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January 29 - February 24, 2008

CENTAUR THEATRE COMPANY
PRESENTS

Necessary Angel's production of

Half Life

By John Mighton Directed By Daniel Brooks



the voice of Montreal



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Centaur Theatre Company

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NECESSARY ANGEL'S PRODUCTION OF

Half Life

By JOHN MIGHTON

Directed by DANIEL BROOKS

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FOR I AM THE NECESSARY
ANGEL OF THE EARTH,
FOR IN MY EYES YOU SEE
THE WORLD ANEW.
-WALLACE STEVENS

Necessary Angel is dedicated to fully exploring the theatrical arts by creating original work that challenges assumptions and engages multiple points of view, while seeking to provoke and astonish.

Necessary Angel is considered to be one of English Canada's most important original creation and touring companies. With over fifty productions, including twenty-four world premieres and ten North American premieres, it has been an influential and original presence on the national and international theatre scene for almost thirty years. Necessary Angel's plays have been nominated for and have won numerous Governor General's Awards for Drama, Chalmers Awards for Outstanding New Play and countless Dora Mavor Moore Awards.

Since 2003, renowned director, writer, actor and teacher, Daniel Brooks has been the company's Artistic Director.

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*Necessary Angel is the proud recipient of a Strategic Initiative Grant, generously provided by the George Cedric Metcalf Foundation. This three year grant has allowed Necessary Angel to engage a Tour and Production Manager, furthering the company's long-held goal to sustainably showcase its work on the international stage.

NECESSARY ANGEL

The world premiere production of *Half Life* was presented by Necessary Angel in co-production with the Tarragon Theatre in the spring of 2005. Necessary Angel then toured the play to three Canadian theatre festivals: Théâtre d'ailleurs in Quebec City; Festival de théâtre des Amériques in Montreal, where it was awarded the Montreal English Critics Circle Award for Best Visiting Production; and Magnetic North Theatre Festival in Ottawa, where it won the Capital Critics Circle Award for Best of the Festival. In the fall of 2005, Necessary Angel, in co-production with Scotland's Tron Theatre (Glasgow) and Perth Theatre (Perth), took *Half Life* on a month-long, two-city tour of Scotland. During the 2006/07 season, Necessary Angel toured the play to three of the country's largest theatres: Toronto's CanStage, Winnipeg's MTC and Vancouver's Arts Club. In October 2007, *Half Life* opened Australia's Melbourne International Arts Festival.

Half Life was developed and first presented in a full-scale workshop production by Necessary Angel in its 2003/04 season. It was also developed, in part, in residence with da da kamera through the support of the Ontario Arts Council Residence Grant and The Canada Council for the Arts Artist in Residence Program, and in partnership with the National Theatre School of Canada, Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama/Tron Theatre and North Carolina's Playwright Project.

Half Life was awarded the 2005 Governor General's Literary Award for Drama and the 2005 Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding New Play. The play's author (John Mighton), director (Daniel Brooks) and set & costume designer (Dany Lyne) are all winners of the Elinore and Lou Siminovitch Prize in theatre, the most prestigious award for achievement in Canadian theatre.

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August 2007

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Half Life
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October 2007

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November 2007

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Hardsell
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January 2008

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Half Life
Centaur Theatre
January 2008

WHITEHORSE

Bigger Than Jesus
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February 2008

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March 2008

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The Gazette

We're always proud to rub shoulders with a good thing.

The Gazette

Words matter

welcome



Happy New Year and welcome to *Half Life*. It is a great honour to host this magnificent award winning production from Necessary Angel Theatre Company in Toronto. John Mighton is one of Canada's most dynamic playwrights and the remarkable Daniel Brooks had assembled a stellar group of artists to create this haunting and elliptical production.

Memory, aging, family and love are explored with exquisite detail and one cannot help but reflect on his or her own experiences and the fragmented way in which we relive our lives through the veil of reminiscence. This is an auspicious production to launch 2008 and we hope you will find the offerings at The Centaur memorable as we embark on the rest of the season. I also want to invite you to check out our website which can increase your pleasure of our theatre's endeavours.

Thank you for being here, live and in person.

Sincerely,
Roy Surette
Artistic & Executive Director

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John Mighton ~ Playwright

Mighton's plays have been performed across Canada, Britain, Europe, Japan and the United States. Currently an Adjunct Professor at The University of Toronto, he rediscovered the joy of numbers in 1984 at age 28 and studied for his doctorate in mathematics. Mighton has twice won the coveted Dora Mavor Moore Award for *Scientific Americans* in 1988 and *A Short History of Night* in 1989. He's been recognised with two Governor General's Awards for the published text of *Possible Words & A Short History of the Night* in 1992 and *Half Life* in 2005. That year he was recognised for his advancement of Canadian theatre with the \$100,000 Siminovitch Prize in Theatre, the jury citing the, "Profound combination of intellect and heart embodied in Mr. Mighton's work. His voice has grace, delicacy and a gentle humanity. He also brings tremendous depths to his plays, taking complex, sophisticated ideas and makes them playable in a truly theatrical manner." Mighton also contributed to the Oscar-winning film *Good Will Hunting* and was featured as the math teacher, Tom.



