

FINAL WORLD STAGE PERFORMANCE OF THE 2010-11 SEASON

Rwanda's ISÔKO Theatre makes their North American debut performing Colleen Wagner's award-winning play *The Monument*

TORONTO, ON (April 20, 2011) – Harbourfront Centre's distinguished **World Stage 2010-11** season comes to a close with Colleen Wagner's timeless play ***The Monument***, directed by Jennifer H. Capraru. This World Stage presentation marks the first time Rwanda's **ISÔKO Theatre**, founded by Capraru, will perform in Canada. *The Monument* runs **April 27 through May 1** at Harbourfront Centre's **Brigantine Room** and will be performed in Kinyarwanda with English surtitles.

***Media note:** a post-show Q & A will follow each performance, a remarkable opportunity for media and ticket holders to speak with the performers on their very first visit to Canada; and learn of their personal histories as artists, creators and survivors of the 1994 genocide.

There are numerous ticket discounts for students, seniors and packages available for groups, the public can call 416-973-4000 or visit www.harbourfrontcentre.com/worldstage1011

The Monument, written by Canadian playwright Wagner, has been translated into several languages and won the Governor General's Award for Drama in 1996. The play dissects the roles of victim and perpetrator in unflinching detail in the milieu of a recent genocide. Intimately staged with song and African drumming, ISÔKO Theatre's staging of *The Monument* uses the context of the Rwandan genocide to paint a contemporary portrait of a country whose resilient voice continues to be a beacon of hope and reconciliation.

Capraru founded ISÔKO Theatre shortly after working on the Canadian feature film *Shake Hands with the Devil* in Rwanda in 2006. As the artistic director of ISÔKO she continues to work closely with Rwandans to build an ensemble and an audience for modern Rwandan theatre, while stimulating dialogue on reconciliation, creating inter-cultural exchange, and providing training for emerging Rwandan playwrights, actors, directors and designers. Capraru is also the artistic director of Theatre Asylum in Toronto.

****Media Note:** Images available here:
<http://www.harbourfrontcentre.com/worldstage1011/media.cfm#monument>

The Monument

ISÔKO Theatre (Rwanda)

April 27-30, 8 p.m., matinee performance May 1, 2 p.m. – post-show Q & A to follow each performance

Approximate running time: 70 minutes

Post-show Q & A to follow each performance

Harbourfront Centre's Brigantine Room, 235 Queens Quay West

Box office: 416-973-4000 or www.harbourfrontcentre.com/worldstage1011

Tickets are **\$15-\$45**, with special discounts available for students and arts workers. Complete information about all World Stage performances, ticket discounts and other information is available by phone at 416-973-4000, or online at harbourfrontcentre.com

Cast and Crew:

Written by Colleen Wagner

Directed by Jennifer Herszman Capraru

Translated by Emmanuel Munyarukumbuzi and Anselme Nirere

With Jackeline Umubyeyi, Jean Paul Uwayezu, Ruth Shanel Nirere,
Solange Liza Kamikaze

Mise-en-scène Jennifer Herszman Capraru

Lighting Design Sandra Marcroft

Company Manager Raoul Rugamba

Stage Manager Natalie Giselle

Harbourfront Centre's World Stage 2010-11 gratefully acknowledges the support of Department of Canadian Heritage, Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, Toronto Arts Council and Intercontinental, the official host hotel of World Stage.

ABOUT HARBOURFRONT CENTRE

Harbourfront Centre is an innovative, non-profit cultural organization which provides internationally renowned programming in the arts, culture, education and recreation, all within a collection of distinctive venues on a 10-acre site it operates in the heart of Toronto's downtown waterfront.

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Media Contact or to RSVP for opening night tickets April 27, 8 p.m.: Cary Mignault, 416-973-4655, cmignault@harbourfrontcentre.com