

Media Inquiries: Margaret Evans, General Manager:

margaretevans@praxistheatre.com

416 258 0339

Praxis Theatre in association with **Toronto Free Gallery** presents:

Tim Buck 2

at The Toronto Fringe Festival

Who:

The award-winning Fringe veterans who brought you **Dyad** (5 Stars: EYE), **The Master and Margarita** (Indie Fringe Classic), **Steel** (Producer's Pick: London Fringe, Runner-Up Best Text: Montreal Fringe), and **Blood of a Coward** (Best Male Performances: NOW, 5 Stars: EYE, Patrons Pick: Toronto Fringe) return to the Fringe stage.

What:

In 1931, **Tim Buck**, leader of Canada's Communist Party was jailed under **Section 98**, a controversial law that allowed the government to arbitrarily jail dissidents. A group of artists that opposed the erosion of civil rights by Bennett's Conservative government in the face of a global economic crisis formed **The Progressive Arts Club**. Their production, **Eight Men Speak**, played to a sold out house of 1500 Torontonians before the government threatened to pull the license of any theatre that performed the play again. Soon after, The **Conservative Government was defeated** and Buck was released from the Kingston Penitentiary. His release inspired a **sold-out Maple Leaf Gardens** to welcome him home.

Tim Buck 2 looks at all these events as well as relevant contemporary issues in the style of a **Living Newspaper**, a common technique used by many progressive-minded theatre companies in the 1930s to bring fellow citizens information and analysis of current events.

Where:

The Fringe Club @ The Tranzac: 292 Brunswick Avenue (Just South of Bloor.)

When:

Thu July, 2 6:15 PM Sat July, 4 2:30 PM Sun July, 5 7:45 PM

Wed July, 8 6:00 PM Fri July, 10 4:15 PM Sun July, 12 2:30 PM

How:

Tickets Available: By phone: 416-966-1062; On line: www.fringetoronto.com; In Advance: Fringe Club 292 Brunswick; At the door: 1 hour before each show.

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Margaret Evans: Performer/Creator

Margaret is a Toronto based actor and producer. Selected credits: New York: Much Ado About Nothing (Cry Havoc), Jimmy the Cocksucker (Expanded Arts), Miss You (Signature), Divided by Telephone (Director's Company); Toronto: Crossing Delancey (Encore), The Moon Bath Girl (Summerworks), Screen credits: Spynet, This is Wonderland (CBC), The Last New Year (FokosFilms/Nightingale). She has produced for 61 Grove (Catch and the Moon Bath Girl,), Nightwood Theatre (FemCab 2007), Toronto Youth Theatre (SuperNatural) and Praxis Theatre (Stranger). She was part of the cast and production team for the 2007 Trouvé North/Praxis Theatre Toronto Fringe production of 'DYAD' (*****EYE WEEKLY) and performed in 'A Minor Symphony in Bees' as part of the Rhubarb Festival. Margaret holds an MFA from the Actors Studio Drama School (NYC).



Jody Hewston: Performer/Creator

This is Jody's first show with Praxis. Previously he has performed onstage in an adaptation of Gunter Grass' Tin Drum (UnSpun Theatre), The History of Jape (Theatre By the Bay), Twelfth Night (Repercussion), and Here Lies Henry (Dead Weight); he has been seen on the television shows Forensic Factor, Smart Woman Survival Guide, the BBC Canada pilot People Like Us, and the CTV/NBC drama The Listener; he has appeared in the feature film Magnus Opus (Lightgeist Entertainment). Jody co-produced and appeared in Alison McElwain's Last House alongside his favorite actor, Oliver Dennis. He is currently developing a stage play called God Damn the Morning, and the web series B.I.T.S., with Rebecca Buttigieg, with whom he is also currently developing a baby girl.



Melissa Hood: Performer/Creator

Melissa is a Toronto-based actor. *Tim Buck 2* is her first show with Praxis Theatre. While training at George Brown Theatre School, Melissa spent many summers working in the Eastern Arctic, where she was co-creator of *The Pangnirtung Youth Performance Project.* Recent theatre credits include the one-woman show *Jewel* by Joan MacLeod, and a remount of *The Skriker* by Carol Churchill. Film and TV appearances include: *My Pal Satan* (CFC), *The Remains of the Date* (TUFF), *USSR* (Bravo!FACT), *We Can Rebuild You* (Discovery), *Tranzploitation* (Inside Out Film Festival), and *The Fishing Trip* (TIFF). An upcoming project will take Melissa back to the North to create a piece about climate change with Inuit youth.

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Greta Papageorgiu: Performer/Creator

This is Greta's third show with Praxis Theatre and she is very happy to be working with this wonderful group of people. She is a graduate of McGill University and The Neighbourhood Playhouse in New York City. Greta is co-artistic director of Théâtre Bilingue de Montreal (TBM) with whom she translated, adapted and produced *Karius & Baktus* for the Centaur Children Series in May 2009. Past productions with Praxis Theatre include: *Stranger* and *Master and Margarita*. Film and television credits include: *I'm Not There* with Heath Ledger, CBC's *Sophie Parker* and Bravo's *Classical Cabaret*. She is currently writing a web-series that is set to shoot in Fall 2009. She would like to thank Hugh and her parents for all their support.



Ben Sanders: Performer/Creator

Ben is thrilled to be participating in his first project with Praxis Theatre. Selected theatre credits include *Takin' Pride* (Native Earth Performing Arts), *A Christmas Carol, Oliver!, Fiddler on the Roof, The Music Man* (The Grand Theatre), *The Guilty Party* (Next Step Theatre), *A Space Between* (Edgework Theatre), *Stalemate, The Miracle Man, The Flu Season, The Government Inspector, Orpheus Descending,* and *King Lear* (Ryerson Theatre School). In 2008, Ben graduated with honours from Ryerson University's B.F.A. Acting Program. Upcoming: Ben will be participating in the inaugural Summerworks Leadership Intensive Program (S.L.I.P.) and playing the role of Charlie in *Dry Streak* at The Grand Theatre.



Andrew Zadel: Performer/Creator

Andrew is the creator and original performer of Steel, a one-man show about working on the Canadian railway. In 2004, it was voted "Best Original Work" at the London, Ontario Fringe and was runner-up for the "Chapters Best Text" award at the Montreal Fringe. His other scripts include The Body, a one-woman play about sexual violence, and Checkpoint, a drama about UN peacekeepers mounted by Praxis as part of SummerWorks 2005. Andrew has spent most of the last nine years overseas working for humanitarian organisations and the United Nations. He has recently returned from the Darfur region of the Sudan where he was working as a project coordinator for the French NGO Solidarités. His latest text, Underneath, is based on his experiences with a war crimes investigation team in post-war Kosovo. The play will premiere at the 2009 Summerworks Festival in Toronto.

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Michael Wheeler: Director/Editor

Michael is a director, actor, online collaborator and activist. With Praxis, Michael directed *Tim Buck 2*, *DYAD*, *The Master and Margarita*, *Checkpoint*, *Steel*, and *Eugene*. He also performed in *Stranger* and is editor of the *Praxis Theatre Website*. In 2008/09, he received a Theatre Ontario Professional Theatre Training Program grant to train as an Artistic Producer with Volcano Theatre. In 2009/10 Michael will be the Director in Training at the Tarragon Theatre. He holds a B.A. from McGill University, and a MFA from the Moscow Art Theatre/American Repertory Theatre Institute for Advanced Theatre Training at Harvard University. Michael is a founding member of Department of Culture.



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Contact Sheet

Photo #1



Photo #2



Photo #3



Photo #4



Photo #5



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