



Concrete Theatre Announces 2015-2016 Season

Concrete Theatre welcomes you to its **26th** season of diverse, dynamic and entertaining theatre for young audiences. Artistic Director Mieko Ouchi and General Manager Mary-Ellen Perley are excited to announce a season of plays that will delight and move young people of all ages... and of course a new crop of plays for a special Anniversary edition of ***Sprouts 2016!***

This fall, we are proud to present the return of ***The Bully Project***, a participatory show written and directed by Mieko Ouchi. This year, after an astoundingly successful first year touring to both Junior Highs and Elementaries last season, the show returns for both age groups. Bullying behavior is something that schools, families, communities and young people grapple with every day. In a bold, interactive and engaging style, ***The Bully Project*** explores the complex reasons why this behavior happens, and what young people and the adults and communities who care about them can do about it. Featuring Adam Blocka, Lora Brovold and Chantelle Han (*Kim's Convenience*), the show is touring to Edmonton & area Elementary & Junior High Schools from **October 19 to November 14, 2015**.

In January 2016, we are thrilled to bring back a hilarious and charming play from Edmonton's own irrepressible Jana O'Connor, ***The Early Bloomer***. Originally a commission for Sprouts 2006, this delightful play follows Maisy Daisy, and her best buds in their hilarious adventures in the 5th Row of the Garden Plot, as Maisy faces the embarrassing and exciting challenges of blossoming a little sooner than her pals. With the help of Principal Gardener, her parents and her fellow daisies, Maisy figures out how to stand tall, be proud and discover a new found be-leaf in herself! This production will tour Elementary schools **January 25 to February 10, 2016** with public & school performances at the **Westbury Theatre** in the ATB Financial Arts Barns **February 12 & 13, 2016**.

Spring brings the remount of Concrete's award-winning production of Mark Haroun's play ***Under Cover***. When Ella, makes the private decision to wear a hijab after a life changing summer with her grandmother overseas, suddenly her religion is front and centre. Faith, fear and acceptance are called into question, especially when Ella's friends are forced to engage with their own assumptions, stereotypes and backgrounds. A remarkable and relevant play from the pen of award winning screenwriter and playwright Mark Haroun (Heartland), this play won a Sterling Award for Outstanding Production for Young Audiences in 2011. The play will be touring to Edmonton Junior & Senior High Schools from **April 11 to 27, 2016**, with public performances at **La Cité Francophone, April 29 & 30, 2016**.

Wrapping up the season will be the **15th Anniversary Sprouts New Play Festival for Kids** on **June 4 and 5, 2016** in our new home on the Southside! Local playwrights from diverse cultural backgrounds will share a fresh crop of three brand new short plays for kids and their families. Presented by FTA's Arts At The Barns Presentation Series, please join us in the Westbury Theatre at the ATB Financial Arts Barns and Lobby for two afternoons of storytelling, music, art & theatre.

In Other News! After a very successful premiere with Concrete Theatre in 2013, ***I Am For You***, our teen play about girls, violence and stage combat, is continuing to find new audiences. This fall, the play will be produced at the National Arts Centre English Theatre, directed by Bruce Dow. It will also be published by Playwrights Canada Press, Canada's foremost publisher of new Canadian plays. We are thrilled that the play will be available for study and production by professionals and students in this new format. For more information check out www.playwrightscanada.com