



11th Annual Chutzpah! Festival

The Lisa Nemetz International Showcase of Jewish Performing Arts

MUSIC – DANCE - THEATRE

February 10-27, 2011

Vancouver BC – Chutzpah’s Artistic & Managing Director Mary-Louise Albert is extremely proud and excited to be bringing such a diverse range of shows to Vancouver with a line-up that includes some of Canada and the world’s best artists. “Chutzpah! once again promises to captivate audiences with a stunning repertoire of dance, music and theatre”, stated Ms. Albert. “Chutzpah! continues to expand, opening up the Festival to include more lower mainland venues in its festivities. This year Chutzpah! returns to The Venue nightclub on Granville Street, but will also be rocking the house across the road at the iconic Commodore Ballroom, downtown at the Scotiabank Dance Centre, as well as crossing over the bridge to the North Shore to the intimate Presentation House Theatre.”

Theatre fans will enjoy a special treat with three great plays. Kicking off the Festival in theatrical style is the comedy/drama **Visiting Mr Green** starring David Adams and Nicolas Rhind and directed by Neil Scott. (February 10 preview, February 11 – 27, Tuesday through Saturday @ 8pm, plus 4pm Saturday and a 2pm matinee on Sundays at Presentation House Theatre, 333 Chesterfield Avenue, North Vancouver - A *Presentation House Theatre and Chutzpah! Festival co-production*). The Broadway musical **Falsettos**, originally nominated for seven Tony Awards and winning for best score and best book, opens the following day and brings together an all-star cast of local musical theatre artists led by director/choreographer Peter Jorgensen (*The Full Monty, Bat Boy*). Written by William Finn (*25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*) and James Lapine (*Sunday in the Park With George*). “Exhilarating and heartbreaking” - NY Times (February 12 – 20 various times, Norman Rothstein Theatre, JCCGV, 950 West 41st Avenue - A *Wizard Productions and Chutzpah! Festival co-production*). **The world premiere of *How to Disappear Completely***, a deeply moving and uplifting play by Vancouver’s acclaimed lighting designer Itai Erdal, reveals the story of the unique circumstances surrounding his mother’s death. Starring Itai Erdal and directed by James Long (February 17 – 27 various times, Wosk 2nd Stage, JCCGV, 950 West 41st Avenue - A *Chop Theatre and Chutzpah! Festival co-production*).

Music is always a big part of Chutzpah! and much-loved by audiences. From Israel **Ravid Kahalani with his nine-member band Yemen Blues, co-founded by bass virtuoso Omer Avital**, mix Yemenite rich tonalities and soul, blues, funk, classical and West African roots. (Thursday February 24, Doors open @ 8pm, Venue Night Club, 881 Granville Street). With a newly released CD *Blue Eyed Black Boy*, the sensational **Balkan Beat Box** returns to Chutzpah! after their 2010 sold-out concert but this time to the Commodore Ballroom. With their roots firmly planted all around the Mediterranean rim and their solid rock and reggae foundations, this Israel and New York-based band is a sensation and puts on a show that is not to be missed. New to Chutzpah! and opening for BBB is **Klezmafour** from Poland. (Sunday February 27, Doors open @ 8pm, Commodore Ballroom, 868 Granville Street.) From Italy, Chutzpah! is delighted to present **Klezmerata Fiorentina**. Comprised of four principal players from Florence’s Orchestra del Maggio Musicale, their style is authentic Klezmer chamber music with virtuosic classical complexities (Wednesday, February 16th @ 7pm, Norman Rothstein Theatre, JCCGV, 950 W 41st Avenue). From Toronto, leading Canadian voices of Yiddish song **Theresa Tova, Mitch Smolken and guests**, present a moving multi-media **Tribute to Avram Sutzkever** that includes Sutzkever’s poetry and music (Sunday February 20 @ 7pm, Norman Rothstein Theatre, JCCGV, 950 W 41st Avenue).

.../2

Also hailing from Toronto is Juno Award Nominee for Best World Music, **Jaffa Road** whose unique sonic landscape draws from sacred and secular Jewish songs, classical Arabic and Indian music, modern jazz, rock, pop, and dub. Opening for Jaffa Road is Vancouver's own **Jessica Stuart** with her Toronto-based trio **The Jessica Stuart Few**. (Saturday February 19 @ 8pm, Norman Rothstein Theatre, JCCGV, 950 W 41st Avenue).

Dance enthusiasts are never disappointed by the high-calibre of dance selected by Ms. Albert for Chutzpah! Audiences can look forward to breathtaking performances by Israel's **Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company**. This 18-strong company will present the Western Canadian premiere of *Ekodoom*. (Tuesday & Wednesday February 22 & 23 @ 8pm and Thursday February 24 @ 7pm, Norman Rothstein Theatre, JCCGV, 950 W 41st Avenue). Three dynamic and exciting male dancers and choreographers come together - **Kevin O'Day**, **Robert Glumbeck** and **Luches Huddleston Jr.** in *Full Bloom* - the personal and intimate journey of three men through the joys of fatherhood, the demands of manhood, and the challenges imposed by physical age. In a double bill with *Full Bloom* will be a new work by Chutzpah artists in residence Israeli choreographer/dancers **Yossi Berg** and **Oded Graf** with three of Vancouver's best dancers – **Noam Gagnon**, **Justine Chambers** and **Ziyian Kwan** (Saturday February 26 @ 8pm & Sunday February 27 @ 2pm. Norman Rothstein Theatre, JCCGV, 950 West 41st Avenue). Chutzpah! and The Dance Centre present *Conversations*, a world premiere by the multi-talented choreographer **Serge Bennathan**. Based on an imaginary encounter between the great Spanish poet and playwright Federico Garcia Lorca, and his assassin, Juan Luis Trescastro portrayed on stage by the magnetic **Billy Marchenski** and **Danny Wild**. (February 10, 11, 12 @ 8pm at the Scotiabank Dance Centre, 677 Davie Street).

This is our 11th year of showcasing world-renowned artists in a vibrant celebration of the performing arts.

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 Balkan Beat Box 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). Chutzi Packs are also available, which enable patrons to see 4 shows of their choice for just \$69 (not valid for Balkan Beat Box or Yemen Blues) – available only through the Chutzpah! Box Office.

- end -

Media inquiries:

Jodi Smith, JLS Entertainment

T: 604.736.4939 E: jlsmgmt@lightspeed.ca