

For Immediate Release

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Concrete Theatre announces 2010-2011 season

Concrete Theatre welcomes you to its 21st season of diverse and relevant theatre for young audiences. Artistic Co-directors Caroline Howarth and Mieko Ouchi are excited to announce a season that includes a world premiere and three returning favourites, as well as the 10th anniversary of *Sprouts*!

Under Cover, by award-winning playwright Mark Haroun and directed by Mieko Ouchi, explores the challenges faced by teenagers of Middle Eastern descent in Canada. This Concrete commission will receive its world premiere at the Stanley Milner Library Theatre on October 29 and 30, 2010, and tour to Edmonton area Junior and Senior High Schools from October 25 to November 5, 2010.

By popular demand, we are re-mounting our 2009 production of *Routes* by Collin Doyle for a two-week tour to the Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People in Toronto. Directed again by Mieko Ouchi, Alberta Junior and Senior High Schools and communities that didn't get a chance to see this extraordinary exploration of bullying and family violence during its sold-out tour in 2009 will have an opportunity to book it at the end of November 2010 when we return from Toronto.

We are bringing back a Concrete favourite for Elementary school and family audiences this winter. *Jeremy Fisher* by celebrated French playwright Mohamed Rouabhi, in an English translation by Mieko Ouchi, and directed by Ron Jenkins will tour Elementary schools February 22 through March 4, 2011. Public performances will be at the Shell Theatre in Fort Saskatchewan on Family Day, February 21, 2011 and at the Stanley A. Milner Library Theatre in Edmonton on February 25 and 26, 2011. This tender, magical and moving exploration of growing up and celebrating difference was first produced by Concrete in 2007 and won the 2007 Sterling Award for Outstanding Production for Young Audiences.

Spring brings the phenomenal 14th tour of the Sterling Award winning *Are We There Yet?* by Jane Heather directed by Caroline Howarth, visiting Grade 9 audiences across Alberta from March 21 through May 6, 2011. This 90-minute participatory play explores sexuality, relationships, birth control and boundaries appropriate for Grade 9 students and covers the Alberta Health curriculum.

Wrapping up the season will be the 10th *Sprouts New Play Festival for Kids* on June 11 and 12, 2011 in the Stanley Milner Library Theatre and Lobby. This ground-breaking greenhouse for new works for children was the first of its kind in Canada, and has inspired similar festivals in Toronto and Calgary. Four new short plays exploring our diverse cultural community will be featured along with interactive activities in the lobby. Additional programming for *Sprouts 2011* will include a staged reading of a new full length version of Dave Clarke's *Songs My Mother Never Sung Me*, an opera in song and sign language that explores the relationship of a hearing child and his deaf mother.