



NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

SHAWFEST 2012 CELEBRATES BRITISH DRAMA'S BEST-KNOWN REVOLUTIONARY
Festival passes on sale now at the MTC box office

January 19 - February 5, 2012

"IF YOU CANNOT GET RID OF THE FAMILY SKELETON, YOU MAY AS WELL MAKE IT DANCE"
—George Bernard Shaw

WINNIPEG, December 6, 2011 – When his plays were first performed in Victorian England, they caused audience pandemonium and were outright banned, but Winnipeggers will soon have the chance to see the plays of George Bernard Shaw, the man who is said to have revolutionized British drama.

Passes are now on sale for the **12TH ANNUAL MASTER PLAYWRIGHT FESTIVAL**, the perfect gift for the theatre lover or budding socialist in your life. The festival showcases the work of a man who wasn't afraid to take on the social hypocrisy of his time with his trademark wit, delving into topics like slum landlords, prostitution, women's rights, religion, politics, ruling-class apathy and democracy.

For only \$75, festival-goers can experience all 16 **SHAWFEST** productions, saving more than 50% on the regular ticket price. With productions and readings by 101.5 UMFM, Actors' Fund of Canada, Black Hole Theatre Company, Manitoba Association of Playwrights, Merlyn Productions, Nomadic Players, Resonator Theatrical, Shoestring Players, Tara Players, Theatre on Tap, Winnipeg Mennonite Theatre Society and zone41 theatre, this is the best chance for Manitobans to experience local independent theatre outside the Fringe. Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre's production of *Mrs. Warren's Profession*, as well as a free lecture series, a fundraiser for PAL Winnipeg, a literary roast and a screening of *My Fair Lady* complete the festival line-up.

To buy a **SHAWPASS**, call the MTC Box Office at 942-6537 or toll-free at 1-877-446-4500. Individual tickets are available for purchase from participating companies. For details, visit www.masterplaywrightfest.com. The festival launch will take place on January 11, 2012 at 2pm. More details to follow.

The performing companies wish to thank: Canadian Heritage, Winnipeg Free Press, The Fairmont Winnipeg, Winnipeg's Creative Studio and the King's Head Pub for their support of **SHAWFEST 2012**.

About Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre's Master Playwright Festival

In 2001, MTC chose to honour Samuel Beckett at the first Master Playwright Festival. The winter festival provides opportunities for both professional and emerging artists from a variety of organizations to produce work under the umbrella of a larger festival, while giving audiences an opportunity to thoroughly immerse themselves in the work of a playwright who may not have a regular home on Winnipeg stages.

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For more information, please contact:

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SHAWFEST 2012 is proudly presented by:

