

## NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release  
April 16, 2009

**Ottawa's own Sleeping Dog Theatre to tour New Zealand with  
*Portrait of an Unidentified Man*  
Special pre-tour revival for three nights only at the  
Irving Greenberg Theatre Centre Mainstage**

**Ottawa** – Sleeping Dog Theatre's critically acclaimed *Portrait of an Unidentified Man*, written and performed by Pierre Brault, is heading to New Zealand July 25 - August 8, 2009. The tour will encompass two major festivals in New Zealand: the Christchurch Arts Festival and the Taranaki Festival of the Arts. A homegrown Ottawa success story, *Portrait of an Unidentified Man* was commissioned and originally co-produced by the National Arts Centre English Theatre, where it premiered as part of the 2004-05 season.

In advance of the tour, Sleeping Dog Theatre will offer a special revival of the show for Ottawa audiences, for three nights only at the Irving Greenberg Theatre Centre, **July 9 - 11**, 2009. Says writer/performer Pierre Brault, “**Sleeping Dog Theatre is immensely proud to represent Ottawa on the international stage, and we hope that in coming out to see the show here in Ottawa before we go, all of our fans, friends and supporters will know that they are playing an important part in our success. We could never have come this far without the tremendous support of the Ottawa community.**”

The company is offering an **early bird special** on ticket prices for the revival at the Irving Greenberg Theatre Centre: all tickets will be \$29 (taxes and fees included) **until May 17**, after which the price will go up to \$39.

In 2006 *Portrait of an Unidentified Man* toured nationally to the Vancouver East Cultural Centre, the Grand Theatre in London, Ontario, and the St. John's, NL edition of the Magnetic North Theatre Festival. It was the appearance at Magnetic North in St. John's that led to the company's invitation to New Zealand, three years in the making. This will mark the company's second major international tour, after *Blood on the Moon* toured to nine cities in Ireland in March, 2003.

When the play premiered at the NAC in February, 2005, the entire run was sold out within two days of opening. “**A play of marvellous question marks. A one-act, 80 minute marvel, *Portrait of an Unidentified Man* is the must-see production of the Ottawa theatre season. ... I know it's only February, but this is really the performance of the year. Brault is simply astonishing,**” raved CBC Radio's Tom McSorley. The production returned to the NAC for an encore presentation in July, 2005, again playing to capacity audiences and nightly standing ovations.

*Portrait of an Unidentified Man* is inspired by the life of Hungarian art forger Elmyr de Hory. Frustrated by his failure as an artist under his own name, de Hory turned to painting in the style

of his contemporaries, including Matisse, Picasso and Modigliani, and passing off the results as originals with astonishing success. After decades spent toiling in anonymity, de Hory eventually attained notoriety as one of the greatest art forgers of the twentieth century. In his own incomparable style, Brault crafts myriad characters, from Orson Welles and Zsa Zsa Gabor to de Hory himself and the artists whose work he forged, to tell a fascinating story that explores the very nature of art and identity.

In addition to writer / performer **Pierre Brault**, the creative team for *Portrait of an Unidentified Man* includes director **Brian Quirt**, lighting and set designer **Martin Conboy** and producer **Judi Pearl** – the same core team who (along with Brian Smith and Paul Bourdeau) created last season's Rideau Award winning co-production with GCTC, *5 O'Clock Bells*. *Portrait of an Unidentified Man* won the Capital Critics' Circle Award for Best Design in 2005 (Martin Conboy). **Justin Haynes** is the Composer and Sound Designer.

Sleeping Dog Theatre is a professional theatre company based in Ottawa and dedicated to the development, production and touring of new Canadian plays. The company specializes in solo biographical performance, using real life histories of extraordinary yet often overlooked individuals to explore diverse themes.

The New Zealand tour of *Portrait of an Unidentified Man* is supported by the Ontario Arts Council and the Canada Council for the Arts.



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**TICKETS ON SALE NOW for the Ottawa revival: JULY 9, 10, 11 at 8pm**

**Box Office: 613-236-5196**

Irving Greenberg Theatre Centre  
1233 Wellington Street West (corner Wellington & Holland)

\$39 / \$29 for students & seniors

**EARLY BIRD SPECIAL:** All tickets \$29 until May 17.

Ticket prices include GST and \$3 facility fee.  
No ticket exchanges or refunds.

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**For more information please contact:**

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