

Media Release
For Immediate Release

New Artistic Director Announced for Magnetic North



(Ottawa, ON – May 10, 2007) – The **Magnetic North Theatre Festival** is pleased to announce **Ken Cameron** as the **new Artistic Director** replacing Mary Vingoe August 1, 2007. Ken is the author of more than fifteen plays and was the Executive Director of the Alberta Playwrights' Network, a provincial organization that develops plays and playwrights around Alberta, from 2001-2007. He has worked with the internationally renowned One Yellow Rabbit for five years as Assistant Director on all of their new productions and tours to Glasgow, Edinburgh, Toronto, Philadelphia and Vancouver. Ken is also an active member of the Playwrights Guild of Canada.

"In the spirit of Magnetic North's aim to present some of the best and most innovative theatre from across the country, we have found in western Canada an energetic, exciting producer/playwright to be our new Artistic Director. Ken Cameron inherits from Mary Vingoe a solid foundation on which to build the future." - Mallory Gilbert, MNTF Board of Directors.

Ken's play *Making Marilyn* opened off-off-Broadway at the Bridge Theatre Company in New York City November 2006. Originally produced as *My One And Only* the play premiered at The Alberta Theatre Projects' Enbridge playRites Festival '04, one of the most prestigious playwriting festivals in Canada. It received a second production by Edmonton's Workshop West Theatre in April 2005 and was featured at The National Arts Centre's On The Verge reading series and recently received a reading at Presentation House in North Vancouver. This play also received an Honourable Mention in the Herman Voaden National Playwriting Competition and was nominated for the Gwen Pharis Ringwood Award for playwriting.

Ken is also the author of the Fringe Festival hit *My Morocco*, the comic book love story *Dragonfly Episode IV: IDENTITY* and the one-act *Harvest*. An earlier, shortened version of *My Morocco* appeared at Solo Collective's Solo Flights Showcase. Ken is the author of the cult hit *Doppelganger*, *Stop Thinking!* and *The Climate: a Province in deKlein*, for The Art Ranch; and *Alien Love Connection* for Lunchbox Theatre. Ken's background will add a

new dynamic to Magnetic North and lead the Festival to its next edition in Vancouver 2008.

After 5 years – 3 at home Festivals, 2 cross country road trips and over 50 professional presentations that have acknowledged, introduced and celebrated the work of literally hundreds of this country's best and brightest actors, designers, playwrights, directors and theatre students – current **Artistic Director Mary Vingoe** will be handing over the reins to Ken Cameron on August 1, 2007.

Ken says "No one can replace Mary Vingoe and the contribution that she has made to Canadian theatre as the founding Artistic Director of the Magnetic North Theatre Festival. Five years ago she accepted the weighty task of taking a shared dream and wrestling it into the shape of one of Canada's premiere theatre festivals, doing so with grace and poise. Under her guidance Magnetic North has become a showcase of excellence, a forum of ideas, a cultural meeting place for our nation's theatre artists and an annual pilgrimage for many. I am proud to aim for the bar she has set so high and excited about the future of the Festival."

The **Magnetic North Theatre Festival** is a national theatre festival that features some of the most exciting contemporary Canadian touring theatre in English. The artistic vision is one of excellence, inclusiveness, diversity and creative development. The Festival provides a forum to celebrate Canadian theatre and an opportunity for Canadian theatre companies to market their work on the national and international stage.

Co-presented by the **National Arts Centre**, Magnetic North travels from its home base in Ottawa to other Canadian centres in alternate years, providing an environment for the theatre community to congregate in one centre in order to discuss and debate the current theatre milieu. Magnetic North has travelled from its home base in Ottawa, ON to Edmonton, AB, St. John's, NL and will be in Vancouver, BC in 2008.

The **Magnetic North Theatre Festival will be in Ottawa June 6 – 16, 2007**. For more Magnetic North events and announcements visit www.magneticnorthfestival.ca.

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