

For Immediate Release – February 8, 2011

Jesus Hops the ‘A’ Train at Pacific Theatre.

Vancouver, BC— *“You afraid ta die cuz your ass know only two things gonna happen when you die; either nuthin’ or somethin’ bad!!! Ain’t no God, ain’t no light.” – Angel Cruz*

Rikers Island, New York. Two men sit in solitary confinement, for 23 hours a day. Lucius Jenkins is a serial killer who awaits execution. Angel Cruz, new to the prison system, stands accused of a murder he doesn’t believe was a crime. Each day, these two prisoners are allowed one hour of sunlight, and one hour of conversation. In their separate “cages” they challenge each other with thoughts on God, faith, repentance and death. One supposedly has found God, while the other needs to find himself. Compelling, gritty, harrowing and thought provoking, **“Jesus Hopped the ‘A’ Train”** is an uncompromising drama about contradiction, contrition and hypocrisy.

The production, written by Stephen Adly Guirgis, first made a crater on the New York theatre landscape when it premiered in 2000 under the direction of Phillip Seymour Hoffman. The New York Times called it, *“Fire-breathing. A probing, intense portrait of lives behind bars, it has the courage of its intellectual restlessness. Written in flame.”*

Now under the direction of Jessie award-winning director **Angela Konrad** (*Grace*), **“Jesus hopped the ‘A’ Train”** will be leaving its mark on Vancouver’s Pacific Theatre’s stage.

When asked what attracted Konrad to the **‘A’ Train** she shares, *“It made me uncomfortable in the best possible way. Reading it, I was carried along by the characters’ stories and challenged by their moral dilemmas. My favourite plays are those that make me think and make me feel, and this play definitely does both.”*

Michael Wipf, Co-Artistic Producer of Glass City Theatre, the company producing the show as a guest production of Pacific Theatre, says *“This is a bit of a risky choice for audiences. It explores some issues of faith and forgiveness, and the gritty and sometimes grisly characters that propel the discussion forward are anything but “God or Christ-like”. It’s this contrast that makes ‘A’ Train so compelling.”*

“Jesus Hopped the ‘A’ Train” stars Glass City Theatre’s Co-Artistic Producer **Rob Olguin** as Angel Cruz, **Carl Kennedy** as Lucius Jenkins, **Kerri Norris** as lawyer Mary Jane Hanrahan, **Andrew McNee** as prison guard Valdez, and **Evan Frayne** as prison guard D’Amico.

The production is stage managed by **Christie Maxson** with lighting and set design by **Itai Erdal**. Costumes are designed by **Sabrina Evertt**, with sound design by **Joel Stephanson**. The production is proudly sponsored by John Fluevog Shoes

“Jesus Hopped the ‘A’ Train” runs from March 11th through to April 2nd. Tickets are \$16.50 - \$29.50 (not incl. HST). For more information contact Pacific Theatre at 604-731-5518 or visit the website www.pacifictheatre.org

Audience Advisory: Extreme course language.

Event at a Glance:

What: Theatre production of “Jesus Hopped the ‘A’ Train” by Stephen Adly Guirgis, produced by Glass City Theatre, guest production of Pacific Theatre.

Where: Pacific Theatre, 1440 West 12th Avenue, Vancouver, British Columbia V6H 1M8

Contact: 604.731.5518

When: Running from March 11 – April 2

Cost: Weekends: Adults: \$29.50, Student & Seniors: \$21.50 (not incl. HST).

Weeknights: Adults: \$27.50 Student & Seniors \$18.50 (not incl. HST).

Matinees: \$16.50 (not incl. HST).

More information: www.pacifictheatre.org

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Glass City Theatre is a young, artist run company, attempting to bridge the gap between emerging artists and established theatre professionals in Vancouver.

Photo Caption:

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