

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Segal Centre for Performing Arts and KPMG are proud to present

Equus

By Peter Shaffer

Directed by Domy Reiter-Soffer

September 11 – October 2, 2011

Starring Jean Marchand

MONTREAL, August 22, 2011 – The Segal Centre for Performing Arts and KPMG are proud to present *Equus*, the Tony Award-winning modern masterpiece by English dramatist Peter Shaffer.

Jean Marchand stars as psychiatrist Martin Dysart. The innovative, multi-genre artist Domy Reiter-Soffer directs.

“This is Shaffer’s haunting story of worship, passion and man’s quest to tame the mind like you’ve never seen it before,” says Paul Flicker, Segal Centre Artistic Producer. “Domy Reiter-Soffer’s deeply inspired directing beckons us into a world of raw beauty and unspeakable violence.”

Equus is the story of seventeen-year-old Alan Strang who, after blinding several horses in the stables where he works, is referred to psychiatric treatment in lieu of prison time. His psychiatrist is Martin Dysart, a married man in mid-life who is beginning to question the true worth of bringing children back from madness. Through his attempt to understand the motivations for Alan’s seemingly senseless crime, Dysart explores the realms of sex, passion, religion and modern psychiatry.

Recently revived in the West End and on Broadway with *Harry Potter’s* Daniel Radcliffe, *Equus* was written in 1973 and opened at the Royal National Theatre at the Old Vic in London. It went to Broadway in 1974 with over 1,000 performances, starring Anthony Hopkins as Martin Dysart and Peter Firth continuing his role as Alan Strang. In 1975, the play garnered three major awards: a Tony Award, a Drama Desk Award and a New York Drama Critics’ Circle Award, all for Best Play.

Peter Shaffer wrote *Equus* after hearing a story from a friend about a boy who had savagely blinded a group of horses in a small town outside of London. Without seeking any further information about the actual crime, Shaffer created a fictional portrait of what could have moved a boy to commit such an atrocity. The result remains one of the most chilling and evocative masterworks of modern theatre.

Jean Marchand is joined by a formidable cast including Ellen David as Alan’s mother Dora Strang; Daniel Lillford as his father Frank; and Dan Jeannotte as Alan.

Domy Reiter-Soffer has been described by *The New York Times* as a “modern renaissance man.” He has worked as a director, choreographer, graphic artist, actor, stage designer and teacher. His ballet productions have been staged for American and European companies, including The Australian Ballet, the Finnish National Ballet, La Scala and the Bat-Dor Dance Company. As a

theatre director, he has staged works at The Royal Court Theatre and The Abbey, among many others.

His production of *Equus* for the Dance Theatre of Harlem at The Met was named Best Ballet of the Year by the *New York Daily News*. Drawing from all of these interests, inspirations and experiences, Reiter-Soffer's vision of *Equus* is wholly original and captivating.

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.
www.segalcentre.org

Sunday@theSegal

Sunday, September 11th - 11am. Admission is free.

Lecturer: Eduardo Kohn, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at McGill University. Presented in collaboration with the Institute for the Public Life of Arts and Ideas (IPLAI). IPLAI reflects McGill's commitment to the humanities and is dedicated to advancing humanities-based teaching and research in innovative and interdisciplinary ways.

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Media Call: Wednesday, September 7th – 12:30pm (Please confirm your presence by Monday, September 5th)

Sunday @ the Segal: Sunday, September 11th – 11am (Please confirm your presence by Friday, September 9th)

Opening Night: Wednesday, September 14th – 8pm (Please confirm your presence by Monday, September 12th)

Where: *Segal Centre for Performing Arts*

5170 Chemin de la Côte-Ste-Catherine, Montréal

Metro: Côte-Ste-Catherine/Snowdon

Bus: 129/51

Who is available for interviews?

Director, *Domy Reiter-Soffer*

Actors – *Jean Marchand, Ellen David, Daniel Lillford, Dan Jeannotte*
and other members of the cast and design team upon request

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

Taylor Tower, 514.739.2301 x 8363, ttower@segalcentre.org

Set Design JOHN C. DINNING

Costume Design SUSANA VERA

Lighting Design NICOLAS DESCOTEAUX

Musical Composition CHRISTIAN THOMAS

Video Composition GEORGE ALLISTER

Stage Manager ELAINE NORMANDEAU

Assistant Stage Manager MELISSA TORDJMAN
Apprentice Stage Manager MÉLANIE ERMEL

Building audiences for the future: Everyone knows the importance of creating and fostering new theatre audiences. To this end, the Segal Centre is offering substantial savings for those under 30, providing an opportunity for full-time college and university students and young professionals to experience high quality theatre at an affordable price.

TICKETS AND MEDIA INFORMATION

Run:

September 11 to October 2, 2011

Previews:

September 11 – 1:30
September 12, 13 – 8pm

Sunday@theSegal:

September 11 – 11am

Media Opening Night:

Wednesday, September 14 - 8:00pm

Performances:

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

Matinées:

Wednesday 1pm
Sunday 2pm

Tickets:

Wednesday through Sunday evenings: Regular \$44 | Senior \$39 | Student \$22 | Under 30 \$34
Monday and Tuesday evenings: Regular \$39 | Senior \$36 | Student \$22 | Under 30 \$33
Sunday and Wednesday matinée, all previews: Regular \$34 | Senior \$31 | Student \$22 | Under 30 \$28

Box Office:

514.739.7944

Segal Centre for Performing Arts

5170 Chemin de la Côte-Ste.-Catherine