



Martha Irving rekindles classic love story on Neptune stage

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Halifax, NS – January 22, 2018 – Acclaimed actor and director **Martha Irving** is directing a new version of the classic Canadian play *Salt-Water Moon*, which opens on Neptune’s Scotiabank Stage next week.

Salt-Water Moon, written by Newfoundland playwright David French, is about a young man’s quest to win back the love of the woman he left behind. On a moonlit night in 1926, in Coley’s Point, Newfoundland, Mary Snow (played by **Kelin Boyd**) is surprised to see Jacob Mercer (**Nathan Simmons**) for the first time since he abruptly left a year before. In the time since, much has changed including her new engagement to another man. Their future is uncertain as Mary must decide whether or not hers will include Jacob.

“The play is beautifully poetic,” said Martha Irving. “It’s a story about the innocence of youth and young love and it’s an honour to bring this classic play to a new generation of audiences with these two wonderful young actors.”

Starring in the play is Kelin Boyd and Nathan Simmons, both of whom make their Neptune debut with *Salt-Water Moon*. Boyd, originally from Newfoundland, has performed with theatre companies including LunaSea, Chester Playhouse, as well as a role on the television series *Haven*. Simmons, a graduate of the Fountain School of Performing Arts, was awarded Outstanding Male Actor in a Supporting Role last year by Screen Nova Scotia for his performance in the short film *Hustle & Heart*.

Salt-Water Moon first premiered in 1984 and has been performed hundreds of times with productions on stages in regional and community theatre across Canada. It won the 1985 Canadian Authors Association Literary Award for Drama and the Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding New Play. It is part of ‘The Mercer Plays,’ a series of five plays French wrote about the fictional Mercer family across several decades.

Working with Martha Irving is assistant director **Emily Jewer** and the design team includes **Katrin Whitehead** on set, **Helena Marriott** on costume, and **Leigh Ann Vardy** on lighting. **Hannah Burrows** is stage managing with **Jeana MacIsaac** as Apprentice Stage Manager.

Salt-Water Moon is sponsored by The Berkeley, Scotiabank and Telus.

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Media Call Notice:

Tuesday, January 30 – 12:30 – 1:30pm

Scotiabank Stage, 1593 Argyle Street

All members of the media are welcome to attend for photo, video and interview opportunities.

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The first performance of *Salt-Water Moon* is the Bell Aliant **Pay What You Can** performance on Tuesday, January 30 with previews continuing Wednesday, January 31. Opening night is Thursday, February 1 and the show runs until Sunday, February 18.

Tickets can be purchased online at neptunetheatre.com, by phone at 902-429-7070 or toll-free 1-800-565-7345, or in person at the Box Office, 1593 Argyle Street. Find out more about Neptune Theatre on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube channel NeptuneHFX.

Now in its 55th Season, Neptune Theatre inspires audiences with great stories. Located at 1593 Argyle Street, Neptune boasts two newly renovated stages: Fountain Hall and the Scotiabank Stage, plus a year-round Theatre School and a province-wide Young Neptune Company Tour.

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