

# ACTORS THEATRE OF WINDSOR



## **For Immediate Release**

January 19, 2006

**Actors Theatre of Windsor**, Windsor's newest professional theatre company, announces its mandate and a program overview for 2006 and 2007.

**Mission.** The work of Actors Theatre of Windsor is defined and generated by the singular vision of the artists with whom we collaborate in order to entertain, move and delight. Our work speaks, in particular, to the themes and issues surrounding our lives at the geographical and political border, which both separates and connects our Windsor-Detroit audience, in full knowledge that in doing so, we can create work with the potency to reach theatre audiences everywhere.

**Foster, produce and present a repertoire from the full-range of theatrical literature, from new plays, to accessible and illuminating productions of classical texts.**

**Support the creative development and risk taking of both established and emerging theatre artists.**

**Be a leader in identifying synergies and in seeking out process improvements to optimize resources for the production of theatre in Windsor-Essex, in the spirit of community and collaboration.**

**Be a catalyst for the exploration and development of networks for the presentation of theatre in Southwestern Ontario and South Eastern Michigan regions and beyond.**

**What We Do.** The public programming of **Actors Theatre of Windsor** was, at its inception, established with two core components: **ATW Main Stage**, and **Actors Umbrella**.

**ATW Main Stage** is the professional theatre company which produces our season of shows. ATW Main Stage shows may, on occasion, bring our work to a wider public by co-producing with other professional companies, presenting at festivals and other venues across Canada and the US for touring purposes. ATW Main Stage includes audience development initiatives such as post-show discussion evenings, and audience study guides.

**Actors Umbrella** is about access to information and resources to sustain the growth of all of our theatre community. ATW recognizes the importance of supporting the development of the elements of a thriving and mature theatre community, which include: an informed and aware audience who support and believe in the value of theatre in the community; strong drama programs in schools; community theatre which inspires and allows opportunities for growth; excellent college and university programs; a range of semi-professional and professional companies to allow artists to earn a living as they develop their craft and ongoing quality professional training to keep challenging them to grow.

*For Actor, Directors and Teachers:* Young Actors Academy; The Summer Intern Program; The Improvisational Theatre League for Secondary Schools; Courses on Basic and Intermediate Acting Technique; Folger Shakespeare Institute courses and certification; Master-Class Series for Professional Actor and Director Development; event-based performing opportunities for learning and recreation.

*For Theatres:* The 'Windsor-Essex Theatre Calendar' in partnership with WEDNET; theatre 'Roles and Responsibilities' workshops; 'Best Practices Speakers Series' where local theatres can share what is working for them and why with their peers.

*For Everyone Online:* Actors Umbrella on the web, culls links and explanations/mini-reviews for selected sites: 'The Resource Room', for researching and developing careers in theatre and 'the Green Room' with links on actors, acting, theatre and film to increase general knowledge about the business of theatre and film, or just for general interest.

**Actors Theatre of Windsor** plans to launch the above initiatives on a monthly basis throughout 2006 and 2007.

Mona el Baroudi and Gordon Mackenzie, the co-founders of **Actors Theatre of Windsor**, are trained, acting professionals who are members of Canadian Actors Equity Association (CAEA) and the Association of Radio and Television Artists (ACTRA) and have been living in downtown Windsor for the past 7 years, with their two daughters. They have both been active working in theatre, and multi-media respectively, in Ontario and Michigan during this time.

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