



**NIGHT**

**For Immediate Release  
September 9, 2010**

**Queen's grad brings story of Canada's North  
to the stage in Gananoque**

Following its recent premier at the National Arts Centre (NAC), *Night*, by Queen's graduate **Christopher Morris** opens at the Thousand Islands Playhouse on September 18.

*Night* is a powerful representation of the challenges facing those living in Canada's far North. Co-produced by Morris' Toronto-based theatre company, Human Cargo, and the National Arts Centre, it tells the story of how the lives of a Toronto anthropologist and 16-year old Inuk girl intersect powerfully during 24 hours of darkness in Pond Inlet, Nunavut. Daniella, played by Toronto actor, **Linnea Swan**, is a scientist from the big city; Piuyuq, played by 17-year old Inuk actor **Abbie Ootova**, is an Inuit girl with big dreams. As the two cross paths, their lives are changed forever.

"I saw *Night* when it premiered at the NAC and I was incredibly affected by the power of the story," says Thousand Islands Playhouse Artistic Director Greg Wanless. "It is a wonderful illumination of a part of Canada that I have so little knowledge of. The Playhouse is dedicated to producing a diversity of works with a unique Canadian perspective and *Night* fits perfectly in this mandate."

*Night* was created over three Arctic winters in Iceland and Nunavut and is presented in both Inuktitut and English. The story was originally developed by six theatre artists (two Inuit, two Icelandic and two Southern Canadians) in what Morris calls "a truly collaborative process".

"I initially had the idea to create a play about how the winter darkness affects people living in the arctic," says Morris, who founded Human Cargo in 2007 with the intention of creating new works of theatre as a means of exposing and discussing social and political issues. "The rehearsal process relied heavily on the artists' own life experience and reactions to the arctic winter. What began as a project "about" the winter darkness quickly evolved into one that explored the intricate relationship between Inuit and Southern Canadian cultures."

At the heart of *Night* is the character of 16-year old Piuyuq, played by **Abbie Ootova**. Ootova was only 10 when Morris first visited Nunavut. She participated in a community theatre workshop put on by Morris when he first arrived and stayed involved throughout the six-year development process. Now 17, Ootova has grown and developed along with the production, bringing much of her own experiences and perspectives to the role.

*Night* is Thousand Islands Playhouse's sixth production in 2010. Now in its 29th season, the Thousand Islands Playhouse produces a 25-week season in two beautiful theatres 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.

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