



NEWS RELEASE

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WINNIPEG WARMED UP TO CHURCHILL

“Ms. Churchill is a constant surprise” – New York Times

WINNIPEG, FEBRUARY 9, 2010 – British playwright Caryl Churchill made her mark in Winnipeg as the 2010 Master Playwright Festival celebrated its 10th anniversary by honouring its first female playwright. **CHURCHILLFEST** gave theatre-goers the chance to experience provoking, often controversial political works that spoke to issues such as feminism, capitalism and colonialism. While Churchill herself remained in the shadows, her work spoke quite loudly.

The momentum of **CHURCHILLFEST** grew quickly, with 152 festival passes grabbed up. Featuring a playwright who gets people talking, the festival benefitted from word-of-mouth. The free lecture series attracted 189 people. Overall paid attendance reached an impressive 9,613.

Executive Producer Chuck McEwen felt the festival was a success. “Caryl Churchill, the 2010 Master Playwright, got people talking with plays featuring famous women from history, underworld fairies and characters struggling with their beliefs. Her challenging and entertaining work proved, once again, to be a great opportunity for theatre lovers to immerse themselves in the work of a playwright who pushes the boundaries of theatre,” he stated. “The 15 partner companies participating in the festival took on quite a challenge by staging Churchill’s works, and they were thrilled to see so many people out enjoying this unique festival.”

On behalf of the participating companies, we thank Canadian Heritage, the Winnipeg Free Press, The Fairmont Winnipeg, Industry Images, VIA Rail Canada and the King’s Head Pub for their support of **CHURCHILLFEST**.

2011 Master Playwright August Strindberg

“I am a devilish fellow, who has mastered many arts.” — August Strindberg

A Swedish author and playwright known as one of the developers of modern theatre, August Strindberg has the talent to make anything believable. He worked primarily in two styles: naturalism and expressionism, and he changed theatre with his use of colloquial and realistic speech in historical dramas. Later, he began experimenting with symbolism. Firmly entrenched on the outside of the literary upper echelon, Strindberg did not try to establish himself as Sweden’s national writer, but instead, he attacked the nation’s central values and official history. His best-known play is *Miss Julie*. Quite a prolific writer, Strindberg’s other work includes *The Dance of Death*, *A Dream Play* and *The Ghost Sonata*. A man of many talents, Strindberg, who was close friends with Edvard Munch and Paul Gauguin, was also a telegrapher, a painter, a photographer and an alchemist. He set himself apart by critiquing the society around him.

For more information, please visit www.masterplaywrightfest.com

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