



For Immediate Release

## **“Desperate Housepets” Stage Production The Smash Title Comes to Cambridge**

Cambridge, Ontario. April 15, 2008... The theatre company that premiered at the Cambridge Mayor’s Celebration of the Arts is back to present an exciting new production in partnership with the City of Cambridge - Centre for the Arts.

Cambridge Mayor Doug Craig says the partnership builds on the cluster of culture within the city. “It’s a stepping stone to introduce the community to live theatre in a very unique way.”

NovaStage is an independent alternative theatre company in its fourth session. Its mandate is to present high-quality theatrical pieces that are entertaining, thought-provoking and deserving of greater awareness. It will present its newest stage production, *Desperate Housepets*, for six nights beginning on May 1st. Written by Robert Watson, *Desperate Housepets* is a comedy that revolves around the lives, anxieties and hopes of a rabbit, a hamster, three fish, two dogs and a cat. Directing NovaStage's production of *Desperate Housepets* will be Anne Meighan, the company's co-founder and artistic director.

“Housepets was a hit at the Toronto Fringe festival and the Toronto Star hailed Watson as a new Tom Stoppard,” said Anne Meighan, NovaStage’s founder and Artistic Director. “I want to bring the fresh fringe experience to the Cambridge Centre for Arts to offer a new version of this intelligent and cutting edge comedy.”

The partnership with the Cambridge Centre for the Arts helps to support the production company which results in keeping ticket prices affordable to make live entertainment available to the entire community. The *Desperate Housepets* production is held in the garage space of the Centre for the Arts, a non traditional performing arts space that accommodates approximately 75 - 80 people. It’s an intimate setting for the cast of four and a wonderful experience for theatre goers.

“The space is really an exceptional venue and not mainstream which fits with our theatre company,” says Meighan. “While we strive for a mix of local and out of town talent for our productions, the artists from Toronto who join our cast often comment on how exceptional the venue is.”

A special media pass opportunity is available to writers wishing to review the performance. See the details below.

Contacts:

Anne Meighan,  
Artistic Director NovaStage  
Tel: 519-623-7107 or 519-212-7485  
[novastage@gmail.com](mailto:novastage@gmail.com)

Sonja Erstic,  
Cambridge Centre for the Arts  
Tel: 519-740-4681 ext 4565  
[erstics@cambridge.ca](mailto:erstics@cambridge.ca)

**ATTENTION ASSIGNMENT EDITORS:**

An opportunity for a media review is also available on May 1<sup>st</sup>. To arrange for a media pass, please contact Linda Fegan.

**SOLD OUT EXCEPT FOR A FEW TICKETS FOR MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES...**

On Thursday, May 1, 2008, NovaStage will present a VIP preview performance with the playwright Robert Watson in attendance. The theatrical event will benefit the Cambridge & District Humane Society (CDHS) with Executive Director Bonnie L. Deekon on hand as well as representatives of NovaStage and the Cambridge Centre for the Arts. A hilarious yet touching glimpse into the lives of some of our most beloved furry, feathered and finned friends, DESPERATE HOUSEPETS serves as the perfect inspiration for this gala fundraiser. All proceeds will go directly to the Cambridge & District Humane Society. NOTE: A portion of the ticket sales to subsequent shows will also be donated to the CDHS.

**General Public TICKETS: \$13**

Tickets may be purchased online at [www.novastage.com](http://www.novastage.com) or at the door on show nights. Desperate Housepets show runs May 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10 and is not recommended for children under the age of 16 due to the mature content. Visit us at [www.novastage.com](http://www.novastage.com) for information, show images, the popular NovaBlog and more!

**Related Trivia about Cambridge Theatre:**

- The first theatre company in Cambridge was the Galt Thespian Amateurs, formed in 1843 for the express purpose of staging plays and entertainment
- Moving pictures first came to Cambridge in 1908 when Alex Frazer opened the 156 seat "Star" movie house, at 159 Main Street in Galt
- The first movie theatre in South Waterloo to introduce "talkies" was the Park Theatre in Preston, built in 1922.

The City of Cambridge is one of the fastest growing areas in the country. It is strategically located astride highway 401 in Southwestern Ontario, part of Canada's Technology Triangle. In 2007, the population reached over 125,000 people with a multicultural mix and a strong foundation of support services. Cambridge has a diverse economic base with leading industries in manufacturing, automotive, high technology, pharmaceutical, business and financial services and hospitality/retail. The Corporation of the City of Cambridge is an employer with a work environment that offers the opportunity to provide service to the community through creativity and innovation, and with opportunities for career growth and advancement.

For more information on the area or the corporation visit [www.cambridge.ca](http://www.cambridge.ca)  
The City of Cambridge press room is located at <http://www.cambridge.ca/article.php?sid=176>  
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[feganl@cambridge.ca](mailto:feganl@cambridge.ca)