

MEDIA RELEASE, October 25, 2006



The Citadel

Presents

Hana's Suitcase

Produced by Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People (LKTYP)

Written by Emil Sher

Based on the book *Hana's Suitcase* by Karen Levine

Published by Second Story Press

Directed by Allen MacInnis

Assistant Directed by Stewart Arnott

October 28 – November 12, 2006

Shoctor Theatre

"A charming, thought-provoking play."

Now Magazine

"A delicate and moving play."

The Globe and Mail

EDMONTON, AB – The Citadel Theatre is honoured to present *Hana's Suitcase*, part of the ATCO Gas KidsPlay Series, on the Shoctor Stage from October 29 until November 12, 2006. This play is recommended for those 10 years of age and up, grades 5-12, and their families.

Based on the multi-award winning bestseller by Canadian producer and author Karen Levine, *Hana's Suitcase* is a story of recovered identity. It brings to light the life and fate of two particular Jewish children who lived in Czechoslovakia during the Nazi occupation. It is the story of a few
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Japanese children who yearned to solve a mystery – just who exactly was the girl whose name and birthdate were painted on an old battered suitcase provided by the Auschwitz Museum.

Employing a cast of eight and using multi-media and other innovative staging techniques, the play takes place between two time-frames: Tokyo in 2000, when the children of the Holocaust Education Centre and its Director, **Fumiko Ishioka** began their search into the identity of Hana Brady; and Czechoslovakia in the 1930s and 40s, where Hana lived with her family and ultimately became a victim of the Nazis.

"The idea to commission a play version came to me right after reading the book. The same morning I came into work with this idea, Emil called to say he wanted to write it. Clearly, we were meant to be working together on this extraordinary project", says **Allen MacInnis**, Artistic Director LKTYP.

The story of *Hana's Suitcase* was first told in a radio documentary produced by **Karen Levine**. Its second form was as a book for children, also by Karen. The book has been translated into more than 10 languages and is available in over 30 countries. It has won 16 book awards internationally and has now been on the bestseller list for over 36 months. The impact and worldwide success of the book sparked enormous attention. A television documentary and a feature-length documentary have been aired and two films based on *Hana's Suitcase* are now in the works.

Hana's Suitcase features **Richard Binsley** (last seen at the Citadel in *The Affections of May*); **Ella Chan** (*Citadel debut*); **Jo Chim** (*Citadel debut*); **Paul Dunn** (*A Christmas Carol*); **Jessica Greenberg** (*Citadel debut*); **Helen Taylor** (*Twelfth Night*); **Eric Trask** (*Citadel debut*); **Dale Yim** (*Citadel debut*).

Joining Mr. MacInnis (*Citadel debut*) in bringing *Hana's Suitcase* to Edmonton are Assistant Director **Stewart Arnott** (*Pride and Prejudice*); Set and Costume Designer **Teresa Przybylski** (*Citadel debut*); Sound Designer **John Gzowski** (*Citadel debut*); Lighting Designer **Andrea Lundy** (*Citadel debut*); Production Dramaturg **Nancy Guertin** (*Citadel debut*); Script Dramaturg **Stephen Colella** (*Citadel debut*); Projection Coordinator **Daniele Guevara** (*Citadel debut*); Stage Manager **Michael Sinclair** (*Citadel debut*); Assistant Stage Manager **Trina Sookhai** (*Citadel debut*).

LKTYP has sourced historical images and documents from around the world for the projections used in *Hana's Suitcase*. The children's art used in the production is from *Terezin's Child Drawings Collection*, Jewish Museum in Prague. The child artists, Jiri Beutler, Hana Brady, Pavel Lion, Erika Stranska, Pavel Sonnenschein, and Nelly Silvinova all perished in Auschwitz in 1944. All names projected in the production are of people who traveled by train to Auschwitz on October 23, 1944, the same transport that Hana Brady was on.

