

For Immediate Release

Media Contact:
Tonia LaRiviere
P: 780-964-1000
E: tonia@shaw.ca



Concrete Theatre & L'Unithéâtre present **Bello** February 17 & 18 at La Cité Francophone

For the first time, **Concrete Theatre** and Edmonton's amazing francophone theatre **L'Unithéâtre** will be joining forces on an exciting world premiere production of **Bello** by **Governor General Award winning playwright Vern Thiessen** (*Einstein's Gift, Bird Brain, Shakespeare's Will*).

A beautiful and charming parable about overcoming our fears of those who are different from us...

Little Bern, a young farm boy, is taken in by his aunt and uncle after his parents pass away. Feeling ignored by his busy adoptive parents and their large brood of children, and struggling to keep up with a pile of chores and a new school, Little Bern pines for the life he used to have. One day, on his way to school, he sees a mysterious ramshackle barn, and is told it is the home of Old Nettie, who everyone in town fears and calls a witch. But when a huge snowstorm hits, and Little Bern is lost, he is saved by none other than Old Nettie. Terrified at first, Bern must face his fears and confront the person he is most afraid of. Much to his surprise, he discovers she is not at all the person he thought her to be, and much more like him than he ever imagined!

Bello is based on stories from the Mennonite Ukraine of the 1920's, and set in a fable-like world, performed in rhythm and rhyme with live sound effects, much like an old fashioned radio play. It is a world where hard times and struggle are part of daily life, but where the healing powers of humour, love and family ultimately flourish. **Bello** stars **Onika Henry, Julia Seymour** and **Zak Tardif** and is directed by **Mieko Ouchi**. The French translation is by **Brian Dooley**. This premier production is designed by **Patrick Beagan** and the stage manager is **Corben Kushneryk**. **Appropriate for ages 5+.**

PUBLIC PERFORMANCES | La Cité Francophone 8627 Rue Marie-Anne Gaboury (91 St)
Friday, February 17 at 7 pm (in English) OPENING NIGHT GALA
Saturday, February 18 at 11am (in English) and at 2 pm (in French, without surtitles)

Tickets available at the door- cash and credit accepted.

Adults \$19, Seniors/Students \$16, Children 12 & under \$13. The French performance is Pay-What-You-Can.

For more information please contact Concrete Theatre at 780-439-3905 or visit www.concretetheatre.ca

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