

For Immediate Release

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## **The Mirvish Family Celebrates a Milestone 50 YEARS OF THEATRE**

### **Announcing the Mirvish 2013-2014 Season**

#### **14 Shows**

**Including LES MISÉRABLES, Disney's ALADDIN,  
ONCE and Disney's THE LION KING**

**Main Season – 7 Shows from only \$135**

**Off-Mirvish Season – 3 Shows from \$99**

**Plus 4 Bonus Shows**

Fifty years ago an adventure in theatre began. **Ed Mirvish** purchased the beautiful **Royal Alexandra Theatre** on King Street West. Nestled in the middle of a disused industrial area, the theatre, like the neighbourhood, had been neglected for years. Mirvish restored and renovated the theatre, and revitalized the area. Today the neighbourhood is unrecognizable. Similarly, Mirvish launched a new era in Toronto theatre, ushering in a local commercial segment, which helped to grow the talent pool and the industry to one of the largest and best in the world.

What began with one venue has now grown to four distinct theatres in Toronto – **The Royal Alexandra, The Princess of Wales, The Panasonic** and, of course, **The Ed Mirvish**, formerly the Canon, which was renamed in honour of one of Toronto's most beloved city boosters.

Over the years, the Mirvish family has also influenced theatre in many other centres. For 15 years, the family owned and operated one of the most famous theatres in the world, The Old Vic, and have produced and presented hundreds of shows in New York, across Canada and elsewhere.

For its 50<sup>th</sup> year, the **Mirvish** family will present 14 shows in Toronto – its biggest season ever.

Part of the success of Mirvish's theatre business is due to subscription. For one low price subscribers can experience a variety of shows from around the world. Subscription is a tradition that exists to this day and is among the most popular in North America, with 40,000 subscribers.

Last year, a second subscription was added. The **Off-Mirvish Season** complements the main stage season and offers a more intimate and bold experience.

The combined **Mirvish Subscription Seasons for 2013-2014** add up to 10 wondrous shows. Plus, there are four non-subscription shows. All together these 14 shows – some old, some new; some large, some more intimate – promise a year of thrilling theatrical adventure.

“It’s been an exhilarating half-century of unforgettable memories,” said **David Mirvish**. “An adventure that will continue in our new theatre seasons.”

## **CAMERON MACKINTOSH'S Acclaimed new production of BOUBLIL & SCHÖNBERG'S LES MISÉRABLES**

**BEGINS OCT 2013  
PRINCESS OF WALES THEATRE  
Canadian Premiere of 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Production**

Cameron Mackintosh presents his acclaimed new production of Boublil & Schönberg's legendary musical, **LES MISÉRABLES**, with glorious new staging and dazzlingly reimagined scenery inspired by the paintings of Victor Hugo.

This new production has been acclaimed by critics, fans and new audiences and for the last two and a half years has broken box office records right across North America as well as internationally.

*The New York Times* calls this production of **LES MISÉRABLES** “an unquestionably spectacular production from start to finish.” *The London Times* hails the new show “a five-star hit, astonishingly powerful.” *The Star-Ledger* says “a dynamically re-imagined hit. This **LES MISÉRABLES** has improved with age,” and *NY1-TV* proclaims “this new production actually exceeds the original. Musical theatre fans can rejoice: ‘Les Mis’ is born again.”

Based on Victor Hugo’s classic novel, **LES MISÉRABLES** is an epic and uplifting story about the survival of the human spirit. The magnificent score of **LES MISÉRABLES** includes the classic songs “I Dreamed a Dream,” “On My Own,” “Stars,” “Bring Him Home,” “Do You Hear the People Sing?,” “One Day More,” “Empty Chairs at Empty Tables,” “Master of the House” and many more.

# DISNEY'S ALADDIN

**NOV/DEC 2013**  
**ED MIRVISH THEATRE**  
**World Premiere**

In an exotic, faraway land, one man's life is about to change with the lucky rub of an ancient lamp—this is **ALADDIN**, Disney's new musical, adapted from centuries-old Arabian folktales including "One Thousand and One Nights." **ALADDIN** will feature a full Broadway score including the five beloved songs from the film by Academy and Tony Award®-winning composer Alan Menken and lyricists Howard Ashman and Tim Rice, plus new songs by Menken and Chad Beguelin, with a book by Beguelin.

This musical comes from the producer of Toronto's record-breaking hits *The Lion King* and *Beauty and the Beast* and will be directed and choreographed by Tony® -winner Casey Nicholaw (*The Book of Mormon*). **ALADDIN** will feature the award-winning, acclaimed design team of Bob Crowley (sets), Gregg Barnes (costumes) and Natasha Katz (lights), with illusions by Jim Steinmeyer.

