

## MEDIA RELEASE

### LORRAINE KIMSA THEATRE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE STAGES ACTORS' FUND BENEFIT PERFORMANCE

For Immediate Release  
February 13, 2008

TORONTO, ON – Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People presents a pay-what-you-can performance of Michael Miller's new play *Touch the Sky* as a benefit for the Actors' Fund of Canada on Monday February 18 at 2:00 pm. The performance is open to the public and tickets are available on a cash only basis in person at the Box Office from 9:00 am on the day of performance (suggested minimum contribution \$5), with a maximum of six tickets per person. LKTYP is located at 165 Front St. East, Toronto.

Celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2008, the Actors' Fund is the lifeline for Canada's entertainment industry and provides short-term financial aid to professionals performing or working behind the scenes in theatre, film & television, music or dance. Although a career in the entertainment industry might seem like a dream come true, the truth is that many people who are working today may have to wait weeks—or months—before landing their next job. For entertainment workers and their families whose finances are already stretched to the limit, an illness, injury or other setback can have devastating consequences. The Actors' Fund can intervene with a rent cheque, grocery money, a utility payment or other aid that can make the difference between survival and destitution.

*Touch the Sky* is a new work in celebration of Black History Month by the author of the critically acclaimed play *In The Freedom of Dreams: The Story of Nelson Mandela*, which was a highlight of LKTYP's 2002/03 season. This moving play about faith, hope, love and freedom features a cast including Xuan Fraser, Omar Forrest, Patrick Garrow, Patrice Goodman, Ngozi Paul, Jamie Robinson, Karen Robinson and Elizabeth Saunders.

LKTYP Artistic Director Allen MacInnis comments, "We are very proud of this show and proud of our association with the Actors' Fund of Canada. As a member of Canada's theatre community, it is our theatre's duty and our pleasure to support this Fund that has been of so much help to so many of our friends and colleagues in this sometimes difficult profession."

Adds Actors' Fund of Canada Executive Director David Hope, "We are very grateful to Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People and the company of *Touch the Sky* for this benefit performance. Their contribution – and that of the audience members who come to see the show – will be extremely helpful to us as we face a record high demand on the Fund's resources this year."

The Actors' Fund of Canada is a registered charity, receives no government funding and is wholly sustained by support from individuals and entertainment industry organizations. Performers, creators, technical staff and other production team members can apply for help from the Fund, which delivers over \$400,000 in assistance to clients annually and has provided over \$3 million in emergency financial aid in the last 10 years.

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