

TARRAGON THEATRE



2009-2010 SEASON

Press release # 4

For immediate release

TARRAGON THEATRE PRESENTS THE RCA THEATRE COMPANY PRODUCTION OF DES WALSH'S *ROCKING THE CRADLE*

Rocking The Cradle

Toronto Premiere

by **Des Walsh** freely adapted from Lorca's *Yerma*
An RCA Theatre Company production

Starring: Kate Corbett, Jane Dingle, Darryl Avalon Hopkins, Didi Gillard-Rowlings,
Greg King, Ruth Lawrence, Monica Walsh

Director: Richard Rose

Set and Lighting Designer: Graeme S. Thomson

Costume Designer: Peggy Hogan

Sound Designer: Thomas Ryder Payne

Stage Manager: Elyse Summers

Rocking The Cradle opens in the Mainspace on Wednesday, November 11, 2009 at
8:00 pm. Previews from Wednesday, November 4, 2009.

It is the early 1960s in a small Newfoundland outport. The newlywed Joan (**Ruth Lawrence**) is full of hope for a family and a long and fruitful life, but her husband Vince (**Darryl Avalon Hopkins**) is unwilling to give her what she most wants. Freely adapted from Federico García Lorca's *Yerma*, *Rocking the Cradle* is an evocative and compelling portrait of a woman driven to extremes by her longing for a child.

Artistic Director **Richard Rose** approached playwright **Des Walsh** three years ago to begin this adaptation. He was captured by Lorca's stark portrait of desire – his use of poetry and emotionality – and wanted to introduce the story to a new generation of Canadian theatregoers. He saw in Newfoundland's beauty and barrenness a modern Canadian reflection of Yerma's world, and believed that *Yerma* and Des Walsh would be perfect partners: Des' poetic voice is perfectly suited to Lorca's work. He is able to evoke Lorca's world along with the one he knows best – that of a small Newfoundland outport, with its charms and foibles – tying the two together, and allowing the story of Yerma to resonate in an adaptation that hearkens back to the Spanish, even as it is firmly Canadian.

Des Walsh hails from Newfoundland, and is a prolific poet, playwright, screenwriter and musician. He was Playwright-in-Residence at Playwright's Workshop Montreal in 2001, and Memorial University's Grenfell College in 2003. He has made numerous

contributions to national radio programs, such as CBC's *Morningside* and *Sunday Morning*, and written several volumes of poetry, including *The Singer's Broken Throat* and *Love and Savagery* which is ready to be released in a film version in early November. Des has written several plays produced at RCA Theatre and Rising Tide Theatre, including *Fishwarf* and *Steamboat Men: The Story of the Longshoremen's Protective Union*, *Tomorrow Will Be Sunday*, *The Songs of Weather*, *Garland House*, *Play Somethin' We All Knows*, and *Johnny August*. Along with John Smith and Sam Grana, Des co-wrote the miniseries, *The Boys of St. Vincent*, the critically acclaimed account of the Mount Cashel scandal, for which he received a Gemini, a New York Festival Award, Italy's Umbria Fiction Award, and Best Series (Cannes International TV Festival) Award.

Rocking The Cradle stars a terrific cast of Newfoundland-based actors all set to make their Tarragon debuts, **Kate Corbett, Jane Dingle, Darryl Avalon Hopkins, Didi Gillard-Rowlings, Greg King, Ruth Lawrence, and Monica Walsh**. The production is directed by Artistic Director **Richard Rose**. The designers are **Graeme S. Thomson** (set & lighting) and **Peggy Hogan** (costumes). **Elyse Summers** is the stage manager.

Rocking The Cradle previews in Tarragon's Mainspace on Wednesday, November 4, opens Wednesday, November 11 and runs until Sunday, December 13, 2009.

Previews: Nov. 4 - 10

Regular run: Tuesday through Saturday at 8 pm
Saturday & Sunday matinee at 2:30 pm

Prices start at \$19; seniors' and students' prices are available. Friday night and Sunday matinee rush are \$10.

Tickets for **Rocking The Cradle** are available online tickets.tarragontheatre.com.

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