

For Immediate Release

August 30, 2012



## Concrete Theatre announces 2012-2013 season

Concrete Theatre welcomes you to its 23rd season of diverse and relevant educational theatre for young audiences. Artistic Co-directors Caroline Howarth and Mieko Ouchi are excited to announce a season that includes a returning favourite, a world premiere, the 16th tour of our award winning production on sexual education and of course a new crop of plays at *Sprouts 2013*!

This fall, we're bringing back a timely and essential play that explores a drug for which we have laws but no values... ***Smokescreen***, by award-winning playwright David S. Craig and directed by Mieko Ouchi, is a riveting look at adolescent drug culture and the clash of values between Trent, a charismatic high school student and the adults in his life over the damaging impact of his marijuana use and abuse. This Concrete production can be seen at **Catalyst Theatre on November 16 and 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012**. The show will tour to Edmonton area Junior and Senior high schools from November 13 to November 24, 2012.

In January 2013, we are pleased to be producing the **world premiere** of Jared Matsunaga-Turnbull's ***Paper Song*** for Elementary and family audiences. ***Paper Song*** weaves a traditional Japanese folktale about a crane (Tsuru) with the story of a young mouse and her grandfather, as they struggle against an oppressive overlord, the goblin Tengu. This magical performance integrates large-scale origami (the Japanese art of paper-folding) and shadow puppetry as it celebrates artistic creativity, ingenuity and the power of love. The play will be directed by Caroline Howarth with music by Dave Clarke and production design by Cory Sincennes. The show will tour Elementary schools January 28 through February 9, 2013, with Public and school performances **at Fringe Theatre Adventures, January 24 to 26, 2013**. In addition, ***Paper Song*** will be presented at Persephone Theatre in Saskatoon, February 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> 2013.

Spring brings the phenomenal 16<sup>th</sup> and final tour of ***Are We There Yet?*** by Jane Heather directed by Mieko Ouchi, visiting Grade 9 audiences across Alberta from April 2 to April 27, 2013. Winner of a Sterling Award for Outstanding Production for Young Audiences the performance has been seen by over 38,000 students. This critically acclaimed 90-minute participatory play designed for Grade 9 students explores sexuality, relationships, birth control and boundaries and supports the Alberta Education Health curriculum.

Wrapping up the season will be the 12<sup>th</sup> ***Sprouts New Play Festival for Kids*** on June 8 and 9, 2013. This ground-breaking greenhouse for new works for children was the first of its kind in Canada, and has been the incubator for many full-length scripts for Concrete Theatre and beyond. ***Sprouts 2013*** will feature four new short plays exploring our diverse cultural community along with fun interactive lobby activities.

- 30 -

For more information contact Concrete Theatre at 780.439.3905 or visit [www.concretetheatre.ca](http://www.concretetheatre.ca)