

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VIGIL

A co-production with
THÉÂTRE DU RIDEAU VERT



Montreal, February 29th, 2012 - In keeping in its tradition of building bridges through the arts, the Segal Centre for Performing Arts is proud to present *Vigil* in co-production with Théâtre du Rideau Vert. This critically-acclaimed dark comedy by two-time Governor General Award-winner, Morris Panych, will be presented from **March 11th to April 1st, 2012**.

Delightfully Wicked

Vigil tells the story of Kemp, a self-centered bank clerk, who receives a letter from his Aunt Grace whom he has not seen for thirty years. Sick and alone, Grace reaches out to her only living relative implying that the end may be near. Kemp rushes across the country to be at her side. To his surprise and dismay, the old lady does not seem as ill as she may have let on. As her health improves against all odds, and against his wishes, the two form an uneasy relationship that evolves in unexpected ways. Directed by Martin Faucher, *Vigil* is a delightfully wicked comedy that oscillates between hope and despair to examine questions of family, identity, and the many levels of human isolation.

A Perfect Match

Often verging on the absurd, Panych's two-hander highlights the bizarre realities of daily life (and those who inhabit it) through its endearing characters. For the role of the deceptively gentle Aunt Grace, the Segal Centre is honoured to welcome Kim Yaroshevskaya, Grande Dame of theatre, film and television. The 88-year old of Canada inductee, best known for her portrayal of living doll Fanfreluche on Radio-Canada television, is joined by Marcel Jeannin as embittered nephew Kemp. Last seen on the Segal Centre mainstage in 2010's *Inherit the Wind*, Jeannin's impressive theatre and television career make him an ideal match for Yaroshevskaya's Aunt Grace.

SEGAL THEATRE

VIGIL

March 11th to April 1st, 2012

By

MORRIS PANYCH

Directed by

MARTIN FAUCHER

With

KIM YAROSHEVSKAYA
& MARCEL JEANNIN

Assistant Director, and

Stage Manager

ELAINE NORMANDEAU

Set Design

JONAS VEROFF BOUCHARD

Lighting Design

MARC PARENT

Composer

LARSEN LUPIN

Costume Design

LINDA BRUNELLE

Props

ALAIN JENKINS

Make-Up

JACQUES-LEE PELLETIER

Wig

RACHEL TREMBLAY

Building Bridges

Vigil is the third collaboration between the Segal Centre and Théâtre du Rideau Vert. Both came together in 2010 to produce *Old Wicked Songs/Une musique inquiétante* by Jon Marans, whose English version won the *Association québécoise des critiques de théâtre* award. Inspired by this winning formula, the Segal Centre is excited to present *Vigil* with Théâtre du Rideau Vert. Acclaimed Quebec director Faucher stages, infusing the piece with a refined style and attention to detail that has marked his thirty-year career. Jonas Bouchard's set reflects the story's pathos, emphasized by Marc Parent's evocative lighting, and accented by Linda Brunelle's costumes, props by Alain Jenkins and music by Larsen Lupin.

About the playwright

Playwright, actor and director Morris Panych has been a major force in Canadian theatre for over thirty years. The Calgary-born artist has more than twenty plays to his name, many of which have been performed across Canada, the United States, and Great Britain. Often dealing with existential themes surrounding human interaction and moral responsibility, his prolific body of work has earned him two General's Awards in Drama and five Dora Mavor Moore Award.

First staged at the Belfry Theatre in 1995, *Vigil* has since been produced in over thirty Canadian cities and has toured to the United States and overseas in Great Britain and France as *Auntie and Me*. Translated in over twenty-one languages, the play points to current issues and debates surrounding family and old age. These themes will be discussed at the **CJAD Sunday-@-The Segal** lecture series on **March 11th at 11am**. We welcome Lily Shatsky, a prominent expert on eldercare in Montreal, who will be joined by Dr. Mark J. Yaffe, Chief of Family Medicine at St. Mary's Hospital and founder of the Elder Abuse Suspicion Index (EASI). Admission is free.

About the Segal Centre for Performing Arts

The Segal Centre is a meeting place for all of the performing arts, showcasing the best professional artists from here and abroad and playing a leading role in the artistic development of Montreal's youth and the creation of its cultural legacy. Through theatre, music, dance, cinema and the Academy, the Segal Centre is setting a broad vision by recognizing the importance of building bridges through the arts and supporting multicultural projects in Montreal. The Centre's commitment is to ensure that creativity resonates within our community and that it remains accessible and inspiring each and every day, leading the performing arts world of tomorrow. segalcentre.org

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**For biographies, additional information, to confirm your presence,
or to schedule an interview, contact:**

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TICKETS AND MEDIA INFORMATION

CJAD Sunday @ the Segal

Sunday, March 11th – 11am
(Please confirm your presence by
Friday, March 9th)

Admission is free.

Lecturers: Lily Shatsky and Dr.
Mark J. Yaffe.

OPENING NIGHT

Thursday, March 15th - 8pm
(Please confirm your presence by
Monday, March 12th)

Where: Segal Centre for
Performing Arts

5170 Chemin de la Côte-Ste-
Catherine, Montréal

Metro: Côte-Ste-Catherine/
Snowdon

Bus: 129/51

Run

Monday - Thursday, 8:00pm
Saturday 8:30pm
Sunday 7pm

Matinées

Wednesday 1pm
Sunday 2 pm

Box-office

514.739.2344
segalcentre.org