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NECESSARY ANGEL FURTHERS REPUTATION FOR ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE IN NEW SEASON

*Ruthless Hamlet kicks off season that includes new works
by Daniel MacIvor, John Mighton & Michael Ondaatje*

Toronto, October 5, 2009 – Always a magnet for innovation and imagination, **Necessary Angel**, under the direction of **Artistic Director Daniel Brooks** and **Producer Guy de Carteret**, has once again attracted a remarkable assembly of talent – award-winning and internationally recognized directors and playwrights collaborating with some of Canada’s finest actors and designers – to create theatre of the highest calibre.

The season sees new work from a trio of great writers (**Daniel MacIvor, John Mighton, Michael Ondaatje**); a radical interpretation of one of the greatest plays in the English canon (*Hamlet*); a new, visceral translation of a rarely produced classic (*Andromache*); and an extraordinary project that brings together a diverse cast of fifty women (*Tout Comme Elle*). The season consists of **two world premieres, one workshop presentation and three development workshops**.

2009/2010 SEASON

Following hot on the heels of standing ovations and sold out workshop performances, Necessary Angel’s rigorously pared down *Hamlet* will have its **World Premiere** as part of World Stage at Harbourfront Centre. Combining the aesthetic of European theatre with the poetry of the British stage, this *Hamlet* is a unique, immediate and violent 110-minute live theatre experiment seething with amorality, where nothing is set and every performance is different. This vital, sexy and brutal production features **Benedict Campbell, Laura de Carteret, Mac Fyfe, Steven McCarthy, Christopher Morris, Tara Nicodemo, Robert Persichini** and **Eric Peterson**, with **Gord Rand** in the title role. Acclaimed Scottish director **Graham McLaren**, an Associate Artist of Necessary Angel, directs the production that previews November 17 and 18, opens on November 19 and runs to November 29, 2009 at the **Enwave Theatre**, 231 Queens Quay West, Toronto. Tickets are available by calling 416-973-4000 or online at www.necessaryangel.com/hamlet. Best known to Toronto audiences for his Dora Award-winning production of *Medea* that played World Stage in 2002, McLaren’s highly lauded work has travelled extensively across the globe. *Hamlet* is slated for international touring in 2010/2011.

This season will also see the **World Premiere** of a new production from one of the most potent and influential partnerships in Canadian theatre: **Daniel Brooks** and **Daniel MacIvor** have created such legendary solo shows as *House*, *Here Lies Henry*, *Monster* and *Cul-de-Sac*. Their new collaboration, *This Is What Happens Next*, is a scary fairytale with a happy ending. Written and performed by MacIvor and directed and dramaturged by Brooks, Necessary Angel’s production of *This Is What Happens Next*, presented by the Canadian Stage Company as part of its Berkeley Street Project, previews from April 12, opens April 15 and runs to May 8, 2010 in Toronto at the **Berkeley Theatre Downstairs**, 26 Berkeley Street, Toronto. Tickets are available by calling 416-368-3110 or online at www.necessaryangel.com/whathappens. Canadian and international engagements are planned for 2010/2011 season.

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Daniel Brooks will also work with acclaimed Canadian novelist **Michael Ondaatje** to adapt the latter's most recent novel, *Divisadero*, for the stage. Ondaatje's story is a violent and passionate narrative, exploring themes of memory, identity, love and the grip of the past on the present. *When My Name Was Anna*, the theatrical adaptation, will be an exploration of the intimate relationship between the speaker and the listener and of language's ability to weave a magical spell. The public will be given the opportunity to see a limited three performance work-in-progress presentation at **Theatre Passe Muraille's Mainspace**, 16 Ryerson Avenue, Toronto, November 6-8, 2009. Tickets are available by calling 416-504-7529 or online at www.necessaryangel.com/anna. A full production is planned for 2010/2011, with subsequent touring.

In the new year, **John Mighton** and **Daniel Brooks** team up once again to continue developing their newest joint venture, *Risk*. *Risk* investigates the story of Ignaz Semmelweis, an Austrian doctor whose discoveries were ignored and whose life ended in an insane asylum. This will be the third collaboration between the two, who last worked together on *Possible Worlds* and *Half Life*, both Governor General's Award winners. A public workshop of *Risk* will be presented in Necessary Angel's 2010/2011 season.

The new year will also bring into focus new projects from the company's two Associate Artists.

Director **Brigitte Haentjens** will begin work on the English-language adaptation of her acclaimed creation *Tout Comme Elle*. Conceived by Haentjens and written by poet **Louise Dupré**, *Tout Comme Elle* combines song and music with a rich and poetic text to explore the difficult, painful, yet necessary, separation of daughter and mother. Haentjens is the winner of the 2007 Siminovitch Prize, the largest and most prestigious national theatre prize in Canada. She is a fearless creator of great distinction whose highly rigorous and exact work has been seen primarily in Quebec.

Director and designer **Graham McLaren** will collaborate with maverick Canadian poet and rising literary star **Evie Christie** on a modern adaptation of Racine's *Andromache* that examines how obsessive love and lust lead people to do unspeakable acts.

Tout Comme Elle and *Andromache* have been commissioned by Luminato, Toronto Festival of Arts and Creativity. Both of these Associate Artist projects are non-public workshops that will receive their premieres in Necessary Angel's 2010/2011 season.

For more information, visit the Necessary Angel website at www.necessaryangel.com.