

MEDIA RELEASE

Soulpepper presents Irish Playwright Brian Friel's Faith Healer

Toronto, ON – March 29, 2010 – **Albert Schultz**, Founding Artistic Director of Soulpepper Theatre Company, today announced that the company's production of *Faith Healer* will run April 29 - June 4, 2010, at the Young Centre for the Performing Arts.

One of the masterworks of twentieth-century Irish drama, *Faith Healer* is a disturbing and humorous meditation on relationships and the truth/lies that bind us together. Three fascinating characters - an alcoholic, charismatic faith healer Frank, his love-starved companion Grace and his devoted promoter Teddy - tell conflicting versions of the same story. Brian Friel's *Faith Healer* begs the question: is there such a thing as truth or do we simply weave our own tales?

Brian Friel describes *Faith Healer* as a "metaphor for the art, the craft of writing ... And the great confusion we all have about it, those of us who are involved in it. How honourable and dishonourable it can be ..." *Faith Healer* had its first performance on Broadway in 1979, then returned to the Broadway stage in 2006, receiving four Tony Award nominations and winning Best Featured actor in a play.

Gina Wilkinson (Shaw Festival: *Born Yesterday*) makes her Soulpepper debut and directs **Brenda Robins** and Soulpepper Founding members **Stuart Hughes and Diego Matamoros** in this compelling and brave play.

Faith Healer previews April 29, 2010, opens May 4, and runs until June 4 at the Young Centre for the Performing Arts, located at 55 Mill Street, Building 49, in the Distillery Historic District. Tickets range from \$29 - \$70 and are available by calling the Young Centre box office at 416.866.8666 or by visiting www.soulpepper.ca. \$20 tickets are available for 21-30 year-olds at www.stageplay.ca. StagePlay is sponsored by TD Bank Financial Group.

2010 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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