

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ---

**Montreal's Home for Canadian Theatre returns with an International
"tour de force"**

MONTREAL, May 2012 - After the record-breaking smash *Humans*, **Tableau D'Hôte Theatre** returns with the critically acclaimed Montreal English premiere *Elizabeth Rex*. **The Segal Centre for Performing Arts** presents this Tableau D'Hôte production written by one of Canada's most prolific playwrights; two-time Governor General award-winner, **Timothy Findley**. Directed by Artistic Director **Mike Payette** and **Liz Valdez**, *Elizabeth Rex* plays at the **Segal Centre, Studio** from **June 19 to July 1**.

In the small hours of the night before Ash Wednesday, 1601, William Shakespeare and the Lord Chamberlain's Men receive an unexpected visitor. Unable to rest, the Queen herself has come to keep vigil on the eve of the execution of her former lover, the Earl of Essex. Her arrival provokes the rapier-sharp wit and keen insight of Ned Lowenscroft, the company's brilliant performer of women's roles, and sparks the imagination of the Bard. In the course of the long night, the actor, the queen, and the playwright will confront the roles they have played and the lives they have lived, wrestling with questions of identity, sexuality, and love, all the while asking: what makes a man a man, and a woman a woman?

Will begins the play on the eve of his own death, confronted by the images of a life-changing moment fifteen years prior when he and the Lord Chamberlain's Men performed *Much Ado About Nothing* before Queen Elizabeth I and Her court. The play jumps back in time to that very night after the performance has finished. Shakespeare and his Men have been ordered to remain in the barn, respecting a curfew laid down by the Queen.

"I was immediately drawn to Elizabeth and Ned and their struggle in coming to terms with themselves and what they have been forbidden to reveal." says director Mike Payette. "This hiding is something we can all relate to when surrounded by circumstances that wouldn't allow us to do so."

Although this is an imaginative story with many artistic liberties taken into account, Findley finely constructs a story that blends both theatricality and historical accuracies of the politics of the time. "*Elizabeth Rex* is one of the most beautiful and complex scripts of our time, set in a timeless past with deep resonances for modern audiences," continues Payette. "It is among these reasons that it remains poignant and a theatrical testament for audiences around the globe, and we are thrilled to bring it to English Montreal for the first time."

The characters are as extraordinary as the inestimable talents of the actors portraying them. The fifteen-member cast is led by power-house veteran **Leni Parker** (*Champs de mars*, Imago) in the role of "Elizabeth". She is joined by the superb talents of **Brett Watson** (*Sexy béton*, Porte Parole) as "Ned", and **Arthur Holden** (*The Daily Miracle*, Infinithéâtre) as "Will". They are supported by seasoned performers **Lucinda Davis** (*Intimate Apparel*, Centaur), **Howard Rosenstein** (*The Leisure Society*, Infinithéâtre), **Warona Setshwaelo** (*Pinocchio*, Geordie), and **Olivier Lamarche** (*State of Denial*, Teesri Duniya). **Lucas Chartier-Dessert**, **Ian Geldart**, **Jo Joffre**, **Irene Osprey**, **Paolo De Paola**, **Olivier Perras**, and **Aris Tyros** complete the talented ensemble.

Payette and recent MECCA winner Liz Valdez (Best Director, *Humans*) are assisted by movement specialist and director **Rebecca Harper**. The unique set and costume design is brought to life by **Eo Sharp** (*Same Time, Next Year*, Segal). **Jody Burkholder** returns to Tableau D'Hôte after his MECCA award-winning work (*Humans*) designing lights; he is assisted by **Alex Smith**. Original sound design is composed by **Rob Denton**. Artist-in-residence **Noémi Poulin** designs props, assisted by **Danielle Fagan**. **Kristen "Birdie" Gregor** stage manages.

TIMOTHY FINDLEY, widely and affectionately known as "Tiff," was one of Canada's most compelling and best-loved writers. He is the author of many acclaimed novels, including the #1 bestseller *Headhunter*, and two finalists for the Giller Prize, *Pilgrim* and *The Piano Man's Daughter*. Two of his works have won the Governor General's Award: *The Wars* won for fiction in 1977, and his play, *Elizabeth Rex*, won for drama in 2000. Another of his plays, *The Stillborn Lover*, won a Chalmer's Award. His many other works have also garnered critical acclaim both in Canada and internationally. Timothy Findley was made an officer of the Order of Canada and a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres. He died in June 2002. This production celebrates Findley's legacy of work ten years after his passing.

Elizabeth Rex was first produced by the Stratford Festival and premiered at the Tom Patterson Theatre in Stratford, Ontario, on June 29, 2000 under the direction of Martha Henry.

MEDIA CALL

TUESDAY, JUNE 19 AT 12:30 PM

**Segal Centre Studio
5170, ch. de la Côte-Ste-Catherine**

This is an opportunity for still and TV cameras to capture a scene from the play, for radio to record sound clips, and for journalists/reporters to interview the director, actors and/or designers.

Please confirm your attendance by Friday June 15th.

Mathieu Perron
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For additional information, contact:
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PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

Dates & Times June 19 - July 1

Preview	June 19
Opening	June 20
Mon. to Thurs.	20:00
Friday	DARK
Saturday	21:30
Sunday Matinée	14:00
Sunday	20:00

Tickets

Segal Centre Box-Office	
(514) 739-7944	
General Admission	\$25
Seniors, Students	\$18
Groups (10 or more)	\$15

Venue

Segal Centre, Studio
5170, ch. de la Côte-Ste-Catherine

Web Sites

www.tableaudhotetheatre.ca
www.segalcentre.org

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MEDIA CONTACT:

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