



- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -

## Geordie Productions Launches 2006-2007 Season!

### *Opening Doors to Worlds Old and New*

Montreal, August 8, 2006 – **Artistic Director Dean Patrick Fleming** is pleased to announce the line-up for his inaugural season with Geordie Theatre Productions. For its 26<sup>th</sup> year of operation, Geordie continues in its mandate to provide high-quality professional theatre for young audiences with its **Montreal Mainstage Series for Families**, its well-loved province-wide **School Tour**, and its **School Matinée Series**. A pair of special **fundraising events** round out the mix for 2006-2007.

### Mainstage Series in Montreal: Opening Doors to Worlds Old and New!

This year, the Mainstage Series will debut in December, when Geordie invites Montreal families down the rabbit-hole into Lewis Carroll's ***Alice in Wonderland***. Geordie's new artistic director **Dean Patrick Fleming** directs Montrealer **Harry Standjofski's** new adaptation of this classic tale. In a story that has been described as "the most enchanting nonsense in the English language", Geordie's production, featuring nine of Montreal's best actors, will transcend the bounds of the imagination – this is Wonderland like you've never seen it before! Recommended for audience aged 6-106, *Alice in Wonderland* runs from December 1 to December 10, 2006.

In February, Geordie brings ***me me me...*** a whimsical, movement-filled production by Montreal's circus-inspired **Dynamo Theatre**. Written by Lise Vaillancourt and directed by Robert Dion, *me me me...* uses acrobatics that has actors literally climbing the walls to bring to life the dynamics of the classroom and sheds light on the challenging moments of childhood. Geordie is pleased to present for the first time to Montreal audiences the English version of a production that has thrilled sold-out audiences in French across the province. Recommended for audience aged 5-12, *me me me...* runs from February 16 to February 25, 2007.

To complete the season, **Founding Artistic Director Elsa Bolam** returns to Geordie to direct ***A Giraffe in Paris***, by Mark Haroun. When the young Prince of Egypt sets out to bring a giraffe to the King of France in Paris, blistering heat, crocodiles, a scheming circus ringleader and growling wolves are just some of the adventures that mark their cross-continental journey. *A Giraffe in Paris* is an enchanting and heart-warming tale about the power of friendship and why you should *always* believe in magic. Recommended for audience aged 6-12 years, *A Giraffe in Paris* runs from April 27 to May 6, 2007.

"**Opening Doors to Worlds Old and New**" is the theme of the company's 2006-2007 season. In the words of Dean Patrick Fleming: "Our theme this year **is** opening doors to worlds old and new because I believe that theatre is all about opening doors, seeing old things in a new fresh way while experiencing some things for the very first time."

The Mainstage Series is a subscription season that is presented at **Concordia University's D.B. Clarke Theatre** at 1455 de Maisonneuve West. Subscriptions and single tickets are now available for purchase by calling (514) 845-9810, through [www.geordie.ca](http://www.geordie.ca) or [tickets@geordie.ca](mailto:tickets@geordie.ca).

Geordie's **School Matinée Series** consists of special weekday performances of each of the three shows of the Mainstage season, at a reduced ticket price especially for school groups. The series attracts groups from schools and daycares across the greater Montreal area and as far away as the Townships and Shawinigan.

### Geordie on Tour: From Chisasibi to Blanc Sablon!

Each season Geordie's touring troupe presents **more than 300 performances** throughout **Quebec, Ontario and New Brunswick**. From large urban centres to small fishing villages in the north, Geordie brings many communities their only opportunity to see live theatre. Each performance is followed by a short question and answer session, and is accompanied by a Teacher's Guide full of valuable resources. This year's tour runs from **September 2006 to April 2007**.

In 2006-2007, Geordie offers elementary audiences ***The Secret Life of the Octopus*** by Clem Martini, directed by Liz Valdez. The play is a poetic and puppet-filled tale about finding friendship where you least expect it. For High school and CEGEP audiences, ***To Be Frank*** by Brian Drader, directed by Dean Patrick Fleming, is an engaging look at censorship in the age of the Internet and the trials of teen life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## Special events

### ***The Mad Hatter's Tea Party...for Kids!***

In celebration of Geordie's December production of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, join us and some special friends at Ogilvy's Tudor Hall for a fun-filled tea party of *mad* proportions. The Mad Hatter's Tea Party...for Kids! will raise funds to bring students from underprivileged schools to see the play *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.

### ***Fundraising Benefit Production***

Each May Geordie presents its annual Fundraising Benefit Production, an event crucial to the survival of the company. A dedicated cast of prominent Montrealers volunteer their time to participate as actors, presenting an elegant evening of classic theatre, followed by a reception. All monies raised go towards keeping Geordie Productions in the business of entertaining and stimulating young imaginations through theatre. Past productions have included *Pygmalion*, *Amadeus* and *To Kill Mockingbird*; further info on this season's benefit will be announced in the months to come.

## About Geordie Theatre Productions

Geordie is a professional theatre company that has presented live English-language theatre for young audiences for the last twenty-six years. Based in Montreal, Geordie tours extensively across Quebec, Ontario and the Maritimes, performing in schools, theatres, libraries and community centres. Geordie has also visited the Far North and has performed across Canada and the United States. Closer to home, Geordie's three-show Mainstage series entertains thousands of families and school groups at Concordia's D.B. Clarke Theatre each season. Dean Patrick Fleming has recently replaced Elsa Bolam as the company's artistic director.

**Geordie Theatre Productions will launch a new website early this fall! Keep your eyes open and check [www.geordie.ca](http://www.geordie.ca) often.**

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For media inquiries, please contact Siu-Min Jim, Communications Coordinator, at (514) 845-9810 or [publicity@geordie.ca](mailto:publicity@geordie.ca). (New contact info – Please update your address books!)