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**For Immediate Release – October 5, 2022**

## **Rotary Centre for the Arts Presents The Cave: A Climate Change Cabaret**

**(Kelowna, BC)** - The Rotary Centre for the Arts (RCA) is pleased to welcome *The Cave*, a cabaret event by renowned Canadian artists John Millard (composer), Tomson Highway (lyricist), and Martha Ross (book writer). It is their distinctive and imaginative response to our planet's precarious survival. *The Cave* takes place at the Mary Irwin Theatre on Wednesday, October 19 at 8:00 PM.

Says Colleen Fitzpatrick, Executive Director of RCA, "Daringly conceived and brilliantly performed, Canadian composer John Millard and Cree author Tomson Highway's mischievous cabaret discovers fraternity in the myth world as our natural one burns. The energy the performers bring to the production is incendiary and we are proud to welcome this performance to the Mary Irwin stage."

*The Cave* was first performed at Soulpepper's Tank House Theatre as part of Luminato 2019 and garnered rave reviews. A ragged group of animals flee from a vicious forest fire and seek refuge in Bear's cave. Waiting out the inferno, they reflect on their lives, their lost garden, and their impending doom. The MC, hilariously played by John Millard, tells jokes and stories and gives political context to the songs. This beautiful dystopian cabaret is told through songs, sung in English and Cree, that hangs in the air amidst joyous humour in this poignant and entertaining cabaret.

**The Cave** runs at the Mary Irwin Theatre at the Rotary Centre for the Arts on Wednesday, October 19 at 8:00 PM. Tickets are now on sale for \$49 and \$39 (including fees) for students and seniors.

In addition, the RCA is offering discounts on theatre productions as part of its 20th Anniversary celebrations. From October 4 to 23, you can save 20% on any RCA Presents production. Enter code: **20YEARS** at the time of booking.

**Hi-Res Press Photos Available On Request:** Please contact [marketingassist@rotarycentreforthearts.com](mailto:marketingassist@rotarycentreforthearts.com)

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### **About John Millard**

John Millard has composed and music directed for Theatre Columbus, National Film Board, Soulpepper Theatre, Volcano Theatre, National Arts Centre, Alberta Theatre Productions, Shaw Festival and many other Canadian cultural organizations. He has recorded six albums and toured Canada and Europe with his bands The Polka Dogs and John Millard & Happy Day. John was a resident artist at Soulpepper for six years. He teaches at Humber College and has been a resident artist at Banff Centre for the Arts. Current productions include a remount of John and Waleed at Theatre Passe Muraille, "I Am Puff", an animated series with IS1 Theatre, The Cave with Tomson Highway and Martha Ross, and an animated version of The Cave for the CBC with Vancouver animator Bruce Alcock.

### **About Tomson Highway**

Tomson Highway is an international playwright, novelist, and pianist/songwriter. His best-known works include plays, The Rez Sisters, Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing, Rose, Ernestine Shuswap Gets Her Trout, a best-selling novel, Kiss of the Fur Queen, and the musical The Post Mistress. For many years, he ran Canada's premiere Native theatre company, Native Earth Performing Arts (based in Toronto), out of which has emerged an entire generation of professional Native playwrights, actors, and, more indirectly, the many other Native theatre companies that now dot the country.

### **About Martha Ross**

Martha Ross is a playwright and educator who trained at L'Ecole Jacques Lecoq in Paris. Upon her return to Canada, she joined forces with another Lecoq graduate, Leah Cherniak, to establish Toronto's Theatre Columbus (now Common Boots Theatre). Martha created numerous award-winning plays collectively and collaboratively for Theatre Columbus: The Anger in Ernest and Ernestine, Paranoia, Fertility, The Betrayal, The Attic, The Pearls and Three Fine Girls, and Hotel Loopy, to name just a few. As a solo writer, Martha wrote Porch People, Dr.Dapertutto, And Up They Flew, The Story, The Crack, The Dog and the Angel, and The Bog. Martha teaches the Lecoq method of creation at universities across Canada.

## **About the Rotary Centre for the Arts**

Located in the heart of Kelowna's Cultural District, the [Rotary Centre for the Arts](#) is a multidisciplinary visual and performing arts centre. The RCA continually strives to improve the economic, cultural, and social quality of life in the community by fostering participation in, and appreciation of the arts. The RCA brings together individuals of all ages and backgrounds to share in the excitement of strengthening art and culture in the Okanagan celebrating creative expression through diverse art forms and disciplines. The Rotary Centre for the Arts respectfully acknowledges that it is located on the unceded, traditional territory of the Syilx and Okanagan People.