Daniel Brooks ~ Director

Daniel has been a mainstay of Canada's theatre community for the past 20 years. He has worked as a director, writer, actor, producer, and teacher. Some of his creations include *Red Tape* and *86; An Autopsy* (with Don McKellar and Tracy Wright); *The Lorca Play*, *House*, *Here Lies Henry*, *Monster*, and *Cul-de-sac* (all with Daniel MacIvor); *The Noam Chomsky Lectures* and *Insomnia* (with Guillermo Verdecchia); *Bigger Than Jesus* (with Rick Miller); and *The Good Life*. His work as a director includes John Mighton's *Possible Worlds* and *Half Life*, Goethe's *Faust*, and Beckett's *Endgame*. His most recent play is *The Eco Show*. He has won and been nominated for many theatre awards. He was the first recipient of the prestigious Elinore and Lou Siminovitch Prize in Theatre for directing. His work has traveled across Canada and around the world. He is currently the Artistic Director of Necessary Angel Theatre Company.



Anthony Black ~ Assistant Director

Anthony is a busy and versatile artist who works as an actor, director, writer, designer, and as artistic co-director of Halifax's 2b theatre company. His recent directing credits include *Blood Wedding*; *King Ubu*, *Marion Bridge*, *Manners of Dying*, and the world premiere of *Soul Alone*, co-written with Conor Green. His solo performance, *Invisible Atom*, has been performed across Canada. Anthony is a graduate of the National Theatre School's Directing Program. He has received multiple Robert G. Merritt award nominations as a writer, director, and designer. In 2005 he won the Halifax Mayor's award for Emerging Theatre Artist. In 2006 he received the Best Actor nod in The Coast Weekly's Best of Halifax issue; *Marion Bridge*, which he directed, received the nod for Best Production. Anthony's newest play-in-development, *Legacy*, was work-shopped at the Stratford Festival of Canada and will be produced by 2b in 2008-2009.



Richard Clarkin ~ Donald

Theatre: *The Eco Show* (Necessary Angel); *A Whistle in the Dark* (Company Theatre); *Red River Rebellion* (VideoCab); *The Lion King*, *Death of a Salesman* (Mirvish Productions); *Twelfth Night* (Soulpepper); *Dali*, *The Dirty Beautiful* (Crow's Theatre); *The Rehearsal* (Paramour); *Uncle Vanya* (Guardian Springs); *King Lear*, *Merchant of Venice* (Stratford); *Hedda Gabler*, *The Pregnant Pause* (Atlantic Theatre Festival); *Waiting for Godot*, *Beauty Queen of Leenane*, *Mating Dance of the Werewolf*, *Death of a Salesman* (Manitoba Theatre Centre); *The Substance of Fire* (Winnipeg Jewish Theatre). Film: *Production Office* (Steve Solomos/Deborah Marks); *Finn's Girl* (Laurie Colbert); *The Third Eye* (Leah Walker); *Land of the Dead* (George A Romero); *City of Fear* (Mark Roper); *The Five Senses* (Jeremy Podezwa). Television: *The Altar Boy Gang*, *Sisters in the Wilderness*, *A People's History of Canada*, *Kids in the Hall* (CBC); *Naturally Sadie* (Family Channel); *Playing House*, *La Femme Nikita* (CTV); *Claude Monet: Shadows and Light*, *Rescuers*, *Kung Fu: The Legend Continues*. Founding Member of Primus Theatre. Dora nomination for *Uncle Vanya*.



Laura de Carteret ~ Anna

Laura is delighted to be in Montreal performing in a production that has taken her across Canada, to Scotland and Australia. She has also been seen in *Sideman* (Tarragon Theatre), *Skylight* and *The Gist* (Manitoba Theatre Centre), *Getting Married* (Shaw Festival), *The School for Scandal* (Banff Advanced Actors Workshop), *The Rehearsal*, *Digging for Fire*, and *Two Rooms* (Paramour Productions, co-founder). Television guest appearances include *Angela's Eyes*, *Puppets Who Kill*, *Queer as Folk*, *Kevin Hill*, *This is Wonderland*, *The West Wing*, *Widow on the Hill*, *Dark Oracle*, among numerous others. Selected film credits include *Heartstopper*, *Mean Girls*, *Spirit Bear*, *Dawn of the Dead*, *Redemption*, and *Our Fathers*. Upcoming work includes roles in George A. Romero's *Diary of the Dead*, *The Magic Flute* (Sullivan Entertainment), and *Shoot 'Em Up* with Clive Owen (New Line Cinema).



