

For Immediate Release

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Theatre Springs to Life at Sprouts Festival of New Works

Sprouts New Play Festival for Kids springs to life for its 8th year with a crop of **four brand new short plays for children**. Presented by Edmonton's **Concrete Theatre** in partnership with CBC Radio, the live staged readings will take place **Saturday June 13th** and **Sunday June 14th** at the **Stanley A. Milner Library Theatre** (7 Sir Winston Churchill Square).

Contributing to Sprouts new works this year is **Todd Babiak**, celebrated Edmonton Journal columnist and award-winning novelist. Todd will unveil his first theatre-for-young-audiences work *The Invisible World*, about a mime who discovers - to his best friend and fellow mime's horror - that he can speak. Edmonton singer/actor **Julie Golosky** will delight youngsters with her new musical work *Show Me the Wey-hey*, in which a young girl from Northern Alberta must find her native "wey" of singing in order to save the Northern Lights. *Two Frogs and a Mountain That Rumbled* by Edmonton actor/singer/drummer **Twilla MacLeod** and Taiko Drummer **Gregory Shimizu**, will tell you the tale of two frogs who must restore light to the world, an action packed story told to the pulse of the Japanese Taiko drum. Rounding things off is a piece by beloved former Concrete Artistic Co-Director **Jared Matsunaga-Turnbull** entitled *Paper Song*. Through the magic of origami, the story unfolds of two little mice who must battle an evil Overlord to bring hope to the land.

Before the readings start, patrons are invited to arrive early and take in face-painting, story-telling with Young Alberta Books, music activities and crafts or to grab a snack at the concession. Following the plays, children can write their thoughts on a special Sprouts Art Garden Plot and put them up in our new Feedback Tree or speak directly to the playwrights. ASL interpretation is provided throughout the afternoon.

Sprouts is produced with the assistance of the Canada Council for the Arts, Alberta Foundation for the Arts, The Edmonton Arts Council, The City of Edmonton, The Downtown Business Association, Young Alberta Books Society and Bottom Line Productions.

Lobby activities begin at 1 pm, four fifteen minute plays begin at 2 pm and include one 20 minute intermission. Tickets are available at **TIX on the Square: 780-420-1757** or by cash at the door. For pricing information or more details contact **Concrete Theatre** at 780-439-3905 or www.concretetheatre.ca