

For Immediate Release September 5, 2006

Theatre Direct to host innovative arts education project led by international artists of Akademie Schloss Solitude (Germany).

Students of Dovercourt Public School to explore dance, music and design in a creation entitled "The Carpet"

Celebrating its 30th season, Theatre Direct Canada, one of the country's leading theatres for young people, is pleased to announce it will host a unique arts education residency project at Dovercourt Junior Public School from September 25 –October 14, 2006. Five dynamic artists from Akademie Schloss Solitude, a respected European arts institute and professional artists residency, will lead an exciting creation process entitled **The Carpet**, aimed at the Grade 5/ 6 students and engaging the whole Dovercourt community of students, educators and parents.

An impressive team of artists has created this project especially for young people and has designed a process that honours the creativity and imagination of the participants. The artists are **Hans-Werner Kloehe**, Choreographer (Germany), **Katya Bonnenfant**, Designer (France), **Cobi Van Tonder**, Composer (South Africa) and **Su-Mi Jang**, Dancer/Choreographer (Korea).

Over the three-week period, the ensemble of students, led by the artists, will use dance/movement, design and music to create from their own imaginations and experiences, images and sounds that explore a range of themes from the environment, safety and community, individual and group dynamics. The environmental theme plays a strong part in the process where students will work with designers to create a complex and magical tapestry landscape made from recycled clothing, toys, and curious objects as well as a rich sound design made from their movements and everything from bubble wrap to sea shells.

Theatre Direct is thrilled to offer this program to Dovercourt Junior Public School that will host this project. The school will be welcoming the artists into the daily life of the school and enabling them to set up open design studios on the third floor that can be visited throughout the day.

Background: In the Spring of 2006, the Director of Akademie Schloss Solitude, Jean Baptiste Joly contacted Artistic Director Lynda Hill of Theatre Direct regarding this undertaking for young people. As a former Fellow (1995), she knew first hand the reputation of Solitude and embraced this project for its tremendous artistic vision and spirit of collaboration and saw it as a model of an exceptional arts education project for young people. As part of the company's intensified focus on its new local community in and around its soon to be new home at the Wychwood Green Arts Barns, Dovercourt School and its students were chosen as the recipients of this undertaking. The goals of the project fit perfectly with the school and its exemplary commitment to arts, literacy, diversity and community.

Akademie Schloss Solitude, with funding from the Ministry of Arts and Sciences Baden-Württemberg and the support of Theatre Direct funded through the Ontario Arts Council, Toronto Arts Council and the Canada Council for the Arts, brings this project to Dovercourt Junior Public School free of charge.

For more information on the project and process, visit www.theatredirect.on.ca or contact Theatre Direct at 416-537-4191.



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ABOUT THE ORGANIZATIONS

Akademie Schloss Solitude (Germany)

Director, Jean Baptiste Joly

Founded in 1990, the Akademie Schloss Solitude is a foundation under public law. According to its statutes, its task is to promote mainly younger, particularly gifted artists by means of residence fellowships, and by organizing public performances, readings, concerts and exhibitions by its residents. Akademie Schloss Solitude is subsidized by the State of Baden-Württemberg Lottery.

Guiding principles:

Within the international sphere of artistic grants and residency programs, the Akademie Schloss Solitude is unique; an institution with a truly new spirit. In the daily practice of this "Esprit Solitude," fresh solutions are found - always artistic and as un-bureaucratic as possible: the selection process, the opportunity to finance projects from one's own budget, the self-evident international atmosphere. Hundreds of artists have taken part in the Akademie's program since it's opening, creating a close-knit, global network of Solitude alumni that expands from year to year.

Theatre Direct (Canada)

Artistic Director, Lynda Hill

Founded in 1976, Theatre Direct is one the country's most reputable and established theatres for young people. The company consistently commissions, develops and presents original, thought-provoking and sophisticated theatre and strives to engage our audience through the process and presentation in innovative arts education programs. Trusted by educators and parents to grapple with and confront difficult subject matter and issues relevant to the lives of young people with compelling theatre, the company has explored racism, democratic engagement, sexuality and health and violence.

Theatre Direct's productions and plays for children, youth and young adults have garnered a host of awards and nomination and its unique theatre and education daylong programs around its productions of **And by the way, Miss...**, **The Demonstration**, **Beneath the Banyan Tree** have established the company as a leader in both artistic form and presentation.

Dovercourt Public School

Principal, Linda Conetta

Dovercourt is an inclusive school in which mutual respect and high achievement are expected of everyone. At Dovercourt, we work creatively and artistically to develop academic, social and technological excellence. These goals are met through co-operation and communication between home, school and community, so that students experience the joy of learning while practicing their individual social responsibilities.

Led by a dynamic Principal, Linda Conetta and supported by a committed staff and volunteer parent council, Dovercourt is located in the Dufferin/Dupont area serving students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6. The school is a heritage site and is about 105 years old. Dovercourt has approximately 250 students who come from a rich multicultural background, with about half speaking a language other than English at home.

Last year the school was awarded the **Indigo Love of Reading Fund** for its alternative pathway to literacy program and has been recognized for its environmental programs. Dovercourt Public School is also a participant in the **Living School** and **Learning Through the Arts** programs and is a **Toronto School on the Move**.