

For immediate release
March 19th, 2012

Four Actors playing Fifty Roles – *The 39 Steps!* ***Saint John Theatre Company's Action Packed Spy Thriller Keeps Cast On Their Toes***

SAINT JOHN – The cast and crew are getting geared up for a non-stop, action packed spy thriller to be staged at Imperial Theatre March 22-24, 2012. *The 39 Steps* follows the Alfred Hitchcock story of an innocent man on the run fleeing from a murder he did not commit, assisting a female counterespionage agent, and finding himself in one extraordinary comical situation after another.



With only four actors on stage and over 50 roles to portray, the cast of this production are perfecting their quick costume changes, multiple accents, and various mannerisms. *"This is a very physically demanding play, more so than any other I have been in... I even have a few bruises to prove it,"* notes Sandra Bell who plays multiple female roles in the production. The cast has been rehearsing since mid January to master the multitude of falls, swings and leaps in this intense production.

"It's exciting to think that we will be showing SJ audiences a number of non-traditional theatre styles which are not often seen on stage locally. Characters jumping back and forth between multiple characters, a minimal set with pieces being quickly reconstructed on stage, and a different approach to creative lighting and sound," adds Scott Thomas, who also plays multiple roles in the play. *"The show celebrates the joy of creativity and discovery between artists and an audience - I think people will be thrilled by the speed, inventiveness, and creativity on display!"*

The story is based on the 1915 novel by former Canadian Governor-General John Buchan and the subsequent Alfred Hitchcock film released in 1935. The 2005 adaptation by Patrick Barlow's has quickly grown into one of Broadway's most popular and longest running hits in recent years. *"The 39 Steps belongs in the family of great comedies like The Pink Panther and Naked Gun. At all times it is genuinely trying to deliver a deadly serious story of espionage and intrigue while at the same time allowing for a satirical, tongue in cheek exploration of the very silly nature of the spy genre,"* adds Thomas.

"I find it hard to believe that someone won't laugh at this show. There is something in it for everyone. There is word play, physical comedy and of course men dressed up like women. All the staples of a good old fashioned British comedy," adds Keith Dickson, cast member

The 39 Steps is one of 4 productions in the 2011-2012 SJTC Main Stage Season and will play at Imperial Theatre March 22-24, 2012. Tickets are available at Imperial Theatre box office by calling 674-4100.

For more information please contact:

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