

MEDIA RELEASE

Billy Bishop Goes to War *will return in Soulpepper's 2010 season* Current run is 100% sold out

Toronto, ON – August 27, 2009 – **Albert Schultz**, Founding Artistic Director of Soulpepper Theatre Company, today announced that the highly successful production of the Canadian classic *Billy Bishop Goes to War* will return to open Soulpepper's 2010 season in January. Currently on stage at the Young Centre for the Performing Arts until August 29, 2009, the show is 100% sold out.

Eric Peterson and **John Gray**'s timeless story of World War One fighter pilot Billy Bishop has delighted audiences around the world for more than 30 years. "We are thrilled to have this outstanding Canadian work return to our stages next year," said Albert Schultz. "The audience response has been overwhelming – so we are tremendously pleased to offer one more chance to see *Billy Bishop Goes to War* in our 2010 season." Schultz will announce the full Soulpepper 2010 season in September.

Soulpepper's production of *Billy Bishop Goes to War* has been playing to enthusiastic full houses since it previewed on August 8.

"Thirty years on, *Billy Bishop* still soars" *The Globe and Mail*

"Better than ever" *Toronto Star*

"*Billy Bishop Goes to War* changed my life...Ted Dykstra's production is perfection"

- *NOW Magazine*

"Peterson aces *Billy Bishop*" *Toronto Sun*

Soulpepper Founding Member **Ted Dykstra** directs *Billy Bishop Goes to War* with **Eric Peterson** as Billy Bishop, as well as 17 other characters ranging from King George V to The Lovely Helene, and **John Gray** returning as the Narrator and Pianist.

This production is sponsored by Polar Securities. 2009 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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