



Tapestry & Words in Motion announce the preview tour of *Get Stuffed*, a new opera for children that's good enough to eat!

TORONTO, ON...Tapestry new opera works and Words in Motion are pleased to announce *Get Stuffed* a comic opera about serious decisions. The production features vocalizing vegetables along with a big helping of other opinionated edible characters, all competing to influence one child's daily diet.

Get Stuffed is written by Toronto composer **Richard Payne** and Montreal writer **Alexis Diamond**. A new Canadian opera for young audiences, *Get Stuffed* is co-produced by **Tapestry** and **Words in Motion**, and has been developed in association with **The Canadian Diabetes Association**. After preview performances in the GTA in fall 2008, the opera will tour Ontario beginning spring 2009, with support from **The Ontario Trillium Foundation**. This new opera focuses on encouraging youth to make wholesome dietary choices.

Written for 5 singing actors and 2 musicians, *Get Stuffed* is intended for family audiences and school audiences. Set in a school cafeteria, *Get Stuffed* promotes environmentally-friendly, healthy food choices inspired by the Canada Food Guide, with special prominence for fruits and vegetables grown in Ontario. The dramatic conflict revolves around introducing a new chef to the school cafeteria. With a libretto that includes foods representative of Canada's ethnic diversity, this opera will be a feast for young ears, eyes and minds.

As Diabetes continues to impact more and more Canadians, it is clear that primary prevention strategies and educational programs must be initiated. Currently there are 2,000,000 Canadians living with Diabetes and this number is projected to increase to over 3,000,000 by 2010. In Ontario alone, the current prevalence rate is approaching 9%, almost 3 percentage points higher than the global incidence of 6.4%. Particularly alarming is the increase in Type 2 diabetes among children.

- **In the next 15 years, it is anticipated that the global incidence of type 2 diabetes in children will increase by up to 50 per cent.**

(Statistics taken from the CDA website: <http://www.diabetes.ca/about-diabetes/youth/type2/>)

Tapestry & Words in Motion will present an excerpt from *Get Stuffed* at the Artscape Gala for the opening of the Wychwood Barns in Toronto, October 23, 2008. In addition, *Get Stuffed* will be showcased at the 2008 Ontario Contact Conference October 25, 2008 at the York Catholic District School Board Performing Arts Centre in Vaughan, ON.

Get Stuffed is directed by **Emma Tibaldo**, Artistic and Executive Director of **Playwrights Workshop Montréal** with music direction from **Wayne Strongman**, set and costume design by **Beth Kates** and stage management by **Fiona Jones**. The vibrant young cast includes soprano **Neema Bickersteth**, mezzo soprano **Catharin Carew**, tenor **Cory Knight**, and baritones **Keith O'Brien** and **Justin Welsh**.

Fall Preview School Tour

October 17 to 25, 2008

GTA

Sold Out!**Spring School Tour**

April 19 to May 9, 2009

GTA & South Western Ontario

2010 Spring School Tour

Dates: TBA

Northern Ontario

For booking enquires please contact Amber Ebert, Outreach & Education Manager, Tapestry at 416.537.6066 x224 or education@tapestrynewopera.com.

ABOUT THE COMPANIES

Tapestry - **Tapestry** is dedicated to the creation, development and performance of new opera works through its unique and highly collaborative work process. Under the leadership of Managing Artistic Director Wayne Strongman, Tapestry engages the hearts and minds of artists and audiences on subjects relevant to contemporary society. The Tapestry process begins at the annual Composer-Librettist Laboratory where writers and composers are introduced to collaborative creation. Successful partnerships move on to create 15-minute operas for our annual *Opera to Go* production and graduate to full-length works. Our INside Opera Education Programme gives students the chance to discover their own stories and engage in the creation of new opera. Our new children's opera, *Elijah's Kite* by Camyar Chai & James Rolfe has already toured to over 20,000 students across Ontario. Tapestry productions which have premiered to critical and popular acclaim include *Sanctuary Song* by Abigail Richardson & Marjorie Chan (with Theatre Direct in partnership with Luminato), *Nigredo Hotel* by Ann-Marie MacDonald & Nic Gotham, *Elsewhereless* by Atom Egoyan & Rodney Sharman, *Still the Night* by Theresa Tova, *Facing South* by Don Hannah & Linda C. Smith and the Dora Award-winning *Iron Road* by composer Chan Ka Nin & librettist Mark Brownell. www.tapestrynewopera.com

Words in Motion - **Words in Motion** promotes literacy in its broadest sense. This encompasses not only reading, writing and numeracy, but also emotional and social literacy as well as cultural appreciation. Specializing in arts education, Words in Motion promotes intellectual development, self-esteem and arts appreciation in young children by presenting music, drama and literature. The not-for-profit company works with accomplished musicians, actors, dancers and improvisational performers to support teachers in elementary schools who are increasingly challenged to provide for both the academic and social, emotional needs of young children. It is critical that the impact of Words in Motion be sustainable. Through its programs, participants recognize the performing arts as a vital, creative and educational tool, both within and outside the traditional classroom setting. A Words in Motion experience demonstrates the possibilities of incorporating expression and imagination into the day-to-day activities of children. The expectation of our programs is that the life lessons learned will remain with students as they develop into mature and contributing members of their communities. www.wordsinmotion.ca

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For further media information and artist interviews please contact **Anna Mathew, Marketing & Communications Director** at 416-537-6066 x221 or media@tapestrynewopera.com