

DUNDAS LITTLE THEATRE presents How Could You Mrs. Dick

by Douglas Rodger The murder that shocked a nation...

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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How Could You Mrs. Dick? is a true life whodunit with a difference – a fascinating theatrical exploration of the notorious 'Torso Murder' case of the 1940's. Evelyn Maclean, beautiful, enigmatic, flush with; mysterious money on dark family secrets, seduces 40-year-old Mennonite bachelor, John Dick. Their brief marriage results in a gruesome murder, a spellbinding court case, and even more ghastly revelations that resonate to this day. **How Could You Mrs. Dick?** was first commissioned by Theatre Terra Nova in Hamilton, Ontario.

For over 30 years, playwright, Douglas Rodger, has been involved in theatre in almost every capacity – from front of house to backstage to touring and producing several shows. As a dramatist, he has also written for CBC Radio, various television series, feature films and the theatre where his work includes, *Donut City*, a play with music for The Canadian Stage Company. His latest work, *An Indolent Abroad*, was published in the Summer Issue of *Descant Magazine*, (Summer and Smoke). He has developed the concept and story for a theatrical production called *A Momentary Lapse Of Reason* based on the music of the English rock group, Pink Floyd.

Douglas Rodger has written the librettos for two chamber operas, *Shattered Glass* and *The Futures Market*, with Composer Njo Kong Kie which have been performed at The Rhubarb Festival, The Wrecking Ball and the Canadian Opera Company. In addition to these new operatic forms, he is currently writing the book and the lyrics for an original musical called *Hung Out To Dry*, set in the demimonde of Depression-era Toronto.

How Could You Mrs. Dick?, is Brian Morton's fourth directorial venture for Dundas Little Theatre, after **Time and The Conways, Fair Liberty's Call** and **The Suicide**. The play, and the true life story of the 1946 "torso" murder is dear to Brian's heart as he was the founder of Theatre Terra Nova, and instrumental in commissioning the play and seeing it through from infancy to production. The first performance was directed by Guy Sprung and staged at the Hamilton Place Studio Theatre in June 1989. In 1991, playwright Douglas Rodger, director Guy Sprung and producer Brian Morton formed a company called "The Evelyn Group". This company was instrumental in reopening the Tivoli Theatre in Hamilton as a live venue where they remounted <u>How Could You Mrs. Dick</u>. The Tivoli Theatre revival remains one of the most successful live theatre productions in Hamilton with more than 30,000 tickets sold. The Evelyn Group went on to tour the play to Toronto's Wintergarden Theatre in the fall of 1991.

Morton's own stage plays include his adaptation of Sylvia Fraser's *My Father's House*, which has had four productions to date and was most recently done as a staged reading at the Grand Theatre in London last year. Other works include *New Talent* which made its first appearance at the 2008 Hamilton Fringe and subsequently toured in 2010 to the Toronto and London's Fringe Festivals.

Morton has also written other plays including, *McCrae Flanders* **1915**, and *Dreamer Within a Dream*, which won several awards at the Sears Drama Festival in 1986. Also of note is *The Adele Komorowski Project*, Brian's 2005 play about the true life murder of a McMaster student on campus in 1973. In the past month, according to the CBC, this long dead "cold case" may now finally have a resolution.

The cast of <u>How Could You Mrs. Dick?</u> includes Crystal Jonasson, Gregory Cruikshank, Deb Dagenais, Brian Morton, Chris Cracknell, Phil Gauthier, Kevin Griffiths and Catherine Janes as the notorious Evelyn Dick.

Performances of <u>How Could You Mrs. Dick?</u> are at the Garstin Centre for the Arts, 37 Market Street in Dundas. The schedule is:

Friday Apr.26 @ 8:00 p.m., Saturday, Apr.27 @ 8:00 p.m. Thursday May 2 @ 8:00p.m., Friday, May 3 @ 8:00p.m, Saturday, May 4 @ 8:00p.m. Thursday May 9 @ 8:00p.m., Friday May 10, Saturday May 11, @ 8:00p.m. Matinee ~ Sunday, May 5 @ 2:00p.m. 2013

Tickets for the show are \$18.00 (with \$13.00 Students/Seniors (65+) discounts for Thursday and Sunday performances only). For ticket information or to make a reservation, please call 905-627-5266 or visit our website at <u>www.dundaslittletheatre.com</u>.

The Dundas Little Theatre website at <u>www.dundaslittletheatre.com</u>, contains a wealth of information about the company's past work, its history and upcoming events.

For press enquires, review tickets and photographs please contact Rose Pye - rose_pye@hotmail.com

PLEASE ADD THIS INFORMATION TO PSA'S AND CALENDAR LISTINGS.

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