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Presentation of
SMOKESCREEN
HOLD OVER

For Immediate Release
November 21, 2012

Complexities of Marijuana Use Resonate With Edmonton Audiences

Concrete Theatre is pleased to announce a week long extension of their Junior and Senior High School tour of *Smokescreen* by David S. Craig in Edmonton and surrounding areas. The positive response from schools speaks to the urgency of the issue and the strength of the script and production's ability to delve into the complexities of addiction and drug culture rather than taking a more simplistic "just say no" approach to the issue.

"I am thrilled that our fall production of David S. Craig's *Smokescreen* has resonated so strongly with young people and educators, both in Edmonton and in communities around the province. Clearly the issues around marijuana use and abuse explored by the play impact both urban and rural communities and continue to be at the forefront of people's minds, in part because of the extensive discussions of legalization in the recent U.S. Election. Because of demand from schools, we are pleased to announce a week holdover of the production, which will now run until November 30th." -Mieko Ouchi, Director

The public performances of the play held this past weekend at C103 were well attended and young people and adults were drawn into the dramatic conflict between Trent, a 16 year old who has been arrested for trafficking marijuana, Rayzee, the court appointed addictions counselor assigned to his drug assessment, and Jeff, Trent's well-meaning but angry father. The story resonated with a wide audience and the open ended conclusion of the play provoked an excellent jumping off point for discussion about the future of the characters, marijuana use and abuse, addiction and responsibility and the complexity of family dynamics.

"A play about a teenage using, dealing, and being addicted to marijuana has the potential to get preachy pretty quickly. Luckily for us – and also for the junior and senior high students seeing the play – Smokescreen doesn't take that approach. ...The last scene of the play – which I won't spoil for you by saying what happens – is absolutely breathtaking for all ages." - Sound + Noise

Included in our additional week of touring is a performance for youth who attend The Reach Edmonton program at J. D. Bracco school. We are grateful to the Telus Edmonton Community Fund for supporting accessibility of Concrete Theatre productions for all Edmonton youth.

This award-winning play by celebrated Toronto playwright David S. Craig is directed by **Mieko Ouchi** and features **Ntara Curry** (Rayzee De Gruiter), **Mathew Hulshof** (Trent Dolin) and **Troy O'Donnell** (Jeff Dolin) in a production designed by **David Fraser** with sound design by **Dave Clarke** and stage managed by **Dawn Friesen**.

ABOUT | CONCRETE THEATRE is committed to creating, developing and producing artistically excellent and culturally diverse Theatre for Young Audiences that explores issues relevant to the lives of young people and their families.

Smokescreen tours to Edmonton and area schools until Friday, November 30, 2012. This production is suitable for ages 13 and older. For more information about the production or about bringing a performance into your school or community, please contact Concrete Theatre at [780-439-3905](tel:780-439-3905) or visit www.concretetheatre.ca

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