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Who: Quantum Theatre

What: **2008-09 Season Announcement**

When: Press/Patron Cocktail Event Wednesday May 14, 6:30-8:00 pm

Where: Rose Garden, Mellon Park (if rain, Pittsburgh Center for the Arts)

### **Quantum Theatre is a kind of laboratory ...**

an incubator for the amazing, christened in 1990, rededicated each year with the rites of spring to its mission to bring forth artists forging new theatrical ground.

They are playwrights, directors, actors, influencers. They come from Pittsburgh, from around the country, and from around the world. Productions are staged environmentally in places that aren't theatres. Quantum's artists mine all kinds of non-traditional spaces for the sensory possibilities they offer when combined with creative design. **We find it meaningful to place the audience and performers together, the moving parts inside the works.**

The shows run the gamut from those you thought you knew but now experience like never before, to shows that didn't exist until their elements mixed in our laboratory. **Sometimes there's singing. Often a sunset. Always a reaction.**

We want to move people with our experiments. We believe that the theatre has limitless ability to put people in motion. If any art can transform, open a mind, the theatre can.

We are interested in real life and how it intersects with a theatrical experience – resulting in plays staged outside where a moon may rise, or not, or an urban excavation where street noises will infiltrate, or a warehouse in winter where the audience might need blankets... then watch a performer strip naked and take a shower. We're looking for truthfulness, knowing that the word is a slippery slope. **We give voice to artists who invest deeply and touch the personal, even as they tell a tale, a far-off, magical, scary, too-close-to-home, knee-slapping, sob-inducing tale.**

## ***Cymbeline***

By William Shakespeare  
Directed by Karla Boos  
July 31 – August 24, 2008  
Outdoors in Mellon Park

Is it a comedy, a tragedy, a romance? Like *Quantum*, Shakespeare's *Cymbeline* breaks the rules and doesn't care. At its heart are many journeys. Broken families stumble back together and characters struggle through dense fog to emerge whole. *Cymbeline* is a tale about who we are, where we come from, and how we find our way home. Written late in Shakespeare's life, this highly theatrical, no-holds Bard has a cross-dressing heroine, Machiavellian villains, tyrannical kings, long-lost children, a wicked queen, star-crossed lovers ... and a Deus Ex Machina that resolves a plot with more ricochets than 'Desperate Housewives.'

Quantum's 'Machina' comes with a special, local twist – a high-tech, outdoor design that includes collaboration with the Robotics Institute of Carnegie Mellon University.

Miki Johnson (*Splendour, After Mrs Rochester, The Collected Works of Billy the Kid*) stars as Shakespeare's great heroine, Imogen.

## ***The Museum of Desire and Flowers in a Corner***

WORLD PREMIERE

From two stories by John Berger

Directed by Dan Jemmett

Starring '404 Strand' – the ensemble cast assembled for *The Collected Works of Billy the Kid*

November 6 – 23, 2008

Location to be announced

John Berger is an elder statesman of the art world – critic, painter, and author best-known for his Booker Prize-winning novel *G.* and his book on art theory, *Ways of Seeing*. *The Museum of Desire* and *Flowers in a Corner* are Berger's unpublished short stories, entrusted to director Dan Jemmett and Quantum Theatre for translation into a unique theatrical premiere. In a setting that perfectly evokes desire, Jemmett's devised production will suggest the obsession of everyman for a surreal museum guide who seduces with a private collection of fantastical objects and a promise of immortality. A completely unusual evening, two audience bookings per night, at 7:00 and 8:00, will overlap with an hour of additional artistic adventures.

## ***Yerma***

By Federico Garcia Lorca

Directed by Melanie Dreyer

January 29 – February 22, 2009

Location to be announced

*Yerma* is a deeply musical folktale, blending song and poetic text into a modern story of unbridled yearning. We feel the rhythm of the feet of many generations in *Yerma*, a woman in a rural community who wields the forces of the earth against a man-made fate. Quantum unites this 20th century classic with the irrepressible art of flamenco from Lorca's native Andalusia. Carolina Loyola-Garcia, whose flamenco art enlivened Quantum's *Red Shoes* in 2007, collaborates with singers and dancers from Spain to bring us a story of an unrelenting passion.

## ***Mouth to Mouth***

By Kevin Elyot

Starring Karla Boos

April 2 – 26, 2009

Location to be announced

The homecoming of a son. The reunion of two brothers. A friendship more powerful than a marriage. Frank has made a surrogate family of Laura's, safe in the refuge of her domesticity. But when does intimacy become betrayal? What's unforgivable among friends? This brilliantly acerbic tragic-comedy exposes the pretension and narcissism of 'people like us' with unerring and hilarious accuracy. Kevin Elyot is winner of Britain's Evening Standard and Olivier Awards for Best Comedy. His plays *Mouth to Mouth* and acclaimed earlier work *My Night With Reg* premiered at London's Royal Court Theatre.

\* All information subject to change