



NEWS RELEASE

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THE MAN, THE MYTH, THE MASTER

“The passionate desire to discover something, to learn something, made of August Strindberg a keen dissector of souls. Above all, of his own soul” – Emma Goldman

WINNIPEG, JANUARY 19, 2011 – Intensity is the name of the game with August Strindberg, the playwright being honoured by the 11th annual Master Playwright Festival.

On Thursday, January 20, **STRINDBERGFEST** gets underway. The body of work produced by Strindberg is wide-reaching. As a writer, he was prolific and experimental. He was not satisfied with one medium, so he dabbled in alchemy, photography and poetry, among others. Strindberg’s legacy to the world of modern drama is one of pushing the envelope. Never satisfied with the status quo, Strindberg devised new ways of tackling taboo topics – such as the hypocrisy of gender roles – and broke with tradition by using colloquial and modern speech in historical dramas. Sometimes an enemy of the people, sometimes a hero, Strindberg was intense, brilliant and tempestuous. In short, he was a master.

The festival kicks off with an introduction to Strindberg and his work at the King’s Head Pub on Wednesday, January 19 at 7 pm. This introductory lecture, “**Madman, Misogynist or Genius,**” hosted by John Bluethner, an actor, director and professor at École technique et professionnelle, will examine Strindberg’s life and work with reference to various plays in the festival. Strindberg’s work is intensely personal, and this lecture will give you a glimpse of Strindberg off the page. Like the other events in the Strindberg Unbound Lecture Series, this event is free and open to anyone who is interested.

STRINDBERGPASSES are still available. A \$75 pass allows one admission to each **STRINDBERGFEST** production, at a savings of more than \$140. To buy a **STRINDBERGPASS** or to obtain a free program, please call the MTC Box Office at 942-6537. Individual tickets can be purchased from participating companies.

On behalf of the participating companies, we thank Canadian Heritage, the Winnipeg Free Press, The Fairmont Winnipeg, Industry Images, the King’s Head Pub and Saison Voyageur for their support of **STRINDBERGFEST**.

For a complete listing of festival offerings and free events, please visit www.masterplaywrightfest.com.

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