

MEDIA RELEASE

Billy Bishop comes back home to Soulpepper

Toronto, ON – May 19, 2011 – **Albert Schultz**, Founding Artistic Director of Soulpepper Theatre Company, today announced that the company's celebrated production of *Billy Bishop Goes to War* comes back home to the Soulpepper stage after highly successful runs at The High Performance Rodeo in Calgary and the Segal Centre for the Performing Arts in Montreal.

This is the fifth decade of collaboration on *Billy Bishop* for creators **Eric Peterson** and **John Gray**, and the play's third time at Soulpepper. The story of irreverent hero and Canadian World War One flying ace Billy Bishop remains one of the most produced — and critically acclaimed — Canadian plays of all time.

Soulpepper Founding Member **Ted Dykstra** directs *Billy Bishop Goes to War* featuring Eric Peterson as Billy Bishop (as well as a cast of characters ranging from King George V to The Lovely Helene), with John Gray as the Narrator and Pianist.

Billy Bishop Goes to War previews June 1, 2011 and opens June 3, 2011 at the Young Centre for the Performing Arts, located at 55 Mill Street, Building 49, in the Distillery Historic District. Tickets range from \$28 - \$65 (plus HST) and are available by calling the Young Centre box office at 416.866.8666 or by visiting www.soulpepper.ca. \$22 tickets are available for 21-30 year-olds at www.stageplay.ca. StagePlay is sponsored by TD Bank Financial Group.

Billy Bishop Goes to War is supported by Production Sponsor Middlefield Resource Funds.

2011 Soulpepper Lead Sponsors are: Sun Life Financial, Scotiabank Group and TELUS. Soulpepper gratefully acknowledges annual operating support from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council, and the Toronto Arts Council.

Soulpepper Theatre Company is an artist-founded, classical repertory theatre company with a three-tiered mandate: to present the world's greatest stories in vital Canadian interpretations; to train a new generation of theatre artists; and to inspire and enrich youth through mentorship and access programs.

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