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**December 4, 2009**

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## **SFU Woodward's Inaugural Program Lineup Features Outstanding Theatre and Dance Presentations**

Classic theatre and dance artistry will meet and merge with high-tech innovation in a remarkable lineup of dance, theatre and visual arts presentations at SFU Woodward's between January and June 2010. This Inaugural Program celebrates the new Simon Fraser University Contemporary Arts complex at 149 West Hastings St., which opens its doors to the public in January. In addition to Robert Lepage's *The Blue Dragon/Le Dragon Bleu*, the multimedia stage show *SPINE* and the Audain Gallery exhibit *First Nations/Second Nature*, three other stage productions are included in the Inaugural Program. They are:

**The Show Must Go On (Jan. 20–23)** – Presented as part of the PuSh Festival

French choreographer **Jérôme Bel** is a pivotal figure in international dance and *The Show Must Go On* is regarded as his signature stage work. It's both charmed and outraged audiences around Europe and North America since 2001, winning a New York theatre Bessie Award along the way. Featuring an illustrious group of 20 local individuals, accompanied by a D.J. with an extensive collection of pop tunes, Bel's masterpiece offers fans of last year's *That Night Follows Day* a truly kindred spirit – an evening that lovingly combines humour, nostalgia and human frailty with the immediacy of live performance. Bel is preoccupied with the formation and transmission of identity – both of his performers and those who watch them – and this innovative production engages audiences in unexpected and marvelous ways. "...sly, witty, joyous fun." (*New York Times*)

**Machinal (April 7–17)** – by Sophie Treadwell, directed by Steven Hill

*Machinal* is a modern age tragedy of isolation turned to murder. It was first staged in 1928 and became a hit on Broadway. The play is loosely based on the true story of an unremarkable stenographer named Ruth Snyder, deadened by the machine-like quality of her life until she glimpsed the possibility of a passionate alternative. Her response led her to murder – and ultimately to the electric chair in 1927. *Machinal* reflects the social climate of the late 1920s when North American society was experiencing fundamental change and cultural norms and values were being questioned and tested. The play explores themes of alienation, personal choice and mechanization, and because those themes are still compelling and relevant in our modern world, *Machinal* is again a fascinating and provocative commentary on how we live and what we believe. This updated production of the play features SFU's BFA acting class directed by **Steven Hill**, a writer, performer, teacher and the co-artistic director of the acclaimed Leaky Heaven Circus.

**IMPRINT (June 17–20)** – presented by Turning Point Ensemble in partnership with SFU Contemporary Arts

Three extraordinary premieres are on the program for this spectacular event. Audiences have the opportunity to explore music, dance, theatre and technology by leading Canadian composers, choreographers and directors. One of Canada's most original voices, **Rudolf Komorous**, has composed *The Ruse*, his first major new work in many years, for the Turning Point Ensemble. *Cut Flowers*, a monodrama by poetic composer **Linda Catlin Smith**, features soprano **Phoebe MacRae** and stage director **Penelope Stella** in a meditation on the thoughts and feelings of Victorian poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning. *Imprint* is a daring, site-specific work for dancers, large music ensemble and tele-presence technology, pairing **Owen Underhill's** music with **Henry Daniel's** synthesis of modern technology and movement.

**Tickets for *Machinal* are available online at [www.sfuwoodwards.ca](http://www.sfuwoodwards.ca) or call the box office at 604.873.3311.**

**Tickets for *The Show Must Go On* are available through Tickets Tonight at 604.684.2787.**

Tickets for IMPRINT will go on sale in the New Year through the [sfuwoodwards.ca](http://sfuwoodwards.ca) site.

More information on all the Inaugural Program productions, including a seating chart of the Fei and Milton Wong Experimental Theatre, is available at [www.sfuwoodwards.ca](http://www.sfuwoodwards.ca).