With its timeless story, extravagant sets and costumes and a host of memorable characters and songs, **ALADDIN** will transport audiences to a place known only in their dreams. Audiences will discover a whole new world, in a whole new way.

## ONCE

Playwright Enda Walsh  
Music & Lyrics by Glen Hansard and Markéta Irglová  
Directed by John Tiffany

**NOV/DEC 2013**  
**ROYAL ALEXANDRA THEATRE**  
**Canadian Premiere**

Winner of eight 2012 Tony® Awards including BEST MUSICAL, **ONCE** is a truly original Broadway experience.

Featuring an impressive ensemble of actor/musicians who play their own instruments onstage, **ONCE** tells the enchanting tale of a Dublin street musician who's about to give up on his dream when a beautiful young woman takes a sudden interest in his haunting love songs. As the chemistry between them grows, his music soars to powerful new heights... but their unlikely connection turns out to be deeper and more complex than your everyday romance. Emotionally captivating and theatrically breathtaking, **ONCE** draws you in from the very first note and never lets go. It's an unforgettable story about going for your dreams... not living in fear... and the power of music to connect all of us.

## **HEARTBEAT OF HOME**

Composed by Bill Whelan  
Directed by John McCogan  
Produced by Moya Doherty

**JAN/FEB 2014**  
**ED MIRVISH THEATRE**  
**North American Premiere**

From the producers of the international phenomenon, *Riverdance*, comes a brand new show!

Heartbeat of Home is a music and dance spectacular! A world-class cast of thirty-eight of the best Irish, Latin and Afro-Cuban dancers and musicians will create a dream world of joyous, high-energy, heart-stopping performances.

Modern, mesmerizing, emotionally satisfying and fun! **HEARTBEAT OF HOME** is a crowd-pleaser for a new generation. Toronto audiences will be the first to see this exciting new show before it goes on its North American tour.

**METAMORPHOSIS** by Franz Kafka  
Adaptation & Direction David Farr and Gisli Örn Gardarsson  
Music by Nick Cave and Warren Ellis  
Starring Gisli Örn Gardarsson

**JAN/FEB 2014**  
**ROYAL ALEXANDRA THEATRE**  
**Toronto Premiere**

Kafka's terrifying but bizarrely comic story bursts onto the stage in a theatrically explosive new version.

The ordinary, unremarkable life of the Samsa family is turned upside down when their son, Gregor, the sole provider for the family, emerges one morning to find himself inexplicably transformed into a gigantic insect. His family's feelings of revulsion turn to resentment with horrifying results.

This hugely acclaimed production, which has played in major venues and festivals around the world, combines breathtaking physicality and daring aerial action as the recently transformed Gregor lithely negotiates a gravity-defying split level set. The production looks at Kafka's iconic story and asks: Domestic tragedy or a metaphor for totalitarian brutality? **METAMORPHOSIS** is brilliantly theatrical, surprisingly funny and powerfully poignant.

## **ARRABAL**

Book by John Weidman  
Music by Gustavo Santaolalla  
Directed by Sergio Trujillo

**JAN/MAR 2014**  
**PANASONIC THEATRE**  
**World Premiere**

**ARRABAL**, an exciting world premiere production from Toronto-based **Sergio Trujillo**, is an explosive story told entirely through dance and the music of multiple Academy Award® winner **Gustavo Santaolalla** (*Brokeback Mountain*, *Babel*) and his band Bajofondo.

Using a modern tango dance vocabulary never seen before, director **Sergio Trujillo** (*Jersey Boys*, *Memphis*) and choreographer **Julio Zurita** create a dramatic vision that is emotional, sexual and powerful. With a book written by Tony Award® winner **John Weidman** (*Contact*), follow “Arrabal”, our heroine, in this coming of age story as she enters the underground world of Buenos Aires’ tango clubs and discovers the violent history that took her father and disrupted a nation. **ARRABAL** is based on the true story of the political violence that threatened to destroy Argentina in the 1970s. With a live band and performers direct from Buenos Aires, experience the sensual beauty and political intrigue that is **ARRABAL**.

## **THE LAST CONFESSION**

Starring David Suchet  
Playwright Roger Crane  
Music by Dominic Muldowney  
Directed by Jonathan Church

**APR/MAY 2014**  
**ROYAL ALEXANDRA THEATRE**  
**North American Premiere**

**THE LAST CONFESSION** delves into the most highly guarded institution in the world to explore the mystery shrouding the sudden death of Pope John Paul I in 1978.

Found dead just 33 days after being elected, suspicions are aroused when it is revealed that, on the evening before his death, the new Pope had warned three of his most influential but hostile Cardinals that they would be replaced. The Vatican refuses to conduct an official investigation into the death. Cardinal Benelli is the only one to challenge the dead Pope’s enemies.

