

Montreal doctor, judges, lawyers & business leaders take to the stage for a Joint Benefit Fundraiser for Geordie Productions and The Empress Cultural Centre

MONTREAL – Geordie Productions, Montreal's premiere English Theater for Young Audiences in association with The Empress Cultural Centre, will be holding a joint fundraising event on **May 20th and May 21st, 2009**. The event features a performance of Joseph Kesselring's classic comedy, *Arsenic & Old Lace*, followed by a reception and a silent auction.

As Montreal's premiere English-language Theatre for All Audiences, Geordie presents professional live theatre to over 80,000 audience members a year, including schools and families but also to those who need it most – children in hospitals, outreach programs, and in remote communities throughout Quebec. The Empress Cultural Centre Inc., located on Sherbrooke Street West across from NDG Park, has a mission to revitalize the former Cinema V and transform it into a multifunctional arts centre for established and emerging professional artists in the visual and performing arts. Geordie Productions has joined The Empress as a full partner and resident company; Monies generated by this fundraiser will bring Geordie closer towards its goal of moving into a permanent new home at the heart of its audiences' community.

The wonderfully silly and familiar favourite, *Arsenic & Old Lace*, tells the hilariously sinister story of the Brewster sisters and their peculiar penchant for poisoning lonely old men. When their nephew, a theatre-loathing drama-critic, discovers their homicidal habits, he tries to pin the murders on his two zany brothers: a sociopath with botched plastic surgery and a Teddy Roosevelt wannabe.

Arsenic and Old Lace is directed by Geordie Productions' founding Artistic Director and recent recipient of the Order of Canada Award, **Elsa Bolam**, and features appearances by a volunteer cast of prominent Montrealers including: **Vikki Andrighetti, Jean-François Buffoni, William Fraiberg, Brian Hammond, Philip E. Johnston, Adam LeBlanc, Sterling Mawhinney, Richard McConomy, Betsy Mitchell, Christopher Moore, Vincent Prager, Len Richman, Brian Riordan, and Irene Smyth Simons.**

Arsenic and Old Lace | By Joseph Kesselring | Directed by Elsa Bolam

May 20th and May 21st, 2009

7:30pm Performance & Reception

D.B. Clarke Theatre, Concordia University Hall Building | 1455 de Maisonneuve W, Montreal. Metro Guy Concordia

Tickets: \$100 (includes a \$75 receipt for tax purposes)

BOX OFFICE and INFORMATION: (514) 845-9810 or www.geordie.ca

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