

Press Release
For Immediate Release

The Bookshop /La librairie,
a Théâtre du Gros Mécano production
Coproduced in JAPAN

ブックショップ
劇団グロ・メカノ(カナダ・ケベック) & バスタ Inc. (日本・東京) 国際共同製作

Québec, June 9th 2009- Le Théâtre du Gros Mécano, in coproduction with the Japanese producer Basta, will present the Japanese version of the play *The Bookshop* – Bukkushoppu at the Sun Mall theatre in Tokyo from September 18th to the 27th 2009. The text was translated by Kyoko Hasegawa.

The director Frédéric Dubois and the scenographers Élise Dubé and Isabelle St-Louis will fly to Japan in August to assist the Japanese crew. They will be joined in September by the author Marie-Josée Bastien and the artistic director of TGM Carol Cassistat to participate in the final staging and the promotion of the play as well as work shops with Japanese groups before the play's début. The Japanese version of the play will be identical to the Québec version. The set built in Japan will be used in the subsequent Asian tours of the play.

The Japanese cast under the direction of Frédéric Dubois is as follows Kayo Asano, in the role of Jeanne, Yasuhiro Kawai will play Victor, Mieko Akemi as Pétra and Ken Mizorogi as Samuel.

This first play for a young audience by the author, actress and director Marie-Josée Bastien of Québec, has been widely acclaimed in Québec and elsewhere. The story was inspired by Marie-Josée's favourite old bookshop in Paris – Shakespeare & Company.

"I wanted to talk about and share my love of books, those marvellous things that contain all the stories in the world, from picture books to universal encyclopedias. Every book is unique and speaks directly to our heart. It's a passport to imaginary worlds." Marie-Josée Bastien

The Bookshop is

... a funny and touching story that takes the audience from past to present and from dream to reality. This play offers a breath of fresh air that the audience will love.

Just back from a second European tour, the team is looking forward to continuing this fabulous artistic adventure in Japan in September. The play in French has already been performed before 248 audiences of all ages in Québec, Ontario, Belgium, and France. The English version is a coproduction with the National Arts Center, English Theatre of Ottawa. *The Bookshop* and *La Librería* (the Spanish version) are available for touring. The text in French has been published by Éditions L'instant Même.

Le Théâtre du Gros Mécano works for the creation and distribution of plays for all ages of theatre lovers. The company favours theatre that is accessible and open with diverse approaches to content and form. TGM gives special attention to original works and offers playwrights creative space to question, research and realize their work. Thus TGM is contributing to the development of theatre for our time. Since its foundation in 1976 TGM has produced 40 creations before 740,000 theatre goers.

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For more information, please contact :

- Hélène Basque, Communication and Touring (TGM) Québec
Tel.: 418-649-0092 # 25 / Cellulaire : 418-559-6226

helene.basque@theatredugrosmecano.qc.ca / www.theatredugrosmecano.qc.ca

- Machiko Yamashita, machiko@bafj.jp / www.basta.co.jp/thebookshop/ Japan