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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CBC, SOULPEPPER THEATRE COMPANY AND STRADA FILMS
PRESENT ***BILLY BISHOP GOES TO WAR*** IN HONOUR OF
REMEMBRANCE DAY

TORONTO - In honour of Remembrance Day, CBC will present a televised adaptation of the iconic play ***Billy Bishop Goes to War*** on Wednesday, November 10, 2010 at 8pm ET. Canadian acting legend Eric Peterson and the award-winning writer/composer John Gray reprise the story that has touched audiences for over three decades. Directed by the award-winning Barbara Willis Sweete of Rhombus Media and produced by Sandra Cunningham of Strada Films, the televised version of ***Billy Bishop Goes to War*** pays homage to Canadian war veterans and remains as relevant today as it was over 30 years ago.

"I have wanted to work with Barbara Willis Sweete for a long time and am thrilled that the stars aligned for *Billy Bishop Goes to War*. And working with Eric Peterson and John Gray has been a high point in my career," said Sandra Cunningham, President of Strada Films. "The opportunity to collaborate with the CBC and the Soulpepper Theatre Company to bring Billy Bishop to the screen is truly an honour and I believe this adaptation will resonate deeply with the viewers."

The story of Billy Bishop, the feisty flyer from Owen Sound who went on to become the most renowned RAF fighter pilot of WW1, has long been a staple in Canadian history books. Based on Bishop's life, the play, written and composed by John Gray with Eric Peterson, has travelled the world theatre circuit since 1978. In 2009, Soulpepper Theatre Company created a new production starring Peterson and Gray, which has played to consistently sold-out audiences. This production will play in Calgary and Montreal before returning to Soulpepper's repertory season in 2011.

"Billy Bishop Goes to War is perhaps the most endearing theatrical event to come out of English Canadian theatre. In 2009, Soulpepper was fortunate enough to welcome John and Eric back to their extraordinary play. Now in their 60's, John and Eric's telling of this great Canadian story has an unprecedented depth and poignancy. For these

reasons, and because John, Eric and Billy Bishop himself are all Canadian national treasures, it is fitting and deeply rewarding to partner Soulpepper's production with our National Broadcaster the CBC." - Albert Schultz, Founding Artistic Director

About Strada Films

Strada Films is an independent film production company based in Toronto, Canada. With over fifteen years of experience in feature film production both at home and internationally, the company remains strongly committed to directors whose work is decidedly individual. In addition to *Billy Bishop Goes to War*, Strada Films is currently in production on *The Moth Diaries*, a new film by Mary Harron. Projects in development include an adaptation of Gil Adamson's wildly successful debut novel *The Outlander* and Norman Jewison's upcoming comedy *High Alert*.

About Soulpepper Theatre Company

Soulpepper, Toronto's classical repertoire company, was founded by twelve actors in 1998 under the leadership of Artistic Director Albert Schultz. Since that time the company has produced over 100 critically acclaimed productions of history's great plays. Soulpepper productions have been seen in Montreal, Ottawa, Calgary and at their home the Young Centre for the Performing Arts in Toronto's Historic Distillery District.

About the CBC

CBC/Radio-Canada is Canada's national public broadcaster and one of its largest cultural institutions. With 28 services offered on Radio, Television, the Internet, satellite radio, digital audio, as well as through its record and music distribution service and wireless WAP and SMS messaging services, CBC/Radio-Canada is available how, where, and when Canadians want it.

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