LKTYP and the **Citadel Theatre** would like to thank the following for the use of images in the production: **George Brady**; Canada Archives; Nancy Guertin; The Jewish Museum in Prague; United States Holocaust Memorial Museum; Terezin Memorial. (*The views or opinions expressed in this play, and the context in which the images are used, do not necessarily reflect the views or policy of, nor imply approval or endorsement by, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*). Archival photographs and documents obtained by Nancy Guertin.

LKTYP, **Emil Sher**, **Karen Levine** and **Second Story Press** would like to thank **Fumiko Ishioka** and **George Brady** and his family for their generous co-operation in developing this production, especially for sharing their photographs, family keepsakes and historical documents.

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Hana's Suitcase will appear at the Citadel Theatre from October 28 to November 12, 2006. Tickets can be purchased by phone, **780.425.1820**, online at **citadeltheatre.com** or in person at the **Box Office, 9828 101 A Avenue**. This play is recommended for children 10 years of age and up, grades 5-12.

Hana's Suitcase is produced with the generous support of:

Season Sponsor **Epcor**; Series Sponsor: **ATCO Gas**
Education Sponsors: **Great West Life; Canada Life; London Life**

Production Sponsors: **Acklands-Grainger; Cameron Development Corporation; City Lumber Corporation; Colt Engineering and CoSyn Technology; Corbett Smith Bresee LLP; General Recycling; Industrial Alliance Pacific; Lehigh Inland Cement Limited; Mammoet Canada Western Ltd; PCL; Servus Credit Union; Syncrude Canada; Top-co Industries; Ralph and Gay Young.**

Thank you to:

Terezin Memorial Museum: Alice Berankova; Ludmila Chladkova; Daniela Linkova; Jaroslava Nytlova; CanStage; Jewish Museum in Prague: Michaela Hajkova, Martin Jelinek, Marie Zahradnikova, Richard Moore (Cimbalon), Elsie Nighswander; United States Holocaust Memorial Museum: Maren Read; Holocaust Centre of Toronto: Mary Siklos; SoulPepper Theatre Company; Tarragon Theatre; Toronto Operetta Theatre; York University; Faculty of Fine Arts: Professor Belarie Zatzman.

The Citadel Theatre would like to thank **Gayle Tallman**, Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton; **Debbie Shoctor**, Archivist at the Jewish Archives & Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta; and **PosterTech**.

Alberta Foundation for the Arts; The City of Edmonton; Edmonton Arts Council; Canada Council for the Arts

The Edmonton Journal; CBC Television; CBC Radio One; Pattison

This tour of Hana's Suitcase has been made possible through the generosity of RBC Capital Markets

Family Programming at the Citadel is sponsored by Bill and Mary Jo Robbins

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See below for ticket prices and dates/times.

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Ticket Prices

Call 780.425.1820 or purchase online at citadeltheatre.com

	Adult Tickets	Child Tickets
Thursday, 7:00 p.m.	\$30	\$20
Saturday, 2:00 p.m.	\$30	\$20
Sunday, 2:00 p.m.	\$30	\$20

GST will be added. Tickets subject to availability, prices subject to change.

Please call the School Booking Coordinator, 428.2127 for tickets to School Matinees

SCHOOL MATINEES

Monday to Tuesday, October 30 to November 2

Monday to Tuesday, November 6 to November 9

October 30, 31- 9:30 a.m.

November 1- 9:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m.

November 2- 9:30 a.m.

November 6, 7- 9:30 a.m.

November 7- 1:00 p.m.

November 8- 9:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m.

November 9- 9:30 a.m.

PUBLIC PERFORMANCES

Saturday and Sunday, October 28, 29- 2:00 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday, November 4, 5- 2:00 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday, November 11, 12- 2:00 p.m.

OPENING NIGHT:

Thursday, November 2, 7:00 p.m.

CLOSING NIGHT:

Sunday, November 12

Call our Box Office at 425.1820, toll free 1.888.425.1820, or visit us online at citadeltheatre.com