

MEDIA RELEASE, April 19, 2007



Announces the third play in the Rice Series

The Citadel Theatre presents the Crow's Theatre Production of

i, claudia

**By Kristen Thomson
Directed by Chris Abraham**

Starring Liisa Repo-Martel

***Another Canadian play is added to the stellar line-up to make
seven Canadian works for next season.***

"A masterful accomplishment! Brilliant, charming and heartbreaking."
The National Post

"Blissfully funny, unexpectedly touching, 'I Claudia' is a must see."
The Toronto Star

"A touching one-woman show."
The Winnipeg Free Press

"You just might laugh until you cry."
The Winnipeg Sun

(more)

**October 9 – 28, 2007
Rice Theatre**

EDMONTON, AB – The Citadel Theatre is pleased to announce the third play in the 2007-2008 Rice Theatre Series. *I, Claudia*, the award winning play by Canadian playwright **Kristen Thomson** will open the series in October of 2007, starring award-winning actress **Liisa Repo-Martel** and directed by award-winning director, **Chris Abraham**.

This extraordinary play maps the raw but beautiful interior world of a misfit adolescent through four wonderfully exaggerated comic characters: Claudia, her grandfather, her father's new girlfriend and the school janitor. Claudia, a preteen girl, finds herself suffering the triple afflictions of puberty, unpopularity and her parents' divorce. Astonishingly expressive masks cast a spell that reaches into the heart and soul of Claudia and alternately moves the audience from raucous laughter to pin-drop stillness.

Citadel Theatre audiences will recall both Ms. Repo-Martel from her extraordinary performance in 2003-2004's *The Syringa Tree*, where she amazed with her portrayal of 23 characters in a two-hour period. Audiences will also recall Mr. Abraham's direction of the incomparable *Frozen*, from the 2005-2006 Rice Series, an incredible accomplishment using minimum set, key lighting and incredible actors. Mr. Abraham is now the Artistic Director of Toronto's **Crow's Theatre** (*Time After Time: The Chet Baker Project; What Lies Before Us*).

"In 2004 I said 'if there's an actress in Canada who will have audiences forgetting there is only one performer on stage, it's Liisa' and in 2005 I introduced Chris as a 'rising star'," says Citadel Theatre Artistic Director **Bob Baker**. "Both actors are firmly entrenched in Canadian film and theatre with Chris having won awards for directing the film version of *I, Claudia* and Liisa continuing to amaze audiences wherever she performs. It's a rare, wonderful opportunity to have this husband and wife team together and Citadel audiences will be amazed at what the pair, together with the playwright, will accomplish.

"Together with Conor McPherson's *Shining City* and Colleen Murphy's *The December Man* (*L'homme de décembre*), we feel Kristen Thompson's *I, Claudia* wonderfully completes a series that is contemporary, entertaining and thought-provoking."

I, Claudia won the Dora Award (Toronto) in 2001 for Best Play.

I, Claudia is produced with the support of:

Season Sponsor: **Epcor**

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

The Edmonton Journal; Citytv

Visit www.citadeltheatre.com for a detailed list of the lineup for next season. Subscriptions are now on sale. Tickets for individual plays go on sale August 27, 2007.

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