



NEWS RELEASE

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WOODY HARRELSON TO DIRECT KENNETH LONERGAN'S PLAY THIS IS OUR YOUTH IN TORONTO

Toronto –Woody Harrelson is coming to Toronto to direct the Canadian professional premiere of acclaimed playwright and screenwriter, **Kenneth Lonergan's** hit play, ***This is Our Youth***. ***This is Our Youth*** preview performances begin September 18th, and continue on September 19th and 20th. The show's **LIMITED RUN** begins **September 22nd** continuing to **October 18th** upstairs at **The Berkeley St. Theatre Upstairs, 26 Berkeley Street**.

"Woody Harrelson brings the right sensibility to this piece of theatre, and we are elated to be able to offer him an interesting vehicle to further explore his storytelling passions," said producer/actor **Marcello Cabezas**. "***This is Our Youth*** is the type of play that comes around once in a lifetime, so we look forward to a positive response from the community, hopefully equalling the critical success this show recently had in London's West End."

Harrelson won Academy Award ©, Golden Globe ©, and Screen Actors Guild © Nominations as Best Actor for his critically-acclaimed portrayal of controversial magazine publisher Larry Flynt in Milos Forman's drama, **THE PEOPLE VS. LARRY FLYNT**. Other films include **PLAY IT TO THE BONE**, **THE THIN RED LINE**, **THE HI-LO COUNTY**, **ED TV**, **WAG THE DOG**, **WELCOME TO SARAJEVO**, **KINGPIN**, **NATURAL BORN KILLERS**, **INDECENT PROPOSAL** and **WHITE MEN CAN'T JUMP**. In addition to his film work, Harrelson first endeared himself to millions of viewers as a favourite member of the ensemble cast of NBC's long-running hit comedy, **CHEERS**. For his performance as the affable bartender **Woody Boyd**, Harrelson won an Emmy Award© in 1988 and was nominated four more times during his eight-year stint on the show.

Beginning in 1999, Harrelson revived his commitment to return to the theatre by directing his own play, **FURTHEST FROM THE SUN** at the Theatre de la Juene Lune In Minneapolis. He went on to work in the theatre every year since, following next with the Roundabout's Broadway revival of the N. Richard Nash play **THE RAINMAKER** in 2000, and Sam Shepard's triumphant directorial return with, **THE LATE HENRY MOSS**, in 2001.

Most recently, Harrelson returned from London's West End where he appeared opposite Kyle MacLachlan in John Kolvenbach's ON AN AVERAGE DAY in the fall of 2002.

Continuing with his first love of working in the theatre, Harrelson is looking forward to directing ***This is Our Youth***. "I am excited to come to the beautiful city of Toronto to collaborate with three terrific Canadian actors in presenting what I hope will be a memorable evening of theatre."

As well as writing celebrated and critically acclaimed plays such as THIS IS OUR YOUTH (Drama Desk Best Play Award Nominee, 1996), WAVERLY GALLERY and LOBBY HERO, **Kenneth Lonergan** also wrote and directed the film YOU CAN COUNT ON ME (2000), that was nominated for an Academy Award © for Best Screenplay and the Waldo Salt Screenwriting Award and won the Sundance 2000 Grand Jury Prize. Lonergan's most recent accomplishments include his screenplays for THE GANGS OF NEW YORK, also nominated for an Academy Award© in 2002, ANALYZE THIS and THE ADVENTURES OF ROCKY AND BULLWINKLE.

In his witty and deeply touching first play, ***This is Our Youth*** exposes three individuals on the brink of adulthood and the ache at the heart of the slacker generation. Set in 1982 at the dawn of the Reagan era, the play depicts 48 hours in the lives of Dennis, Warren and Jessica – three middle-class teenagers from New York's Upper West Side.

The Toronto opening of ***This is Our Youth*** stars notable Canadian talent that include actors **Fabrizio Filippo** (WAYDOWNTOWN, BUFFY: THE VAMPIRE SLAYER, QUEER AS FOLK), **Marya Delver** (Genie Nomination- LAST WEDDING, WAYDOWNTOWN, BETTER THAN CHOCOLATE) and **Marcello Cabezas** (BLUE MURDER, VLADECK).

Past actors to take on the teenage roles in ***This is Our Youth*** include Matt Damon, Chris Klein, Hayden Christensen, Anna Paquin, Summer Phoenix, Casey Affleck, Colin Hanks, Heather Burns, Kieran Culkin and most recently Freddie Prinze Jr.

The Toronto opening of ***This is Our Youth*** is produced by maclDeas in association with Banack Awerbuck Productions, Matthew Bassett, Derrick Chua, Leron Cohen, Steven Moore, Carolyn Newman, Corey Ross and Michael Rubinoff.

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Ticket Information:

Monday – Saturday 8:00pm

Wednesday & Saturday matinees 2:00pm

Tickets Prices range from \$20 - \$65. To order call 416-368-3110 or Ticketmaster at 416-872-1111. To order tickets online, visit www.ticketmaster.ca. For more show information, please visit www.thisisouryouth.ca. LIMITED NUMBER OF \$20 TICKETS FOR STUDENTS AND ARTS GROUPS FOR MONDAY EVENING AND WEDNESDAY MATINEE PERFORMANCES.

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