



MAX REIMER, ARTISTIC MANAGING DIRECTOR



Catalyst Theatre's HUNCHBACK

Conceived by Jonathan Christenson and Bretta Gerecke

Adapted from the novel by Victor Hugo

Commissioned by The Citadel Theatre

FEB. 18 – MAR. 10, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | January 27, 2012 – Vancouver, BC... The **Vancouver Playhouse Theatre Company** and **The Cultch** are joining forces to present Catalyst Theatre's "visually stunning masterpiece" (GIG CITY), **Hunchback**. On stage at the Vancouver Playhouse from February 18 to March 10, **Hunchback** is "the richest work yet from this treasure of a company" (EDMONTON JOURNAL).

Hunchback is a darkly romantic musical set amid the buttresses and shadows of Notre Dame Cathedral, it tells the tale of a tormented priest, a beautiful dancer and the deformed bell ringer, Quasimodo. Swept up in a vortex of lust, fear, and the desire to control a destiny that will ultimately destroy them all, they are consumed by love in its most potent, merciless and obsessive form. This surprising new take on Victor Hugo's famous story comes from the multi-award-winning creators of *Nevermore* and *Frankenstein*. "It's a mesmerizing spectacle of cool costumes, strong personalities, and fearless talent" (EDMONTON SUN).

Tickets, from \$45, can be reserved online at vancouverplayhouse.com, by calling the Playhouse Box Office at **604 873 3311**, or in person at the **theatre box office** Monday - Friday, 10am-5pm. **Hunchback** is generously sponsored by **Busters Towing**.

THE COMPANY

JEREMY BAUMUNG (Pierre Gringoire, Ensemble). Recent theatre credits include *A Christmas Carol*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Sweeney Todd*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Pride and Prejudice* (Citadel Theatre), and *Urinetown* (Persephone Theatre). Jeremy's one-man show *Dead Man Talking* premiered at the Azimuth Theatre in 2002 and toured to the Edge Theatre in Auckland, New Zealand in 2005.

JAMES ROBERT BOUDREAU (Production Manager) is a freelance Production Manager/Technical Director. Catalyst Theatre productions he has worked on in the past include: *The Blue Orphan*, *Frankenstein* and *Nevermore*. Other notable contracts include – Technical Director for the Alberta Centennial Initiative's 2005 Royal Visit and Production Manager for the Edmonton Fringe Festival.

CANDICE CHARNEY (Assistant Stage Manager) was born and raised in BC, but has lived in Edmonton for the past ten years. She graduated from the University of Alberta with a BFA in Technical Theatre specializing in Stage Management in 2005. This will mark Candice's third trip back to Vancouver with Catalyst Theatre. Previous Catalyst shows include *Nevermore* and *Frankenstein*.

ANDREW COHEN (Phoebus de Chateaupers, Pierrat Torterue, Ensemble) holds a BFA in Acting from the University of British Columbia. Select Theatre: *Fiddler on the Roof* (Chemainus), *Arms and the Man*, *The Laramie Project* (Theatre@UBC), Gordon in *A New Brain* (Pipedream), *Grease* (TUTS - Ovation Award Winner), *Laramie Project 10 Years Later* (World Premiere Reading with Tectonic Theater and Homeshark Theatre), featured soloist in the *2010 Winter Olympic Opening and Closing Ceremonies*.

JONATHAN CHRISTENSON (Writer, Director, Composer). As Artistic Director of Catalyst Theatre, Jonathan Christenson has become known for creating work with a bold and distinctive theatricality that integrates a strong musical component with striking visual imagery, a heightened physical and vocal performance style, poetic text and a darkly comic sensibility. His role as director, writer and composer is central to the work, as is his long-term creative partnership with production designer Bretta Gerecke. His productions have played at theatres and festivals in England, Scotland, Wales, Australia, the United States and Canada, and have been honoured with numerous awards both at home and abroad. Jonathan holds an MFA in Directing from the University of Alberta. In July, Jonathan was named one of the "50 Most Influential People in Alberta" by Alberta Venture magazine.

