

For Immediate Release
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Concrete's 2008-2009 Season Hits the Pavement

Concrete Theatre is excited to announce its 19th season of thought-provoking and engaging theatre for young audiences. Artistic Co-directors Caroline Howarth and Mieko Ouchi are thrilled that this season will include two new Canadian plays, including an original commission developed at the company's very own *Sprouts New Play Festival for Kids*.

First off the mark in October is award-winning Toronto playwright and director David S. Craig's *Smokescreen*, a riveting exploration of adolescent drug culture and the clash of values between young people and the adults in their lives over marijuana use and abuse. First produced by Roseneath Theatre in 2005, this play has been seen in Toronto, Montreal, West Palm Beach, Winnipeg and Tel Aviv. Our Alberta premiere production will be touring to Edmonton area Junior and Senior High Schools from October 20 through 31, public performances will take place October 18, 24 and 25, 2008.

In February, we present the world premiere of *Apples and Oranges* by Edmonton favourite, performer and playwright Chris Bullough. This hilarious and challenging Dr. Seuss-inspired look at intolerance explores two communities, one that worships apples and one that worships oranges. Drawn from stories in Bullough's Irish background, it is delivered entirely in rhyme. Touring Elementary Schools February 16 through 27, with public performances on February 13, 14, 27 and 28, 2009, this 50-minute production grew from a seed planted at Concrete's *Sprouts New Play Festival for Kids* in 2005.

Spring brings the record-breaking 12th tour of the Sterling Award winning *Are We There Yet?* by Jane Heather, which tours to Grade 9 audiences across Alberta, with an additional two-week tour to Toronto's flagship TYA company, the Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People. This 90-minute participatory play explores sexuality, relationships, birth control and boundaries appropriate for Grade 9 students and covers the Alberta Health curriculum. Following the Toronto run from March 23 – April 2, *Are We There Yet?* will tour Alberta schools from April 6 through May 16, 2009.

Wrapping up Concrete's 19th season will be the *Sprouts New Play Festival for Kids* on June 20 and 21, 2009 with a fresh crop of four brand new short plays for children and their families. This ground-breaking incubator for new works for children was the first of its kind in Canada, and has inspired similar festivals in Toronto and Calgary.

All public performances take place at the Stanley A. Milner Library Theatre.

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For more information contact Concrete Theatre at 780.439.3905 or visit www.concretetheatre.ca