



PRESS RELEASE

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Teesri Duniya Theatre inaugurates its 2014-2015 Season with the Quebec premier of **Corpus**. Written by playwright Darrah Teitel and directed by Liz Valdez, it has a stellar cast: Holly Gauthier-Frankel, Melissa Paulson, Davide Chiazzese, Susan Bain, Ian Geldart, and Gilles Plouffe. Presented by the MAI (Montreal arts interculturels) as part of their sixteenth performing arts season. the play will run from November 13-20, 2014.

Corpus won Darrah Teitel The Calgary Peace Prize (2007), In The Beginning Jewish Playwrights contest (2009), and the Canadian Jewish Playwrights Competition (2010).

Megan is a brilliant Canadian genocide scholar who obsessively collects the stories of war crimes through the internet. She stumbles across an unlikely relationship between a Jewish prisoner in Auschwitz and the wife of a Nazi officer. While investigating their dark and seductive history, Megan is spurred on her quest for academic fame by the unexpected charms of her online lover. **Corpus** is a Holocaust story with a twist, one in which the third generation must confront the legacy of re-telling the personal stories.

The Holocaust, by any measure, is one of the most gruesome events of the 20th century. It illustrates the depths of degradation to which human being can sink when tribalism and greed are allowed to reign. It has seared into our consciousness the expression "Never Again." The Holocaust serves as a potent warning, in today's conflict-ridden world, that without constant vigilance, compassion and decency, human beings descend into brutality.

Q&A follows each Friday night performance. Post performance panel-discussions will take place each Sunday matinee. In class activities for schools, with artists from the production and Teesri Duniya Theatre will be available

November 13 – 30, 2014

Wednesday – Saturday all shows are 8 pm

Sunday matinees are 3 pm

\$25-Adult; \$20-Student/Senior; \$15 group (10 or more)

Montreal arts interculturels, 3680 Jean-Mance, Montreal

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More on the play, playwright and the company

Corpus

Set in contemporary Montreal and Berlin, and Auschwitz during World War II, **Corpus** takes as its starting point the personal and academic struggles of Megan White, a graduate student whose dissertation focuses on explaining the “formative conditions” that shaped the attitudes and behavior of Nazi perpetrators and their supporters. Using the internet to track down an ageing unrepentant Nazi woman who feels compelled to talk to someone about her past, Megan penetrates private chat rooms and gains the confidence of the participants as research subjects. She wishes to understand the nature of racism in its totality: what it is to be a Nazi. She aspires, through this work, to become an academic star.

In her research, Megan discovers Eva Wolfe, an ageing Berlin woman with an untold past. Eva wishes to entrust her wartime story to someone who will value it. Smitten with a member of the Sonderkommando – Jewish prisoners forced to aid in the killing and disposal of corpses – she schemes to rescue him and flee with him close to the war’s end. Eva’s memory of unlikely romance between a Nazi and a Jew captivates Megan, not only for its affirmation of the power of love amidst evil, but also for its potential of making her a celebrity.

Technology plays an important part in the play. Without the Internet and the benefits of digitization, Megan’s research would be impossible. Her several digitized identities coalesce when she encounters a self-proclaimed squeegee kid from Berlin, who turns out to be Eva’s grandson. Yet, as **Corpus** demonstrates, the technologies that seemingly bring us closer can also reinforce distances. These distances remind us of the chasm that separates us from the past, that as much as we attempt to do so, we cannot enter into the past or view it dispassionately.

The play asks difficult questions about the proliferation of academic work on the Holocaust and the public fascination with it, as well as the varied motivations of belated witnesses and those who witness for them.

Darrah Teitel, the playwright

A graduate of the University of Toronto and The National Theatre School of Canada’s play writing program, Darrah Teitel lives in Ottawa and is Playwright-in-Residence at the Great Canadian Theatre Company. Her plays have been produced in Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Ottawa and San Francisco. **Corpus** won Darrah Teitel The Calgary Peace Prize (2007), In The Beginning Jewish Playwrights contest (2009), and the Canadian Jewish Playwrights Competition (2010).

Teesri Duniya Theatre www.teesriduniya.com

Teesri Duniya Theatre is dedicated to producing, developing and presenting socially and politically relevant plays based on the cultural experiences of diverse communities. Inter and multicultural aesthetic, plurality, cultural relations, relevance and compelling stories are the defining features of our work. We are committed to multiethnic (as opposed to color blind) casting.

For more information, contact Linda Levesque: info@teesriduniya.com or call 514-848-0238