

## Geordie Productions presents *Maïta* on the Mainstage

**Montreal, February 17, 2009** - Geordie Productions is proud to present *Maïta*, by **ESTHER BEAUCHEMIN**, produced by the Théâtre de la Vieille 17 and the Théâtre de Sable in collaboration with the Théâtre Française at the National Arts Centre. *Maïta* is presented in an English translation by **HENRY GAUTHIER** at the D.B. Clarke Theatre from **March 13 to 22, 2009**. Directed by **ROBERT BELLEFEUILLE**, this poetic marionette production about freedom and hope is appropriate for adults and children age 7 & up.

**ABOUT THE PLAY** | Originally produced in 2000, *Maïta* comes to Geordie after an extensive tour in three different languages that has brought it across Quebec, Canada, to the United States and even Mexico. The production was last seen in Montreal in 2002 for an extremely successful French-language run at La Maison Théâtre. Esther Beauchemin won the Christine-Dumitriu-Van-Saanen Prize at Toronto French Book Fair for the script, and the production was a finalist at the 2003 Soirée des Masques for best production for young audiences, sound conception and original text.

**THE STORY** | Maïta, the daughter of a puppet maker, is sent by her father to work in a factory in order to pay off family debts. Before leaving his 8-year-old daughter, he bestows upon her Issane, a precious puppet on which Maïta's mother has sewn 1461 pearls, one for each day until her father will come for her. Since she knows how to read and write, Maïta becomes indispensable to Wunan, the factory foreman. Maïta works hard, but when night falls she recounts the tale of Issane - The Princess of Light - through shadow puppetry to the other children, and counts the days until she will finally gain her freedom.

**GEORDIE'S VOW OF SILENCE** | In honour of the true events that inspired this play, Geordie will be participating in Free the Children's "Vow of Silence" campaign. Free The Children is a Canadian charity and the world's largest network of children helping children through education, with youth involved in its innovative education and development programs in 45 countries. Beginning at 3pm on March 5, 2009 Geordie will join people around the world in remaining silent in support of those who are unable to speak up themselves. For more details, please visit [www.iamsilent.com](http://www.iamsilent.com)

**Maïta** | Written by Esther Beauchemin | Produced by Théâtre de la Vieille 17 and the Théâtre de Sable and in collaboration with the French Theatre of the National Arts Centre

**STARRING:** Esther Beauchemin, Roch Castonguay, Henry Gauthier, Marie-Thé Morin, Nathalie Poiré; **STAGE DIRECTION:** Robert Bellefeuille; **PUPPETS DESIGN & DIRECTION:** Josée Campanale; **STAGE MANAGEMENT & LIGHTING:** Jean Hazel

**PERFORMANCES:** March 13 – 22, 2009 | Opening night: March 13 at 7:00pm |

Weekend Family Performances: Mar. 14 & 15 at 3pm; Mar. 21 & 22 at 1pm & 3pm | School Matinées: Mar. 17 - 20, 10am & 12pm

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

**TICKETS (ON SALE NOW):** \$13.50 children, \$16 adults; \$15 seniors; all prices include tax | Group rates available

**AGE RECOMMENDATION:** Children age 7+ and adults of all ages | 60 minutes

**BOX OFFICE and INFORMATION:** (514) 845-9810 or [www.geordie.ca](http://www.geordie.ca)

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