

**“MASTER HAROLD”
... & THE BOYS**



by Athol Fugard
directed by Nigel Shawn Williams
at the Firehall Theatre
July 22 to August 21

Now in its 29 season the Thousand Islands Playhouse produces a 25 week season in two beautiful venues along the shores of the St. Lawrence River. Under the leadership of founding Artistic Director Greg Wanless, the Thousand Islands Playhouse's guiding philosophy is to inspire a creative, dynamic community.

The Thousand Islands Playhouse Firehall season continues with Athol Fugard's stunning classic *'Master Harold'...and the boys*. Set in South Africa during the early apartheid era, the story deals with the coming of age of seventeen-year-old Hally, a white South African. Hally is torn between his bigoted father's expectations of him and those of his surrogate fathers, black waiters named Sam and Willy who work in the tea room owned by Hally's family. Young Hally is obliged to laugh at his alcoholic father's racist jokes, and must pretend he is not humiliated by him. In stark contrast is Hally's life long relationship with Sam, who has been a teacher and source of positive, affirming experiences. During the play Hally receives bad news to which he can muster no useful response and distraught, unleashes years of misdirected anger and pain on his two friends. Devastating in its depiction of friendship and betrayal, *Master Harold...& the boys* captures not only the havoc wreaked by the Apartheid era; it is also a play about human relationships put to the test by societal and personal forces.

Of all Fugard's plays, none is more personal than *"Master Harold" . . . and the boys*, because it relates a boyhood incident which involved Fugard and which haunted until he tried to atone by writing this play in 1982. It was officially banned by the South African government. Despite the efforts of his native country, the wider world did not ignore Fugard's work and *'Master Harold'...and the boys* earned the Drama Desk Award and Critics Circle Award for best play in 1983, and London's Evening Standard Award in 1984. The play has subsequently earned a place in contemporary world drama, enjoying frequent revivals around the world. It is considered to be one of Fugard's masterpieces and a vital work valued for both its universal themes of humanity and its skilled theatre craft.

The Playhouse is pleased and proud to have Nigel Shawn Williams at the helm as director. Mr. Williams first appeared at the Playhouse in *Girl in the Goldfish Bowl* at the Firehall in 2005. He won a Dora Award for his direction of *The Monument* for Obsidian Theatre, and recently directed *Laius* for Nightswimming, part of Ned Dicken's City of Wine cycle. The cast of *Master Harold...& the boys* are all newcomers to the Playhouse: Conrad Coates appears as Sam, in the role of Willy we welcome Ryan Allen and Julian DeZotti appears as Hally.

The set and costumes have been created by Dora winning designer Shawn Kerwin. The lighting design is by Playhouse Technical Coordinator Adair Redish and the sound design is by Production Manager Dan Rider. Eric Armstrong is dialect coach and the production is stage managed by Robert Harding, assisted by Megan Mitchell-Downey.

'Master Harold'...& the boys previews at the Firehall Theatre July 22, opens Friday July 23 and closes Saturday Aug 21. Performances are Tuesday through Sunday at 8 PM, Friday and Saturday at 2:30 PM.

Prices: \$32 65+: \$30 Under 30: \$25 Stu/Chil: \$16 July 22 and all Sundays: \$16 (Princes do not include HST)
The box office opens daily at 11 AM. Tickets may also be purchased online at 1000islandsplayhouse.com

'Master Harold'...& the boys Awards

1982 Drama Desk Award Outstanding New Play
1983 London Critics' Circle Theatre Award for Best Play
1983 London Evening Standard Award for Best Play
Nominations
1982 Tony Award for Best Play

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RYAN ALLEN - Willy

For the Playhouse: Debut

Elsewhere: John in *Giwedin* (Native Earth-Theatre Passe Muraille); Tony in *Masterclass* (First Stages Theatre-Capitol Theatre); Francesco in *The Gondoliers* (Toronto Operetta Theatre); Chocolate Bar in *Get Stuffed* (Tapestry New Opera). Upcoming: Simon in *Feelgood* (Theatre New Brunswick); Archie Moore in *The Truth is a Hard Flat Surface* (Theatre New Brunswick). Ryan will also be touring the US with the International Tenors. Selected Film and Television credits include; *The Line* (Nightingale Productions); *Instant Star* (Epitome Pictures); *Get Rich or Die Trying* (Cent Productions); *One Week* (Telefilm Canada); *Road Scholars* (YTV).

Other: Ryan would like to thank Greg and Nigel for the opportunity to be a part of this brilliant work by Athol Fugard, and the town of Gananoque for its beauty and hospitality.

CONRAD COATES - Sam

For the Playhouse: Debut

Elsewhere: *Hush, Pal Joey, Colored Museum* (Tarragon Theatre); *The Taming of the Shrew, Romeo and Juliet, Sweet Bird of Youth* and *Oedipus* (Stratford Festival); *Johannesberg* and Wendy Lill's Governor General Award winning play *All Fall Down* (Alberta Theatre Projects); *The Crucible, A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Citadel Theatre) *Singer* (CanStage) *A Common Man's Guide to Loving Women* (NAC) Andrew Moodie's G. G. Award winner *Riot* (Factory Theatre and GCTC); Micheal Ondaatje's *Coming Through Slaughter* (Necessary Angel); and *Billy The Kid* (GCTC). Film/TV: *Tron 2, How She Move, The Sentinel, The Kink in my Hair, The Dresden Files, Fringe, DeGrassi's Next Generation* and ABC's *Kyle XY*.

JULIAN DE ZOTTI Hally

For the Playhouse: Debut.

Elsewhere: Recent acting credits include: *Hamlet* (Forward Theatre, Living Arts Centre), *Fridays With Frieda* (Talk Is Free Theatre), *The Market* (Billionaire Before Thirty), *Woyzeck* (Red Light District). Writer/Director credits: *Guns & Roses* (Toronto Centre For The Arts '09-10 season); Artistic Producer of *The Original Norwegian*. Upcoming: Producing *Kayak* for the Summerworks Festival in August (*The Original Norwegian*), remount of *Guns & Roses* in 2011.

Other: *New Year*, his first feature film as co-writer, co-producer, and lead actor will be touring film festivals this fall and is slated to air on Canadian television this Christmas.

NIGEL SHAWN WILLIAMS - Director

For the Playhouse: *Girl in the Goldfish Bowl* (Lawrence)

Elsewhere: Mr. Williams is an award winning director and actor who has had the great fortune to work across Canada in most of its theatres. He is very happy to be back at the Playhouse, and working on this beautiful play with such an incredible Cast and Creative Team. Thanks to KM, SK, R, Z and D.