Starring David Suchet (*Agatha Christie's Poirot*) as Cardinal Benelli. Roger Crane's thriller comes to Toronto following sold out runs at the Chichester Festival Theatre and the Theatre Royal Haymarket in London.

## **OFF-MIRVISH 2013/2014 SERIES**

Last season we launched the Off-Mirvish Series. For the second season we have three plays which will explore strong emotions and compelling ideas in daring theatricality.

**3 Shows For Only \$99** (rear orch) **\$149** (front orch). Not part of the Main Subscription, but add these shows now for priority seating & special prices.

## **GOD OF CARNAGE**

By Yasmina Reza

English Translation by Christopher Hampton

Directed by Joel Greenberg

**NOV–DEC 2013**

**PANASONIC THEATRE**

**Toronto Premiere**

*A David Mirvish Presentation of a Studio 180 Theatre Production*

This hilarious award-winning comedy begins when two sophisticated couples meet to discuss a playground incident involving their children. What starts as a civilized get-together quickly devolves into a scrappy, laugh-out-loud evening that *The New York Times* called "A study in the tension between civilized surface and savage instinct."

## **DEAD METAPHOR**

Written & Directed by George F. Walker

**MAY 2014**

**PANASONIC THEATRE**

**Canadian Premiere**

*A David Mirvish Presentation of a Canadian Rep Theatre Production*

Dean returns home from the war in Afghanistan, only to discover that his remarkable military skills don't get him very far in the working world. He readjusts to non-bunker life by moving in with his increasingly agitated parents and pregnant ex-wife, then reluctantly takes the only job he can get—as poster boy for a crusading politician on her own mission for "truth and justice." A hilarious dark comedy about the hypocrisies and politics of postwar living, **DEAD METAPHOR** showcases the imaginative audacious work of one of Canada's most acclaimed playwrights.

## **FESTIVAL PLAY**

**JUNE 2014**  
**PANASONIC THEATRE**

The 3rd show of the series will be chosen from the best at the world's great theatre festivals. Our scouts will travel the world to bring you a theatrical gem from the festivals at EDINBURGH, DUBLIN, TORONTO, EDMONTON, SPOLETO, NEW YORK, SYDNEY and more.

**4 BONUS SHOWS**  
**NOT INCLUDED IN THE 2013/ 2014 SUBSCRIPTION PACKAGE**

## **STOMP**

**APRIL 16 TO 21, 2013**  
**ROYAL ALEXANDRA THEATRE**

**STOMP**, a Toronto favourite, returns. **STOMP** is explosive, inventive, provocative, witty, and utterly unique—an unforgettable experience for audiences of all ages. The international percussion sensation has garnered armfuls of awards and rave reviews. The eight-member troupe uses everything but conventional percussion instruments – matchboxes, wooden poles, brooms, garbage cans, Zippo lighters, hubcaps – to fill the stage with magnificent rhythms. Year after year, audiences worldwide keep coming back for more of this pulse-pounding electrifying show. As the *Boston Globe* says, “If you haven’t seen **STOMP**, GO! If you have seen it, take someone and share the pleasure!”

## **CATS**

**BEGINS MAY 28, 2013**  
**PANASONIC THEATRE**

A new production of **Andrew Lloyd Webber's** beloved musical masterpiece. This will be the first time in over 25 years that an all-Canadian cast will grace a Toronto stage in **CATS**.

## **I LOVE LUCY® – LIVE ON STAGE**

Adapted for the stage and with new material by Kim Flagg & Rick Sparks  
Staged & Directed by Rick Sparks

**BEGINS OCTOBER 15, 2013**  
**ROYAL ALEXANDRA THEATRE**  
**Canadian Premiere**

**I LOVE LUCY® LIVE ON STAGE**, the brand new hit musical stage show adapted from the longest-running and most beloved television program in history, starring Lucy, Ricky, Fred and Ethel: America's favorite foursome, is coming to Toronto for the very first time!

## **Disney's THE LION KING**

**APRIL 30 to JUNE 15, 2014**  
**PRINCESS OF WALES THEATRE**

Experience the phenomenon of Disney's **THE LION KING**. Marvel at the breathtaking spectacle of animals brought to life by award-winning director **Julie Taymor**, whose visual images for this show you'll remember forever. Thrill to the pulsating rhythms of the African Pridelands and an unforgettable score including **Elton John** and **Tim Rice's** Oscar®-winning song "Can You Feel The Love Tonight" and "Circle of Life." Let your imagination run wild at the Tony® Award-winning Broadway sensation Newsweek calls "a landmark event in entertainment." Toronto's most eagerly awaited return will leap onto the Princess of Wales stage next April.

## **SUBSCRIBER BENEFITS**

FIRST CHOICE OF SEATS

SAVINGS OF UP TO 50%

FREE, EASY AND FLEXIBLE TICKET EXCHANGE

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