MOLLY FLOOD (Fleur-de-Lis, Ensemble). Select credits include: *Reverie* (Ghost River Theatre), *The Tall Building* (Azimuth Theatre), *Social Sundays* (Rapid Fire Theatre), *Cowboy Mouth* (Orange Bus Prod.), *Pig* (Cowgirl Opera). Molly plays in pop-rock band *Christian Hansen & the Autistics*, is a Sterling Award nominee, recipient of the *Queen's Golden Jubilee Performing Arts Scholarship* and a graduate of the University of Alberta.

BRETTA GERECKE (Production Designer) grew up in Winnipeg and has resided in Edmonton for the past eighteen years. She graduated from the University of Manitoba with a Bachelor of Interior Design in 1992, and from the University of Alberta with a Master of Fine Arts in Theatre Design in 1996. Bretta is the resident designer at Catalyst Theatre, where she has designed world premieres, which have toured internationally to Great Britain, Australia, and the U.S. and across Canada. She is the recipient of over twenty Elizabeth Sterling Haynes Awards, Jessie Richardson Awards, Betty Mitchell Awards and SAT Awards for Outstanding Achievement in Set, Lighting and Costume Design; Edmonton's Top 40 Under 40 and was short-listed twice for the Siminovitch Prize, amongst others.

BETH GRAHAM (Paquette, La Chantefleurie, Eloise De Gondelaurier, La Falourdel, Ensemble) Theatre credits include: *Nevermore*, *The Blue Orphan*, *twelve*, *Fusion: Let There Be Light* and *Sticky Shoes* (Catalyst); *The Drowning Girls* (National tour); *Death of a Salesman*, *A Christmas Carol* (Citadel Theatre). Beth is a graduate of the BFA acting program at the University of Alberta in Edmonton.

JAN HODGSON (Stage Manager). Most recent credits include *La Cage aux Folles* (Vancouver Playhouse); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Caravan Farm Theatre); *No Exit* (American Conservatory Theater, San Francisco); *Death of a Salesman* (Vancouver Playhouse); *Studies in Motion* (Electric Company Canadian Tour); *Tear The Curtain!* (Arts Club in Association with Electric Company).

DON HORSBURGH (Original Music Direction & Vocal Arrangements). As resident music director at the Citadel Theatre and Robbins Academy faculty, Don has been enjoying connection with both Citadel Young Companies and the Citadel Banff Centre Professional Theatre Program participants. For the Stratford Festival he has provided original music for 19 productions and music directed *Threepenny Opera*. He is the recipient of five Dora Awards for his contributions to *Rigoletto*, *A Little Night Music*, *Fire*, and *Lilies* and a Sterling Haynes Award for outstanding music direction for *Cabaret*.

LAURA KREWSKI (Choreographer). Recent choreographic credits include: *Frankenstein* and *Nevermore* (Catalyst); *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Belfry/Arts Club and The Mayfield); *As You Like It* (Citadel Theatre); *The Pirates of Penzance* and *HMS Pinafore* (Edmonton Opera); *The Forbidden Phoenix* (LKTYP/Citadel Theatre/MTYP); *Two Gentleman of Verona* (River City Shakespeare Festival); and *Footloose* (The Mayfield).

AVA JANE MARKUS (La Esmeralda, Ensemble). Select credits include: *Communion* (Alberta Theatre Projects); *Mr. Marmalade* (SummerWorks 2011); *Hunchback* and *Julius Caesar* (Citadel Theatre); *Doubt, a Parable* (Globe Theatre); *Fairy Tales Scratched* (Rapid Fire Theatre); *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (Studio Theatre); *Hamlet* and *The Taming of the Shrew* (Freewill Shakespeare Festival); *Much Ado About Nothing* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Calgary's Shakespeare In the Park).

ROBERT MARKUS (Jehan du Moulin, Michel Noiret, Ensemble). Selected credits include: *The Rocky Horror Show* and *A Christmas Carol* at the Citadel; *Titus Andronicus* and *The Comedy of Errors* for Freewill Shakespeare Festival; *Spine* for Real Wheels at Studio Theatre; *Alberto!* for Kompany Family Theatre; and *Grease*, *Big, the Musical*, and *Footloose* for Theatre Under the Stars.

