

Geordie Productions confirms *Hana's Suitcase* engagement in Montreal

Montreal, Quebec, March 21, 2007 - Geordie Productions has confirmed a Montreal stop on the national tour of *Hana's Suitcase*, a brilliantly written play that introduces its audiences to the tragic fate of one little girl during the Holocaust and why it's so important to retell the story.

From the first time the story of *Hana's Suitcase* was told in a radio documentary produced by **Karen Levine**, it was immediately recognized as an important story to share with young audiences around the world. Since then, it has appeared as an award-winning book translated into over 10 languages, a feature-length documentary, and a play now touring across Canada. The stage version, adapted from Karen Levine's book published by **Second Story Press**, is written by **Emil Sher**. The **Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young Audiences (LKTYP)** premiered the play, directed by **Allen McInnis**, in 2005, and brought it back for a second season due to overwhelming demand. By the time *Hana's Suitcase* reaches Montreal, it will have travelled from Toronto across Western Canada to Winnipeg, Vancouver and Edmonton. Geordie Productions is honoured to invite LKTYP to present the play in Montreal.

Hana's Suitcase tells the true story of a suitcase that was brought to the Children's Holocaust Centre in Japan and caught the attention of some youngsters. Their curiosity led them to asking their teacher to find out more about whom the suitcase belonged to. Emil Sher's script employs eight actors and weaves in and out of the past by using multi-media and other innovative staging techniques to trace the tragic fate of Hana and her suitcase, and the amazing survival of her only brother George who now lives in Toronto. The Globe and Mail called it "...a delicate and moving introduction to Holocaust themes for children".

Hana's Suitcase will open on November 22, 2007 as part of Geordie's 2007-2008 Montreal Mainstage season. Geordie Productions' complete 2007-2008 season, comprising of the **School Tour**, and the **Montreal Mainstage**, will be officially announced at the opening of this season's final Montreal Mainstage production, *A Giraffe in Paris*, on April 27th 2007.

A fundraising campaign, "Bring *Hana's Suitcase* to Montreal" is currently underway to raise the extra funds necessary to bring the production in from Toronto.

"A really compelling and dramatic story...An important story to bring to the stage." (CBC Radio)

"a charming, thought-provoking play for young audiences..."

It's a strong testament to the forces that bring people together..." (NOW magazine, Toronto)

"It is a moving, emotion-evoking production." (The Canadian Jewish News)

About Geordie Theatre Productions

Geordie is a professional theatre company that has presented live English-language theatre for young audiences for the last twenty-five years. Based in Montreal, Geordie's School Tour travels 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, bringing many communities their only opportunity to see live theatre. Geordie's **Montreal Mainstage** series presents full-scale productions at the D.B. Clarke theatre in downtown Montreal for families and school groups. The series includes both well-loved classics and exciting new work by contemporary Canadian playwrights, and offers a reduced ticket rate during the weekday School Matinees. Through its School Tour and Montreal Mainstage series, Geordie typically reaches approximately 80,000 people each year.

- 30 -

MEDIA CONTACT: Siu-Min Jim at (514) 845-9810 or publicity@geordie.ca

Geordie Productions Inc. 4001 Berri, Suite 103. Montreal, QC. H2L 4H2 Tel: 514.845.9810 Fax: 514.845.3634 info@geordie.ca www.geordie.ca