

PALACE OF THE END

BY JUDITH THOMPSON

Directed by Jason Maghanoy

***Palace of the End* wins 2009 Amnesty International Award
Alumnae Theatre Company production November 13 - 28**

Toronto - Alumnae Theatre Company is very proud to present Judith Thompson's multi-award winning play, ***Palace of the End***, November 13 - 28, 2009.

In March 2008, shortly after a critically-lauded run at CanStage, Thompson became the first Canadian playwright to win the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize (\$20,000 US) at the award's 30th anniversary gala in Houston, TX. Established in 1978 after Blackburn's death, the prize is awarded annually to a female playwright who has written an outstanding English-language work.

On August 28, 2009, ***Palace of the End*** was chosen from among 63 finalists as the winner of the 2009 Amnesty International Freedom of Expression Award, after the Royal Exchange Theatre Company (Manchester) staged the play at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. John Watson, Amnesty International Scotland director, praised ***Palace of the End*** as "a truly formidable piece of work - three absolutely stunning pieces that together encompass the range of consequences of political decisions, from the individual human level right up to the stresses on society as a whole . . ." He noted that the play's themes of illegal detention, torture and the human cost of war are all issues on which Amnesty International works.

Judith Thompson is a two-time winner of the Governor General's Award (for ***White Biting Dog*** – 1985, and for a collection of her plays, ***The Other Side of the Dark*** – 1989). She has also won the Floyd S. Chalmers Canadian Play Award and the Dora Mavor Moore Award several times. In 2005, she was made an Officer of the Order of Canada.

Alumnae Theatre Company's upcoming production, running November 13 - 28, 2009, will be directed by Jason Maghanoy, currently the playwright-in-residence at Cahoots Theatre Projects. His play ***dust*** (staged in SummerWorks 2008) was selected as an Outstanding New Play and Production by NOW Magazine and was published, along with his play ***The Corner***, in the Spring 2009 issue of the Canadian Theatre Review. Jason's directing credits include ***dust***, ***The Corner*** (2008 Next Stage Theatre Festival), and ***paper series***, written by David Yee (2009 ReCurrents at the CrossCurrents Festival, Factory Theatre).

Run Dates: November 13 – 28, 2009 at Alumnae Theatre (Studio), 70 Berkeley Street, Toronto
Performances: Wednesdays – Saturdays at 8:00 pm; Sundays at 2:00 pm.
Tickets: Wed. 2-for-1; Thurs., Fri. & Sat. \$20; Sun. PWYC.
Reservations: 416-364-4170, box 1 email reservations@alumnaetheatre.com
 Our box office opens one hour prior to each performance

Check our website at www.alumnaetheatre.com for press releases, production photographs, and a retrospective on how Alumnae Theatre shaped Toronto's theatre scene since 1919.

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