

MEDIA RELEASE

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SCHOOLHOUSE CASTING ANNOUNCEMENT

Prince Edward County, ON, (May 28, 2009): Mounting professional theatre in a rural setting requires imagination, ingenuity and the ability to lure some of the country's brightest theatrical talents out to the sticks. Fortunately, Festival Players is well situated in one of the loveliest areas of southeastern Ontario and is a short drive from two entertainment mainstays, Toronto and Ottawa. One play this season, *Schoolhouse*, has not only signed some seasoned acting veterans, but also takes advantage of the surfeit of local talent available. The cast mixes young and old, professional and amateur for a delightful ensemble.

Playing the lead in *Schoolhouse*, the season's second offering, is Christine Brubaker of Toronto. She is adding the role of Miss Linton, the brand new schoolmistress facing her first class of students, to an already impressive acting resume. This Dora award-winning actress has graced the stages of some of the biggest theatre companies in Toronto (The Canadian Stage Company, Nightwood Theatre, Factory Theatre and others) and Ottawa (National Arts Centre and Great Canadian Theatre Company) and has enjoyed principal roles in many Canadian television programs.

The role of Ewart Rokosh, "the training school boy" who is Miss Linton's biggest challenge, has been filled by another Torontonion, George Brown College student Adam Cunningham. Adam is making his professional theatre debut with Festival Players.

Courtenay J. Stevens' acting career has taken him across the country and back, landing him on the stages of the Stratford Festival and Caravan Farm Theatre and onscreen for CBC and Sullivan Entertainment, among many other credits. In *Schoolhouse*, he plays the role of Clinton, a local farmer

Paul Rainville, who is taking on the role of the blustering Colonel Bunnett, the Inspector of Schools, is a native of Ottawa. A staple at the GCTC and NAC, Paul is well known in the Ottawa theatre scene and is an accomplished voice actor.

Schoolhouse Director Jennifer Brewin, another Ottawan, is joining Festival Players for a second season, having directed *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)* in 2008. She recently completed three years as Artistic Associate of English Theatre at the National Arts Centre. Jennifer has previously served as Co-Artistic Director of the Caravan Farm Theatre in BC and has recently been named Artistic Director of Theatre Columbus, a highly respected theatre company in Toronto. Festival Players is excited to welcome her back.

In a last bit of casting news, Festival Players is still looking for a thespian pig. Will consider a cow or a sheep. Must work for scale. Or hay. Please contact 613.399.5677.

Schoolhouse by Leanna Brodie, runs July 22 to August 8 outdoors at historic Macaulay House in Picton.

High resolution photos of cast members available.

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