

For Immediate Release
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Edmonton Company Unveils Obie-Award Winner at Edmonton Fringe

After performing his acclaimed drama *An Oak Tree* on five continents, English playwright/performer Tim Crouch has licensed Edmonton's MAA & PAA Theatre to create a second production of the award-winning play. The Edmonton production will premiere at the Roxy Theatre on August 1st before going on to a run at the Edmonton Fringe Theatre Festival.

Tim Crouch is a Brighton-based author who has received commissions from the Traverse Theatre in Edinburgh, the Brighton Festival, and the National Theatre of England. *An Oak Tree* has been performed more than 250 times, from acclaimed initial runs at the Traverse Theatre in Edinburgh, the Soho Theatre in London, and the Barrow Theatre in New York, to tours to Montreal, Calgary and Vancouver, Germany, Spain, Tokyo, Sydney and Brazil.

An Oak Tree is a play for two actors. Edmonton favourite **Dave Clarke** will play the Hypnotist, and a different guest actor joins Clarke on stage for each performance. They walk on stage knowing nothing about the play...until they're in it. *An Oak Tree* contains a dazzling balance of gripping story, rich theatricality and dark humour.

"(the play) raises questions about the mind's ability to impose meaning on the physical world. It is philosophy in motion, if you like. You could write a thesis about it, and people probably will. But what is most amazing is that this piece, by drawing attention to its own artifice, vividly celebrates the live, raw, communal experience of theatre and the mutual give and take between actors and audience." FINANCIAL TIMES

An Oak Tree is directed by **David Cheoros**, with stage management by **Irene Kunda**. Media are especially welcome at the first performance, August 1st at 8:30pm, at the Roxy Theatre (10708 – 124 Street), when Theatre Network artistic director **Bradley Moss** will guest star. The production will go on to run at the Academy at King Edward (Venue 3) as a part of the 2008 Edmonton Fringe Theatre Festival. A listing of performance times – and the guest actor expected for each performance – are as follows.

Sat, Aug 16 @ 4:15pm Patricia Casey
Mon, Aug 18 @ 5:00pm John Ulyatt
Tue, Aug 19 @ 2:15pm Trevor Schmidt

Thu, Aug 21 @ 2:30pm Jeff Haslam
Sat, Aug 23 @ 12:30pm Andrea House
Sun, Aug 24 @ 8:00pm Brian Dooley

Tickets for the August 1st performance are \$10, available by calling 453-2440. Tickets for performances at the Fringe are \$14, and available by calling 409-1910, or online via fringetheatre.ca.

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Photos and more information
David Cheoros
www.maapaa.ca or 780.668.2440

Tim Crouch (Playwright)

Tim is a writer and performer. His latest play, *England*, has been critically acclaimed at this year's Edinburgh Festival, where it won a Fringe First. Tim was also awarded with a **Herald ArchAngel** for his body of work at Edinburgh over the years. Tim is currently under commission to the Royal Court. Tim's first play, *My Arm*, premiered at the Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh, in 2003. It has since run in London (at BAC) and New York (59E59) as part of Brits Off Broadway. Critics' Choice in both **TIME OUT** London and New York. Tim's production of *My Arm* continues to tour the UK, Europe and North America and there have been other productions in Germany, Switzerland, Belgium and Australia. Tim's adaptation of *My Arm* for BBC Radio 3 won the **2005 Prix Italia for Best Adapted Drama**.



Tim's second play for adults, *an oak tree*, opened at the Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh, in 2005. It was winner of a **Glasgow Herald Angel** award.

Tim also won **Best Male Performer** for the play at the **Brighton Festival** in 2006. *an oak tree* uses a different second actor at each performance. Second actors have included Christopher Eccleston, Toby Jones, Kathryn Hunter and Roger Lloyd-Pack. *an oak tree* has also toured throughout the world and it has had a commercial off-Broadway run at the Barrow Street Theatre, New York winning a Special Citation Obie. It opened at the Soho Theatre in February 2007 for a sell-out four week run.

Tim has written a trilogy of Shakespeare monologues for younger audiences - *I, Caliban* (2003), *I Peaseblossom* (2004), and *I, Banquo* (2005). Originally commissioned by Brighton Festival, these three plays played under the title *Fairymonsterghost* at the Unicorn Theatre in autumn 2006. Tim has also written for the National Theatre. His play, *Shopping for Shoes*, was commissioned by their Educational Department and has toured the UK. Other productions of *Shopping for Shoes* have taken place in Scotland, Australia and Germany. In 2006, he completed a commission for the Theatre Royal, Plymouth, the Theatre Royal, York and the Polka Theatre, *Kaspar the Wild*, which was written for primary school children to perform as part of the Playhouse Scheme.

Selected praise for *An Oak Tree*

"It is like watching your own heart being mugged. You know exactly how it is happening, but you still can't prevent it. On a good night, you will leave the theatre the same, but different." **THE GUARDIAN**

"An Oak Tree is a fascinating slice of unconventional theater that will keep the audience intrigued long after the final curtain...When Crouch and his guest get deeply into it ...the puzzle becomes more than tantalizing. Different, unusual and unexpected, "An Oak Tree" is an intriguing tightrope-walk of a play." **VARIETY MAGAZINE**

"One of the most exhilarating workouts in the city isn't to be found in any gym or Spinning class. Instead, it can be found at the Barrow Street Theater, where Tim Crouch's one of a kind production, An Oak Tree, is moving audiences and enlightening acting students all at once." **OFFOFFONLINE.COM**

"Absolutely fucking fantastic!!!" **THE OBSERVER**



David Cheoros (Director)

David studied theatre at the Universities of Waterloo and Victoria. He co-founded **MAA & PAA Theatre** with his wife, Karen Simonson. David has been the festival director at the Edmonton Fringe for a few years, and also taken shows to Fringe festivals across Canada, and in Washington and Adelaide. He's also been Executive Director of the **Film and Video Arts Society**, Co-Producer of the **Comedy Arts Festival**, and General Manager of **Theatre Network**. Right now, he also produces the **Edmonton International Literary Festival**. He's very lucky that such an extraordinary group of actors have volunteered to assist with this production, in performance and in rehearsal.



Dave Clarke (Performer)

Dave is a musician, actor and writer. This season, Dave's work has been seen at the **Citadel Theatre** (*Vimy*, Sterling Award nomination), **Theatre Network** (*Misery*), **Shadow Theatre** (*Three Viewings*), and **Concrete Theatre** (*Sprouts*), to name just a few. Dave has been nominated for and won several awards for his work in theatre and film. His live score for the silent film *SUNRISE* played at the Metro Cinema in early November 2007. And you can hear more of his work at www.rantdog.com



Irene Kunda (Stage Manager)

Irene has returned to Edmonton after a long stretch in Toronto's arts community, working in arts administration for theatre, music, opera and ballet, with a side order of hands-on, behind the scenes work with community music theatre. Taking a break part-way through her Toronto experiences, she spent four years at the **South Bank Centre** (home of the Royal Festival Hall) in London, England, where music and art were the order of the day. This is her first stage management opportunity, and what an opportunity it has been!