



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A New Take on an Old Tale:

theatre KAPOW presents *Penelope*, February 28 - March 2, 2014

theatre KAPOW continues its sixth season with the NH premiere of Enda Walsh's brilliant play *Penelope*. The show which the New York Times called "extravagantly imaginative," will be performed at the Stockbridge Theatre in Derry February 28 - March 2.

Loosely based on the myth of Odysseus, *Penelope* tells the story of the last four suitors competing for the hand of Odysseus' queen before he returns from the Trojan War. While the play is based on a classic story, it is entirely contemporary. Walsh has lifted the suitors of the ancient story off the island of Ithaca and dropped them into a drained out swimming pool in nothing but their speedos.

theatre KAPOW's sixth season features a series of events based upon the theme of "awake." The company will focus on an exploration of awakenings of human consciousness. This season's shows demand of artists and audiences both a sense of heightened awareness not only of what is happening in the world around us but also of what it means to be a human being.

"It's a great play," says tKAPOW founder and show director, Matt Cahoon. "It works on so many levels. When I first read it, I thought it was hilarious, but every time I re-read it I find more and more truly profound moments. It's a show that fits this season's theme so well."

"*Penelope* is a brilliant script full of absurd, physical comedy juxtaposed with amazing poetry that has been so much fun to put on it's feet," says tKAPOW newcomer Colby Morgan who is playing the role of Burns. "The play will cause you to literally fall out of your seat laughing but pick yourself up to listen to a very important message."

Penelope features a tremendous ensemble of actors: Wayne Asbury (previously seen in *Buried Child*), Neal Blaiklock (previously seen in *The Illusion*), Gina Carballo (previously seen in *The Illusion*), Peter Josephson (previously seen in *The Burial at Thebes*), and Morgan. The production also features some fantastic designers including Dan Bilodeau (scenery), Bob Haas (fight choreography), Nat Ward (sound), and Tayva Young (lighting).

Performances are Friday, February 28 at 7.30 pm; Saturday, March 1 at 2.00 pm and 7.30 pm; and Sunday, March 2 at 2.00 pm at the Stockbridge Theatre at Pinkerton Academy in Derry, NH. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors/students. For tickets or more information, visit

www.tkapow.com..

About Enda Walsh

Enda Walsh is a playwright and screenwriter who shot to fame when he won both the George Devine Award and the Stewart Parker Award in 1997 with his play *Disco Pigs*. In 2007 and 2008 Enda won Fringe First Awards at two consecutive Edinburgh Festivals for his plays *The Walworth Farce* and *The New Electric Ballroom*. The former led the Guardian to name him "one of the most dazzling wordsmiths of contemporary theatre." In 2011, Enda won the Tony Award for Best Book of a Musical for *Once*. Since his initial success as a playwright, Enda has gone on to write for the screen. His 2008 biopic, *Hunger*, told the story of the final days of IRA hunger striker Bobby Sands and won a host of awards, including the Camera d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival and the Heartbeat Award at the Dinard International Film Festival. It was nominated for seven BIFAs (including Best Screenplay), six British Film and Television Awards (including Best Screenplay and Best Independent Film) and BAFTA's Outstanding British Film Award 2009. He has since adapted his stage play, *Chatroom*, for the big screen.

About theatre KAPOW

theatre KAPOW (www.tkapow.com) develops ensemble productions of great dramatic literature to explore the human experience and inspire and challenge both artist and audience. tKAPOW places emphasis on the importance of rigorous formal training to develop an ensemble of skilled and dedicated theatre artists.

Now in its sixth season, tKAPOW has established a reputation for presenting important dramatic literature including productions by August Strindberg, Henrik Ibsen, Sam Shepard, David Mamet, Sarah Ruhl, and Tony Kushner. tKAPOW also supports the development of new work through an annual 24 Hour Play Festival and an original performance piece in the spring. The editors of New Hampshire Magazine named theatre KAPOW the Best Contemporary Theatre in New Hampshire for 2013.

theatre KAPOW is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization.

Visit www.tkapow.com to learn more.

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2. Neal Blaiklock, Colby Morgan, Peter Josephson, and Wayne Asbury in theatre KAPOW's production of *Penelope* by Enda Walsh, February 28 - March 2, 2014.. <http://www.tkapow.com/>. Photo by Matthew Lomanno Photography.

22. Neal Blaiklock, Colby Morgan, Peter Josephson, and Wayne Asbury in theatre KAPOW's production of *Penelope* by Enda Walsh, February 28 - March 2, 2014.. <http://www.tkapow.com/>. Photo by Matthew Lomanno Photography.

27. Colby Morgan, Peter Josephson, Neal Blaiklock, and Wayne Asbury in theatre KAPOW's production of *Penelope* by Enda Walsh, February 28 - March 2, 2014.. <http://www.tkapow.com/>. Photo by Matthew Lomanno Photography.

43. Gina Carballo as Penelope in theatre KAPOW's production of Penelope by Enda Walsh, February 28 - March 2, 2014.. <http://www.tkapow.com/>. Photo by Matthew Lomanno Photography.