

## MEDIA RELEASE

### *Soulpepper's 2009 Season Opens with Tom Stoppard's Travesties*

Toronto, ON – January 15, 2009 – Albert Schultz, Artistic Director of Soulpepper Theatre Company, today announced the company will open its 11th season with Tom Stoppard's intoxicating comedy of ideas, *Travesties*, on stage at the Young Centre for the Performing Arts from February 12 – March 21, 2009.

*Travesties* is considered to be Stoppard's most ingenious masterpiece and secured the playwright's reputation as one of the twentieth century's most innovative and clever theatrical voices. Set in Zurich in 1917, three prominent revolutionaries of the 20th century art and politics – modernist author James Joyce, communist revolutionary Vladimir Lenin and Dadaist founder Tristan Tzara – come together in the mixed up memories of Henry Carr, a British consular official. Stoppard blends history, literature and echoes of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* in this deliciously demanding play.

*Travesties* premiered in 1974 at the Aldwych Theatre in London by the Royal Shakespeare Company to great critical acclaim. Michael Billington of the *Guardian* wrote, "A dazzling pyrotechnical feat that combines Wildean pastiche, political history, artistic debate, spook reminiscence, and song and dance in marvellously judicious proportion. It radiates sheer intellectual joie de vivre. Exuberant and freewheeling." The play went on to win the New York City Drama Critic's Award for Best Play, the Tony Award for Best Play and the Evening Standard Award for Best Comedy in 1976.

*Travesties* is directed by Soulpepper Founding Member Joseph Ziegler and features Founding Member Diego Matamoros as Henry Carr, David Storch as James Joyce, Jordan Pettle as Tristan Tzara and Oliver Dennis as Lenin. Also appearing are Kevin Bundy, Maggie Huculak, Krystin Pellerin and Sarah Wilson. Set and costume by Christina Poddubiuk, lighting by Lesley Wilkinson, and sound by Soulpepper Academy graduate Mike Ross.

Previewing February 12, 2009, *Travesties* opens February 17 running until March 21 at the Young Centre for the Performing Arts, located at 55 Mill Street, Building 49 in the Distillery Historic District. Tickets range from \$28 – \$68 and are available by calling the Young Centre box office at 416.866.8666 or by visiting [soulpepper.ca](http://soulpepper.ca).

2009 Lead Sponsors are Sunlife Financial, Scotiabank Group and Telus. Soulpepper acknowledges annual operating support from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council, 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 provide classical training to a new generation of theatre artists; and to provide access and mentorship programs for young people using theatre as the vehicle.*

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