

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Fun Starts When The Lights Go Out!
Saint John Theatre Company Presents Black Comedy;
A British Farce Staged Under A Reversed Lighting Scheme

Saint John Theatre Company is proud to present *Black Comedy* as part of its Main Stage line-up for this season. *Black Comedy* is a British farce that is set during an electrical blackout and is written to be staged under a reversed lighting scheme: that is, when we see the actors – they can't see each other!

Director Scott Thomas is thrilled to bring this action-packed comedy to life on the Imperial stage from this March. "*Black Comedy combines much of what I love in comedy - supreme overconfidence and a lot of people falling on their behinds,*" adds Scott. "*I think the play will first and foremost make people laugh - but it will also use some new techniques to once again challenge how we look at theatre. With a bevy of go-go dancers and pratfalls, we intend to leave the audience screaming for more - which is impossible - as it is a one act play!*"

Black Comedy will mark Scott's directional debut, however he is no stranger to the stage and theatrical humour. Scott has been involved in theatre for many years, some more recent roles with the Saint John Theatre Company include: the grim Mr. Hyde in *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, the flamboyant Roger DeBris in *The Producers* and most recently as the exuberant Algernon in SJTC's modernized version of *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Scott is also the founder of Improvisation Corporation which is a group of comedic improvisers that perform a variety of shows and formats around Saint John.

The cast of *Black Comedy* is a perfect combination of stage veterans mixed in with a couple of newcomers. They have been working hard over the last few months to master the complexities of physical comedy. "*In farce and physical comedy - it is extremely important to know exactly which items you will be tripping over and falling off of*" notes Director Scott Thomas. "*The cast has been preparing for the challenges of this physical farce: pratfalls, stair falls, bed falls, couch falls, exploding statues, jangling artwork etc. Black Comedy will challenge the entire cast with its list of complicated timing sequences.*"

Black Comedy is a one-act play written by Peter Shaffer, it was first performed in 1965. Shaffer uses the simple concept of a blown fuse to produce this high powered comedy. "*Shaffer lights a one act fuse and then runs out of the room giggling to himself. Black Comedy gives a creative team the full house of comedy hands - wild characters, precision timing, intense physicality, super powered listening and liquid line delivery. Challenging? You bet. Demanding? Absolutely! You won't want to miss it*", concludes Director Scott Thomas.

Black Comedy is the second of three SJTC Main Stage productions this season and will play at Imperial Theatre from March 17-19. Tickets for *Black Comedy* are on sale now at Imperial Theatre box office 674-4100.

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