NARDA MCARROLL (Lighting Associate) is an Edmonton-based set, costumes and lighting designer. She has an MFA in theatre design from the University of Alberta. Some recent/favorite design credits include: Lights for *The Drowning Girls* (National Tour), *As You Like It* (Citadel Theatre) and *The Forbidden Phoenix* (Citadel, Lorraine Kimsa, Manitoba Theatre For Young People); set/costumes for *The Trespassers* (Belfry Theatre/Vancouver Playhouse); and co-production design (with Brett) on *Vimy* (Citadel). Narda has designed the costumes for the Freewill Players' Shakespeare Festival for 13 seasons.

BETTY MOULTON (Voice, Speech and Text Coach) has taught voice, speech, text and worked as a coach for over 30 years in U.S., U.K. and Canadian professional actor training programs. She heads the MFA program in Theatre Voice Pedagogy, training new theatre voice specialists at the University of Alberta.

RON PEDERSON (Quasimodo, Ensemble) has worked with the Vancouver Playhouse, Arts Club, Citadel Theatre, Phoenix Theatre, Workshop West, Theatre Network, Free Will Players, Kill Your Television, Shadow Theatre, Teatro La Quindicina, MTC, Canadian Stage, Tarragon Theatre, Catalyst Theatre, Eastern Front Theatre, Theatre Passe Muraille, and SummerWorks Festival. He is a founding member and artistic producer of the critically acclaimed company The National Theatre of the World in Toronto.

RYAN SIGURDSON (Répétiteur) is an award-winning music director and composer as well as an accomplished actor and teacher. He has music directed for the Citadel Theatre, Studio Theatre, St. Albert Children's Theatre, Northern Light Theatre, Teatro la Quindicina, and the Mayfield Dinner Theatre. Ryan is a graduate of MacEwan's Theatre Arts Program and the Canadian National Voice Intensive.

WADE STAPLES (Sound Designer) holds Music Performance, Recording Arts and Theatre Production diplomas from Grant MacEwan University, where for the past seventeen years he has been an instructor and sound designer for the Theatre Production program. He also operates his own production company.

SCOTT WALTERS (Claude Frolo, Clopin Trouillefou, Ensemble) recently finished the Vancouver premieres of *What About Luv?* and *Evil Dead: The Musical*. Hailing originally from Edmonton, he also completed an 800 performance run in Toronto of the Dora Award winning *We Will Rock You*.

ENHANCED PERFORMANCES

Audio Description: Friday, March 2 at 8pm is audio described for those visually impaired. Audio description begins 15 minutes prior to the performance. VocalEye Audio Description is presented in partnership with Kickstart Disability Arts and Culture.

Salon Saturday: There is a pre-show talk on Saturday, March 3 beginning at 1pm. Pre-show chats at the Playhouse enhance the experience of seeing live theatre. The guest speaker will be **Heather Redfern**, Executive Director at The Cultch.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Dates to Note

FEB. 18, 20, 22	Preview performances at 8pm
FEB. 23	Opening Night at 8pm
FEB. 27, MAR. 6	Post-performance talkback Q&A with the cast
FEB. 29, MAR. 7, 8	Complimentary tea, coffee and cookies served at 1pm
MAR. 2	Audio Described performance begins at 7:45pm
MAR. 3	Salon Saturday pre-performance talk beginning at 1pm
MAR. 4	Closing: 2pm and 8pm

Single Ticket Prices (all inclusive): From \$45

CALL **604 873 3311**

ONLINE vancouverplayhouse.com

IN PERSON **Mon.-Fri., 1am-5pm**

GROUPS (10+) CALL 604 637 3094 or groups@vancouverplayhouse.com

Catalyst Theatre's Hunchback is generously sponsored by **Busters Towing** (Presentation Sponsor) and **Book Warehouse** (Promotional Sponsor).

*Edmonton's **Catalyst Theatre** is committed to creating original Canadian work that explores new possibilities for the theatrical art form and the process through which it is created, to exposing the work locally, nationally and internationally, and to challenging the artists and audiences who participate in the creation of this work. www.catalysttheatre.ca*

*For 38 years in East Vancouver, **The Cultch** has offered programming in theatre, dance & music by local, national & international artists. www.thecultch.com*

*The **Vancouver Playhouse Theatre Company** is British Columbia's premier regional theatre company, producing engaging plays of the highest calibre since 1962. www.vancouverplayhouse.com*

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