

**MEDIA RELEASE, February 7, 2007**



*The Citadel*

**In Co-production with the Manitoba Theatre Centre**

Presents

*The  
Constant  
Wife*

**by Somerset Maugham**

**Directed by Bob Baker**

**Starring  
Brenda Robins  
Fiona Reid**

**February 10 – March 4, 2007, Shoctor Theatre**

*"A sparkling comedy."*  
**The New York Post**

*"Delightful and irresistible."*  
**New York Daily News**

*"Deliciously witty work by Maugham and an antecedent to the women of Desperate Housewives  
and Sex and the City."*  
**Variety**

**EDMONTON, AB** – The Citadel is delighted to present the hilarious comedy, ***The Constant Wife***, by Somerset Maugham. We are pleased to welcome back respected Canadian actors **Brenda Robins**, who has previously performed in **Bob Baker's** production of *Present Laughter* (2001-2002) and **Fiona Reid**, previously seen at the Citadel in *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1998-1999). Ms. Reid will be receiving the Order of Canada, on the ninth of February, for her work in Canadian Theatre.

Written in 1926, this exceedingly relevant social comedy could well have been the pilot for the hit TV show *Desperate Housewives*, with its sex, scandal and backstabbing. If you loved *Present Laughter* and *Blithe Spirit*, you'll find this elegant and stylish production dangerously irresistible.

"The first time I read this play I knew it would appeal to Edmonton audiences," says Citadel Theatre Artistic Director, and Director for *The Constant Wife*, **Bob Baker**. "Even though it was written 80 years ago, the language is as fresh and the timing is as sharp as anything you'd see today. Maugham's enlightened views on social politics, feminism and marriage are surprising and refreshing."

**William Somerset Maugham** was born January 25, 1874 in Paris, France. He studied in London, eventually qualifying as a surgeon at St Thomas's Hospital and conducted a medical practice in the slums of the East End. It was here that he found material for his first novel *Liza of Lambeth* (1897). During World War I, Maugham's best-known novel, *Of Human Bondage* (1915) was published. Maugham also developed a reputation as a short-story writer. Popular plays written by Maugham include *The Circle* (1921); *East of Suez* (1922); *The Constant Wife* (1926) and the anti-war play, *For Services Rendered* (1932).

In his later years Maugham wrote his autobiography, *Summing Up* (1938) and works of fiction such as *The Razor's Edge* (1945); *Catalina* (1948) and *Quartet* (1949). Much of his work was also made into film and television including, *Of Human Bondage* (1934; 1946; 1964); *The Razor's Edge* (1946; 1984); *Up at the Villa* (2000); the recent *Being Julia* (2004) and *The Painted Veil*, now playing in local theatres starring Edward Norton and Naomi Watts. Somerset Maugham died December 16, 1965, in Nice, France. He was 91.

Along with Ms. Robins and Ms. Reid, *The Constant Wife* features **April Banigan** (*A Christmas Carol*); **Kevin Bundy** (*Citadel Theatre debut*); **Vanessa Holmes** (*Trying*); **Daniel Kash** (*Citadel debut*); **Ross McMillan** (*A Christmas Carol*); **Maggie Nagle** (*Citadel debut*); **John Youne** (*Citadel debut*).

Joining Mr. Baker on the creative team are Set and Costume Designer **Leslie Frankish** (*A Christmas Carol*; *Peter Pan*); Lighting Design by **Robert Thomson** (*A Christmas Carol*; *Peter Pan*); Original Music by **Don Horsburgh** (*West Side Story*; *Blithe Spirit*); Dialect Coaching by Meredith Scott (*A Christmas Carol*; *Equus*); Stage Managed by **Cheryl L. Hoover** (*Peter Pan*; *Equus*); Assistant Stage Managed by **Michelle Lagasse** (*Citadel debut*); Apprentice Stage Managed by **Lauren Thomas** (*Wingfield's Inferno*).

***The Constant Wife*** will appear at the Citadel Theatre from February 10 to March 4, 2007. Tickets can be purchased by phone, **780.425.1820**, online at **citadeltheatre.com** or in person at the **Box Office, 9828 101 A Avenue**.

(more)

**The Constant Wife** is produced with the generous support of:

Season Sponsor **Epcor**; Series Sponsor: **Classic Landmarks**

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**The Edmonton Journal; CTV; EZ Rock**

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(see below for ticket prices)

### **Ticket Prices**

**Call 780.425.1820 or purchase online at [citadeltheatre.com](http://citadeltheatre.com)**

	<b>Adult Tickets</b>	<b>Senior/Student Tickets</b>
<b>Previews</b>	\$45	\$35
<b>Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday</b>	\$50	\$40
<b>Thursday Matinee</b>	\$45	\$35
<b>Friday</b>	\$50	\$40
<b>Saturday/Sunday Matinee</b>	\$55	\$45
<b>Saturday</b>	\$60	\$50
<b>Sunday</b>	\$50	\$40

GST will be added. Tickets subject to availability. Prices subject to change.

#### **PREVIEWS:**

Saturday, February 10; Sunday, February 11; Tuesday, February 13; Wednesday, February 14.

#### **OPENING NIGHT:**

Thursday, February 15.

#### **CLOSING NIGHT:**

Sunday, March 4.

All shows are 8:00 p.m., nightly, with 2:00 p.m. matinees on Sundays.

There is a 2:00 p.m. matinee on Saturday, March 3.

There are no performances on Mondays.

(more)

Call our Box Office at 425.1820, toll free 1.888.425.1820, or visit us online at [citadeltheatre.com](http://citadeltheatre.com)

What the critics are saying about ***The Constant Wife***:

*"Extraordinary! Everything about *The Constant Wife* is such a pleasure."*  
-*The New Yorker*

*"A sparkling comedy."* -*The New York Post*

*"Delightful and irresistible."* -*New York Daily News*

*"Deliciously witty work by Maugham and an antecedent to the women of *Desperate Housewives* and *Sex and the City*."*  
-*Variety*

*"Quite astounding in its modernity."* - *London Times*

*"Gripping stuff, especially when one considers that it was written in 1926."*  
-*The London Times*