

Media Release

For Immediate Release: May 6, 2011



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Theatre Springs to Life at SPROUTS NEW PLAY FESTIVAL FOR KIDS

Concrete Theatre's **Sprouts New Play Festival for Kids** celebrates **10 years** of cultivating new plays for children and families. The 2011 theatre crop includes **four brand new short plays** for young people and a premiere reading of a 2008 Sprouts favourite, ***Songs My Mother Never Sung Me*** by **Dave Clarke**. These live staged readings take place Saturday, **June 11** and Sunday, **June 12** at the **Stanley A. Milner Library Theatre**, (7 Sir Winston Churchill Square).

Governor General Award-winning playwright **Kevin Kerr**; co-founder/co-director of Alberta Aboriginal Arts and author **Christine Sokaymoh Frederick**; internationally-acclaimed playwright, author and performance poet **Valerie Mason-John (aka Queenie)**; and storyteller, internationally-published author and playwright **Tololwa M. Mollel** have contributed new works to the 10th Anniversary Sprouts. Concrete Theatre presents each play as a staged reading with lively performance directed by **Mieko Ouchi**, music and sound by **Dave Clarke**, props by **Cory Sincennes**, and dramaturgy by **Ryland Alexander**, **Tracy Carroll** and **Jana O'Connor**. Sprouts provides **American Sign Language (ASL)** interpretation throughout the Festival.

Events throughout the weekend include **face-painting**, **story-telling** with **Young Alberta Books**, **music activities** and **crafts**. Following the plays, children can write their thoughts in a special **Sprouts Art Garden Plot** and hang them on the **CommenTree** or interact with the playwrights. Additionally, a Saturday afternoon cupcake party celebrates **10 years of Sprouts**, with a **4:45pm** reading of **Dave Clarke's** new **opera *Songs My Mother Never Sung Me***, presented in song and ASL.

Sprouts New Play Festival for Kids lobby activities begin at 1pm, with four 15-minute plays at 2pm, which include a 20 minute intermission. Tickets are \$5, available by cash at the door or at **TIX on the Square**, **780-420-1757** or www.tixonthesquare.ca. For more information, please contact **Concrete Theatre** at 780-439-3905 or www.concretetheatre.ca.

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Concrete Theatre gratefully acknowledges production assistance for The Sprouts New Play Festival for Kids from the Canada Council for the Arts, Alberta Foundation for the Arts, The Edmonton Arts Council, The City of Edmonton, Edmonton Downtown Business Association, Young Alberta Books Society and Bottom Line Productions.