

## For Immediate Release

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## Theatre Springs to Life at Sprouts New Play Festival for Kids

**Sprouts New Play Festival for Kids** springs to life for its 9<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup>** and **Sunday June 13<sup>th</sup>** at the **Stanley A. Milner Library Theatre** (7 Sir Winston Churchill Square).

Contributing to new works at Sprouts this year is **Patricia Darbasie**, veteran Edmonton actor, director, playwright and teacher. Pat's play *When Water Meets Stone* takes us to a prairie homestead in 1910, where water is scarce and the settlers need help from their Cree neighbours to survive. Celebrated actor/playwright **Nick Green** brings us *Left Field*, a story of a young boy stuck playing baseball when he's more interested in being the next Fred Astaire than Babe Ruth. *The Terra Cotta Soldier*, by local playwright, director and actor **Ian Leung**, is about a boy who imagines an ancient Chinese warrior will come to his aid against a bully at school. And **Mari Sasano**, writer and editor of Rat Creek Press, plants some seeds in the Sprouts garden with *A VERY Grouchy Dragon!* Three friends get extremely worried when their dragon pal needs cheering up.

Before the readings start, patrons can take in face-painting, story-telling with Young Alberta Books, music activities and crafts. Following the plays, children can write their thoughts on a special Sprouts Art Garden Plot and put them up on the CommenTree or speak directly to the playwrights. ASL interpretation is provided throughout the afternoon.

An added bonus on June 12 is the launch of ***Sprouts! An Anthology of Plays From Concrete Theatre's Sprouts New Play Festival For Kids***, a collection of plays drawn from the first 8 years of the festival published by Playwrights Canada Press. The celebration includes cupcakes and book-signings!

**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 there will be one 20 minute intermission. All tickets are \$5 and available at **TIX on the Square: 780-420-1757** or by cash at the door. For more details contact **Concrete Theatre** at 780-439-3905 or [www.concretetheatre.ca](http://www.concretetheatre.ca)