



## GENEROUS at the Finborough Theatre

### The Project:

In January 2010, Snapdragon, in association with Neil McPherson, will present the London debut of multi-award-winning playwright Michael Healey, one of Canada's leading dramatists. This will be the European premiere of his play *Generous*, winner of the Dora Mavor Moore Award (Canada's leading theatre awards) for Best New Play in 2007. The play is a sharply-written, witty and politically-charged exploration of the selfless act. In four interconnected, affecting but unsentimental stories, Michael Healey's tour de force examines what happens when we are overwhelmed with the desire to help.

*Generous* has been performed to critical acclaim in Canada and the United States but, astoundingly, never in Europe until now.

"*Generous* lives up to its title. It's generous in the social and emotional ground it covers, in the quality and quantity of barbed laughter it provokes, in both the sharpness and compassion of its insights into relationships, and in the spirit that animates all these."

*National Post*

After six sell-out performances at the Finborough Theatre in August 2009, *Generous* will return for a full four-week run to open the theatre's 30th anniversary year. All but one of this production's original cast (four native Canadians among them) along with director Eleanor Rhode are again on board so we have no reason to doubt that this run of the play will once again receive enthusiastic praise from both audiences and press.

### The Organisation:

Snapdragon is a new theatre production company; 5 young people, at the start of our theatre careers, brought together through previous voluntary work at the Finborough Theatre. This team was responsible for producing the first six performances of *Generous* at the Finborough Theatre in August of this year and is going to go on to produce another of Michael Healey's plays, *The Drawer Boy* at the Finborough Theatre in the Autumn season of 2010.

Whilst being a multi-award winning venue, the Finborough Theatre (a registered charity) remains completely unfunded by major awarding bodies such as the Arts Council England. The theatre, under the artistic direction of Neil McPherson, has been lauded as a champion of new theatre writing. It has also long been developing a reputation as one of the most important London venues for the development and discovery of Canadian playwrights.

**The Appeal:**

This production aims to open up Michael Healey's writing to a wider audience here in the UK, for whom he is a new playwright. From our experience of the first six performances, the joining of this cast and production team made for a dynamic and vibrant production. Whilst the director and creative team are in a position where they can still afford to work without a fee, our actors, many of whom are further along with their careers, will struggle with this.

Our budget stands at £6470, with £4000 needed in order to pay our eight cast members for rehearsals and the run of the play. We would therefore like to invite Canada-UK Chamber of Commerce members to support *Generous* and in doing so, help us to ensure that the play can continue to "crackle with both humour and tension" (WhatsOnStage).

We are launching a sponsorship initiative that gives Canada-UK Chamber of Commerce members the opportunity to fund one component of the play; for instance, the set or the cast. We would then acknowledge your gift in all flyers and programmes for the production as well as in the Finborough Theatre's on-site and online publicity, very clearly stating that without your support, the cast, programme or whatever you have funded, just wouldn't exist.

We would very much like to discuss this appeal in more detail with any interested companies who feel that this may be a commitment they can make at this time.

For more information or discussion, please contact our producer:

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Thanks for taking the time to read this appeal.

The *Generous* Production Team.