

SAGETHEATRE | GET CLOSER

Presents: **Bea** by Mick Gordon, November 3 - 12, 2016

For Immediate Release: October 12, 2016

Explore the Limits of Understanding and Compassion with Sage Theatre's **Bea**

Mick Gordon offers moving depiction of assisted dying plight

Calgary, AB – Sage Theatre presents **Bea** by Mick Gordon at Pumphouse Theatre, **November 3 - 12, 2016**.

Tickets range from **\$20 - \$30** and can be purchased at sagetheatre.com.

Mick Gordon's powerful work, **Bea**, delves into the life of a young woman mired in illness. Trapped inside her own body, Bea (Makambe Simamba) relies on her mother Katherine (Shauna Baird) and caregiver Not Gay Ray (Paul Welch) to provide for her daily needs, both physical and emotional. But Bea – youthful, invigorating, hopeful – longs to end her suffering before it's all she knows. Bea longs to die.

First published in 2011, Gordon's **Bea** continues to be relevant today as Canadian provincial and federal governments grapple with Medical Assistance in Dying legislation, and the manifold implications for patients and their family, as well as the broader medical and religious communities. At times silly, sensual and shocking, **Bea** draws audiences into her world with her determination, humor, and sheer joy, while those closest to her struggle with the reality of her condition and her heartbreaking request.

"In **Bea**, Mick Gordon deftly highlights the plight of chronically ill individuals from the most essential of perspectives: their own," says Jason Mehmel, Artistic Director, Sage Theatre. "The fictional **Bea** tests the limits of her mother's compassion by asking for a death filled with dignity and a life that was lead with purpose and gratitude, rather than one submerged in pain. It's a deeply moving depiction of an extremely difficult subject, and I'm so pleased Sage has the opportunity to contribute to this important dialogue."

CAST: Makambe Simamba; Paul Welch; Shauna Baird.

CREATIVE TEAM: Kevin McKendrick; Stage Manager: Kelley Cheetham; Assistant Directors: Lizzy Evashkevich and Chelsey Fawcett; Costume and Set Design: Hanne Loosen; Lighting Design: Shane Anderson; Technical Director: Owen Day; Producer and Sound Design: Jason Mehmel.

Bea runs **November 3 to 12, 2016**, at **Pumphouse Theatre**. For ticket purchase and information call **(403) 264-7243** or visit sagetheatre.com.

MEDIA CALL: Wednesday, November 2, 1:00PM

Pumphouse Theatre (2140 Pumphouse Ave SW)

****Additional promotional photos available on request****

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Sage Theatre gratefully acknowledges the support of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts and the Calgary Arts Development Authority.

For media information and interview requests CONTACT: Shannon McClennan-Taylor, Publicist