  
Directed by Mary Vingoe  
Set Design Stephen Osler  
Lighting Design Ingrid Risk

*Presented with the Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad and The Cultch*

**When: Sunday, March 14 at 2pm & 7pm  
Monday, March 15 at 8pm  
Wednesday, March 17 at 7pm  
Thursday, March 18 at 7pm  
Saturday, March 20 at 7pm**

**Where: Norman Rothstein Theatre at the JCCGV**

**Post Show Talk-Back March 14 (7pm)**

## **ODYSSEUS CHAOTICUS from Israel's Ish Theatre**

A fantastic cabaret show based on the travels of Odysseus King of Ithaca, brings together physical theatre, clowning, acting, dance and live music. The three performers, who also sing, dance and play a variety of musical instruments, also play a multitude of characters, alternating between them in an almost dizzying rhythm. The multitalented trio tells the story of the great Greek hero, King Odysseus, who struggles to find his way home in a wondrously cruel world inhabited by ancient gods, witches, monsters and larger-than-life humans.

Parts of the mythological odyssey are intertwined into a story of an eccentric Italian family; a romantic-dreamer husband, his uptight and dominating but loving wife, a needy old Papa and their noisy newborn baby all packed like sardines in their small home. The day-dreaming husband escapes his mundane routine and takes an imaginative journey inspired by Homer's Odyssey.

This is one of the most entertaining hours you will ever spend in the theatre!

Formed in 2008, *Ish Theatre* is an exciting new Israeli physical theatre ensemble encompassing clowning and mime. The founding members of the group – friends since their days as young aspiring theatre students - Fyodor Makarov, Noam Rubinstein and Yolana Zimmerman, share a long history of creative collaboration and joined forces in a mutual desire to practice and stretch the realm of physical theatre, clowning and mime.

"An amazing balance between sharp directing and the brilliant improvisational skills of the three clowns, each one of them bursting with talent"  
*M.Zur-Glozman, Ma'ariv Online*

**When: Tuesday, March 9 @ 8pm  
Wednesday, March 10 @ 8pm**

**Where: Norman Rothstein Theatre at the JCCGV**

**Post Show Talk-Back March 9**

## **WORKSHOPS WITH ISH THEATRE**

Chutzpah! will also be presenting a series of workshops for aspiring physical actors – an investigation of the Actor-Clown's world for the curious to the professional. Each session will be led by one of the artists from *Odysseus Chaoticus*.

### **Workshop A - Explorations in Physical Expression** with Noam Rubinstein

4 hrs – March 8th: 10am to 1pm

Come experience the dynamics of physical improvisation through the creative mix of imagination, rhythm, sound and gesture, giving a priority to thinking through the body and discovering a language which encompasses the worlds of theatre and dance.

### **Workshop B - Finding One's Individual Clown** with Yolana Zimmerman

4 hrs – March 9th: 10am to 1pm

This workshop will explore each individual's physical and emotional expression, natural and instinctive reactions in different situations such as embarrassment, flirtation, fear, anger, love...etc. With the world's smallest mask, the red nose, we will reveal our silliness, our vulnerability, our fears and courage...our humanity.

### **Workshop C - The Grottesque Character and His/Her Belongings** with Fyodor Makarov

4 hrs – March 10th: 10am to 1pm

Building the character's body, props and costumes. Participants of the workshop will discover inspiration for creating eccentric characters through work with scrap materials, from ready-made to hand-made.

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

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

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