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Media Release and photos attached (credits in file name)

4th Line Theatre's 2012 winter skills workshops

Millbrook ON – 4th Line Theatre continues its series of theatre skills workshops on January 28th and 29th featuring Sky Gilbert, one of Canada's foremost and celebrated playwrights, Herbie Barnes, who played Trailer last summer in 4th Line Theatre's hit production of *The Berlin Blues* and Marjie Chud, an actor and teacher with Young People's Theatre

"We are thrilled that Sky, Herbie and Marjie will lead these workshops," says Robert Winslow, 4th Line Theatre's Artistic Director, "each of them brings much sought after skills and participants of all levels will benefit from their experience."

Approaches to Playwriting for Adults – Sky Gilbert

In his workshop Gilbert will share some of his expertise. "What beginning playwrights need to know," says Gilbert, "is that there is no formula or one way to write a play." He will help participants choose the approach that is right for them by discussing their ideas for a play, a paragraph, a few pages or just a couple of questions. Using challenges from his playwriting Gilbert will also discuss some of the pitfalls and risks faced by playwrights and share tips for stronger dialogue.

Gilbert, the playwright of 4th Line Theatre's 2012 production *St. Francis of Millbrook*, co-founded the renowned Buddies in Bad Times Theatre in 1979 and is currently the Artistic Director of The Cabaret Company. He is also an Associate Professor at the School of English and Theatre Studies at Guelph University. Gilbert, with over 40 produced plays to his credit, has received many theatre awards including three Dora Mavor Moore Awards, most recently the 2011 award for Outstanding New Play for *The Situationalists*.

Instant Theatre Comedy for Adults- Herbie Barnes

Barnes' workshop will be a fun-filled class in instant storytelling and the art of improvisation. Using exercises and games created by teachers who influenced a generation of comedic actors, Barnes will coach participants to learn how to tell stories and lose the fear of going on stage with nothing prepared. "This class," said Barnes, "is ideal for everyone from actors, those who make business presentations to public speakers. These skills will stay with students for a lifetime."

During his 20 year career Barnes has worked as a performer, playwright and director for the stage, film and television. He has also taught in inner city high schools, universities, and theatre companies.

Introductory Drama Workshop for Youth (12 to 16 years of age) – Marjie Chud

In this one day script-less drama workshop, youth participants will be encouraged to trust their instincts, themselves, and others as they play with characters and stories. Through a variety of co-operative theatre games, movement and voice exercises, storytelling and improvisation, students will learn how to develop characters and create scenes. This workshop is aimed at fostering self-confidence, trust and co-operation.

Chud teaches drama, improvisation and creative writing at the Young People's Theatre in Toronto, in after school programs, workshops and camps and she is also a member the Ontario College of Teachers. Beginning in January 2012, Chud will become a Resident Artist-Educator at Young People's Theatre where she will be directing the Junior Ensemble and assistant directing their production of *Jack and the Giant Beanstalk*.

All workshops are open to the general public and space is limited. Registration fees are \$40.00 (+HST) for the Adult Improvisation Workshop, \$40.00 (+HST) for the Youth Acting Workshop and \$60.00 (+HST) for the Playwriting Workshop.

There is a \$10.00 discount for those registering themselves for two workshops or for two young people from same family registering for the youth workshop. For more detailed information on these workshops and to register in advance call 4th Line Theatre at 705-932-4448. Call by noon December 23rd to purchase a Workshop Gift Certificate, the perfect holiday gift. Gift Certificates for the 2012 season are also available.

Adult Improvisation Workshop

Led by Herbie Barnes
Ages 17 and over
Saturday, January 28, 2012
10 am to 4 pm
Limited enrolment
\$40.00 + HST

Youth Acting Workshop

Led by Marjie Chud
Ages 12 to 16
Sunday, January 29, 2012
10 am to 4 pm
Limited enrolment
\$40.00 + HST

Playwrighting Workshop

Led by Sky Gilbert
Ages 18 and over
Sunday, January 29, 2012
10 am to 4 pm
Limited enrolment
\$60.00 + HST

BIOGRAPHIES

Sky Gilbert – writer, actor, producer, teacher

Sky Gilbert is one of Canada's most prolific and controversial artistic forces. He was the co-founder and Artistic Director of Buddies in Bad Times Theatre in Toronto, Ontario for 18 years and he continues to produce plays with his experimental theatre, The Cabaret Company. Gilbert has received three Dora Mavor Moore Awards, the Pauline McGibbon Award for theatre directing, the Margo Bindhardt Award from the Toronto Arts Foundation and The Silver Ticket Award from the Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts. Dr. Gilbert is also an Associate Professor at the School of English and Theatre Studies at Guelph University where he is also holds the University Research Chair in Creative Writing and Theatre Studies. His 6th novel 'Come Back' is scheduled for publication in May 2012 by ECW Press, and his new poetry collection 'The Mommiad' will be published in spring of 2012.

Herbie Barnes – writer, actor, producer, teacher

Herbie Barnes has played many roles throughout his 20 year career both on stage and on film. His best-known stage roles include Bilbo Baggins in *The Hobbit*, or as Norvel Morrisou in *Copper Thunderbird*, as a Wikersham Brother in *Sussical The Musical* and Joseph in *Dance Me Outside* and *The Rez*. Directing includes *The Remember* (MTYP) and *Someday* (Native Earth), *Tales Of An Urban Indian* (Public Theatre NYC, Autry theatre LA) and *Dinky* (Native Earth). Herbie's play *Russell's World* was honoured to be the first play to be asked to the Magnetic North Festival without having been produced first. Herbie has also written for television shows including *Buffalo Tracks* and *Tipi Tales* a show that also uses his performing talents as a puppeteer and voice talent. As a teacher he has spent time in inner city high schools, private schools, universities, and many theatre companies. Since performing in *The Berlin Blues* for 4th Line Theatre last summer, Barnes directed the J. R. R. Tolkien's classic *The Hobbit* for the Manitoba Theatre for Young People where he also played the role of Bilbo Baggins.

Marjie Chud – actor, teacher

Marjie has recently returned from a Canada wide tour of “Russell’s World”, produced by Manitoba Theatre for Young People. Other recent performing credits include the original production of "The State of New York v Peter Pan" at the Hamilton Fringe Festival and its remount in Toronto. Marjie is a founding member of Triptych Lounge Comedy Improv and Four Corners Theatre. She is also a member of the Ontario College of Teachers. She teaches drama, improvisation and creative writing in after school programs as well as drama school, workshops and camps at Young People’s Theatre in Toronto. Beginning in January 2012, Marjie will be a Resident Artist-Educator at Young People’s Theatre where she will be directing the Junior Ensemble and assistant directing Jack and the Giant Beanstalk.

Attached Photos:

1. Sky Gilbert – Instructor, Playwrighting Workshop, Playwright of *St. Francis of Millbrook*
 2. Herbie Barnes – Instructor, Adult Improvisation Workshop
 3. Marjie Chud – Instructor, Youth Acting Workshop
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TICKETS can be purchased at the 4th Line Theatre Box Office at 4 Tupper Street, Millbrook, online at 4thlinetheatre.on.ca, by phone at 705-932-4445 or in person through associated ticket outlets: **Peterborough Museum & Archives** on Armour Hill, (at Museum Drive off Hunter Street East) in Peterborough 705-743-5180 or **Kent Books** at 15 William Street North in Lindsay 705- 328-1600.

4th Line Theatre is committed to preserving and promoting our Canadian cultural heritage through the development and presentation of regionally-based, environmentally-staged historical drama. Our productions are made possible by the generosity of scores of donors and sponsors such as



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