

For Immediate Release

Bringing the Craft of Theatre to the Community

Playwright Gary Kirkham Begins Residency at Cambridge Centre for the Arts

Cambridge, Ontario. March 27, 2009...An exciting array of theatre education programs kicks off at the Cambridge Centre for the Arts with the residency of playwright and performer Gary Kirkham. He introduces a theatre arts program entitled *Stage: Right, Write, Wright* that will bring the craft of theatre to the Cambridge community through three unique workshops.

Sponsored by the Cambridge Arts Guild, "Youth Playwright Workshop" is offered free of charge, and is open to students between the ages of 14 - 20 who have a passion for theatre. Participants will learn how to write a short play inspired by events in their own lives and will receive instruction on basic principles and techniques of playwriting, focusing on plot, dialogue, and character development. The completed scripts will be performed by actors from the KW Youth Theatre.

"This means that students will be able to take it to the next level and experience the entire process of not only creating words on a page, but working with actors on a stage to witness the final masterpiece," says Artist-in-Residence (AIR) Gary Kirkham. Participants will also gain experience through a field trip to the Stratford Festival's prop shop and work with Senior Props Builder Eric Ball.

The application process takes a creative approach: submissions may take the form of a hard copy script (deadline is May 1st) or an audition for aspiring actors interested in showcasing a story (slated for May 9th). Upon acceptance, candidates for the program must be available on May 23rd and each Saturday from September 26 to November 14. Tech and dress rehearsals and performances are slated to take place from November 18th to 21st.

Other Unique Happenings

Kirkham will also offer an ongoing Script Clinic for writers of all ages from May through August. He will help kick start the creative writing process and/or provide feedback on existing scripts. Advanced booking is required for these interactive sessions.

A Theatre Craft Weekend Intensive will take place on October 17 and 18. This series of workshops, directed by various theatre professionals, aims to give

participants hands-on exposure to various aspects of theatre craft, such as prop making, set design, stage combat and scene study.

More information on the Youth Playwright Workshop, Script Clinic or Theatre Craft Weekend Intensive is available by contacting Gary Kirkham at 519.740.4681 ext. 4491 or kirkhamg@cambridge.ca

About Gary Kirkham, Artist-in-Residence

Gary Kirkham is a playwright and performer. His play **Falling: A Wake** was produced by Lost & Found Theatre in 2007 and had its American première at Stageworks Hudson, New York. The play has since been optioned for Off Broadway. His first full-length play, **Queen Milli of Galt**, was the winner of the 2005 Samuel French Playwriting Competition and has had several productions including *The Blyth Festival*, and *The Chemainus Festival Theatre*. He is presently working with Director Majdi Bou-Matar of The MT Space, developing a script for new work in collaboration called *The Last 15 Seconds*. He was the 2008 Playwright in Residence at the Blyth Festival Theatre. Gary began performing as a teenager and joined a street-theatre troupe spending three years touring in Europe, Asia and the Americas; was a founding member of *Motus O* Dance Theatre; spent several years doing improv and sketch comedy with Mental Floss; performed with 500 Miles Off Broadway, Bums on Vinyl and the Kids in the Hall; acted for Theatre & Company, The MT Space, Lost & Found Theatre, and Asphalt Jungle Shorts. He is a member of Lost & Found Theatre in Kitchener, Ontario.

Artist-in-Residence

Each year an artist is selected for the position of AIR at the Cambridge Centre for the Arts. The artist shares their talents and skills with the community by engaging in various art initiatives that involve participation and arts education. The program is in part funded by the Cambridge Arts Guild.

For more information contact:

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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
The City of Cambridge press room is located at <http://www.cambridge.ca/article.php?sid=176>

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