

ODYSSEY theatre

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Experience a Masked Rendition of Shaw's Love and War Classic

(Ottawa, ON, January 14, 2013) Odyssey Theatre announces its 27th season of *Theatre under the Stars* with George Bernard Shaw's witty comedy ***Arms and the Man***. In addition, this year young audiences will be treated to Rag and Bone Puppet Theatre's ***Zoom at Sea*** on Wednesday afternoons. Performances are in Strathcona Park from **July 25 to August 25, 2013**.

Set during the 1885 Serbo-Bulgarian War, ***Arms and the Man*** is Shaw's sardonic critique of naive idealism, particularly as it pertains to love and war. Raina Petkoff, a young Bulgarian aristocrat, is indulging in hero worship; the object of her adoration is fiancé Major Sergius Saranoff. An intruder enters her bedroom, and disrupts her romantic fantasies, in more ways than one. He's Captain Bluntschli, a Swiss mercenary and hotelier's son fighting for the losing Serb army. Raina seems to be simultaneously disgusted and intrigued by this strange plain-speaking man. She's amused by his dishevelled appearance and his chocolate-crazed hunger. With the help of her mother and one of her father's old coats she helps him evade the Bulgarian troupes. At war's end, husband to be and father return home and regale in the telling of war stories, one involving a Serbian officer who evaded capture by "entertaining" a patriotic young Bulgarian lady in her chambers. What is Raina to do? Will she be found out? Will she ever see her chocolate cream soldier again?

The answer to those questions and many more is what Ottawa artist, Andy Massingham will be sharing with audiences on the Strathcona Park outdoor stage. Massingham will return to direct Odyssey's unique interpretation of this Victorian Shaw classic with his usual style of physical exuberance and dry wit. Shaw is not a playwright that is usually associated with mask performances. Artistic Director Laurie Steven says "seeing Shaw in mask has always been a dream of mine. I'm very happy to have Andy back this year and I'm confident that if anyone can translate a Shaw piece into a mask theatre work, Andy can." Massingham will be collaborating with a fantastic design team which includes mask designer Almut Ellinghaus, one of last year's Rideau Award nominees for best design. Performances will take place Tuesday through Sunday evenings at 8 PM, Saturday and Sunday Matinees at 3 PM. Tickets range from \$9 to \$27.

The summer would not be complete without welcoming back Rag and Bone Puppet theatre to present a show based on the popular *Zoom* books by Tim Wynne-Jones. ***Zoom at Sea*** is adapted by Kathy MacLellan and follows the thrilling and mysterious adventures of Zoom the cat and his friend Maria as they uncover an old map and pursue an adventure to the sea. This Youth Matinee will be presented Wednesdays at 1 PM. Tickets are \$5 for children and \$10 for adults. For more information please contact Mark Turcotte, Odyssey Theatre Publicist 613.232.8407 or at marketing@odysseytheatre.ca.

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