

Geordie Productions brings acclaimed stage adaptation of *Hana's Suitcase* to Montreal

"... a delicate and moving introduction to Holocaust themes for children" - The Globe and Mail

Montreal, October 24, 2007 – Geordie Productions is thrilled to present *Hana's Suitcase*, written by Montrealer Emil Sher. The critically acclaimed play produced by Toronto's Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People will be presented on Geordie's Montreal Mainstage at the D.B. Clarke Theatre from November 22 – December 2, 2007 as part of its Canadian tour.

Based on the multi-award winning bestseller by Canadian author Karen Levine, *Hana's Suitcase* is a story of recovered identity. It brings to light the life and fate of two Jewish children who lived in Czechoslovakia during the Nazi occupation. It is the remarkable true story of a small group of Japanese children who yearned to solve a mystery – just exactly was who the girl whose name and birth date were painted on an old battered suitcase provided by the Auschwitz Museum?

Employing a cast of eight and using multi-media and other innovative staging techniques, the play takes place between two time-frames: Tokyo in 2000, when the children of the Holocaust Education Centre and its Director, Fumiko Ishioka began their search into the identity of Hana Brady; and Czechoslovakia in the 1930s and 40s, where Hana lived with her family and ultimately became a victim of the Nazis. The story, beautifully adapted by Emil Sher brings hope to the present through the character of Hana's brother, George Brady, who now lives in Toronto.

Since the first time the true story of *Hana's Suitcase* was told in a radio documentary, it has been published as a book translated into over 10 languages and available in more than 30 countries. The book is part of the curriculum for many schools, and the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre has recently developed an exhibit and a Study Unit to accompany it.

The cast includes GINGER RURIKO BUSCH, ELLA CHAN, JAN FILIPS, JESSICA GREENBERG, CLARENCE SPONAGLE, HELEN TAYLOR, ERIC TRASK, and DALE YIM. The touring production is directed by STEWART ARNOTT, based on original direction by ALLEN MACINNIS. The creative team includes: STEPHEN COLELLA, Script Dramaturg; NANCY GUERTIN, Production Dramaturg; DANIELE GUEVARA, Projection Co-ordinator; JOHN GZOWSKI, Sound Designer; KRISTEN KITCHER, Assistant Stage Manager; ANDREA LUNDY, Lighting Designer; TERESA PRZYBYLSKI, Set & Costume Designer; and MICHAEL SINCLAIR, Stage Manager.

About LKTYP

Toronto's LKTYP is the largest nonprofit theatre company for young audiences in Canada and presents new Canadian plays, innovative works and classics from children's literature throughout the season. Since 1966, LKTYP has been using live performance to validate the common experiences young people encounter as they grow up in an increasingly complex world.

About Geordie Theatre Productions

Geordie is a professional theatre company that has presented live English-language theatre to young audiences for over twenty-five years. Based in Montreal, **Geordie's School Tour** travels extensively from the Far North to all across Quebec, Ontario and the Maritimes, bringing many communities their only opportunity to see live theatre. Geordie's **Montreal Mainstage Series** presents both well-loved classics and exciting new work by contemporary Canadian playwrights to families and school groups at the D.B. Clarke Theatre in downtown Montreal.

Hana's Suitcase | Written by Emil Sher | Based on the book by Karen Levine, published by Second Story Press

Directed by Stewart Arnott, based on original direction by Allen MacInnis

PERFORMANCES: November 22 – December 2, 2007 | Opening Night: Nov. 22 at 7pm | Saturdays at 4pm, Sundays at 1pm & 4pm

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

TICKETS: \$13.50 children; \$16 adults; \$15 seniors; all prices include tax | Group rates available

AGE RECOMMENDATION: Children age 9 and up & adults of all ages | 90 minutes

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

With special acknowledgement to the Foundation of Greater Montreal