Barbara Gordon ~ Agnes / First Scientist / Diana

Barbara Gordon has been a performer on stage, film, television, and radio for over 30 years. Recent theatre appearances include *The Clean House* (Globe Theatre), *The Arab-Israeli Cookbook* (Studio 180), *Homechild* (CanStage), and *That Time*, a collection of Beckett shorts (Theatre Centre) for which she won a Dora Award. She performed for four seasons with Theatre Plus and has appeared at the Shaw Festival and regional theatres across the country. Recent film roles include the title role in the indie short *Congratulations Daisy Graham* and a gun-totin' werewolf in the feature *Skinwalkers* and the upcoming feature *XIII*. Television work has included continuing roles on *This Is Wonderland*, *The Associates*, and *Traders*, and numerous movies of the week. Last year's highlights were the trip with *Half Life* to Australia and a stint as a visiting artist in Labrador.



Carolyn Hetherington ~ Clara

Selected credits – CanStage and N.A.C.: *Written on Water*. N.A.C.: *After the Orchard* and *You Can't Take it With You*. Centaur: *Burnt Piano*, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* (MECCA Award), *Wit*, *Copenhagen*, *Driving Miss Daisy* and *Having*. The Citadel: *Homeward Bound*, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, *A Day in the Life of Joe Egg*. Other theatre: *Soulpepper*, *Tarragon*, *Stratford Festival* and *Ships Company Theatre*. Carolyn received a Dora nomination (2005) for *Half Life*. Recent film: *Sarah Polley's Away From Her*.



Maggie Huculak ~ Tammy / Second Scientist

Maggie Huculak has performed on Toronto stages for 25 years. Recent work includes *Age of Arousal* (Nightwood); *A Christmas Carol* and *The Wild Duck* (Soulpepper); *The Clean House*, *The Glass Menagerie* and *Elizabeth Rex* (Globe), and *4:48 Psychosis* (Summerworks). She is a frequent collaborator with *Necessary Angel* (*Tamara*, *Beating Heart Cadaver*, *The Piper*, *Seven Lears*, *King Lear*) and *Theatre Columbus*, with whom she is co-creating a new play entitled *Teetering*. A six-time Dora Award nominee, she has co-authored four plays, including *Mein*, winner of a Dora Award, and *The Betrayal*, winner of a Chalmers Award. Maggie acts extensively on camera and narrated CBC's epic documentary *Canada: A People's History*. She is a faculty member of *Armstrong Acting Studio* (acting for the camera), and *Shakespeareance* - a summer Shakespeare program for middle and high school students.



Eric Peterson ~ Patrick

Eric has appeared in *Homechild*, *The Beard of Avon*, *Boy Gets Girl*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, and *Hysteria* (CanStage). His most recent stage credits include *Half Life* and *The Dishwashers* for *Tarragon Theatre*. Other shows he is proud of include *Billy Bishop Goes to War* (co-creator with John Gray) and *The Designated Mourner* (*Tarragon Theatre*), for which he won a Dora Award. His film and television credits include *Corner Gas*, *This is Wonderland*, and *Street Legal*.



Robert Persichini ~ Reverend Hill

Theatre: *Half Life* (Scottish Tour, Melbourne Tour); Eight seasons with the *Stratford* and *Shaw Festivals* in works by Shakespeare, Shaw, Brecht, Coward, Moliere and Tennessee Williams; *Blyth Festival*; numerous performances for *CanStage* including *The Weir*, *The Stone Angel*, *Amadeus*, *Communicating Doors* and *Blue Dragons*. Other theatres include *Soulpepper*; *The Centaur*; *Grand Theatre, London*; *Manitoba Theatre Centre*; *Citadel Theatre*; and various new Canadian plays at the *Tarragon*. Narrator for *The Grand Tour-Taflemusik Baroque Orchestra*, *Aspen Colorado*, and *Ravinia Music Festival Chicago*. Numerous radio plays for *CBC* and *Historica*. Upcoming - *Stratford 2008 Season*.



Dany Lyne ~ Set & Costume Designer

Dany is the recipient of the 2006 Siminovitch Prize in Theatre. She has designed over 70 productions in Canada, the United States, and Europe including Daniel Brooks's *Phedre* (2003) for Soulpepper Theatre. Recent collaborations include Peter Hinton's *The Wrong Son* (2006) for the National Arts Centre and *Into the Woods* (2005) for the Stratford Festival. Other credits include, with director Nicholas Muni, *Macbeth* (2005) and *Pelléas et Mélisande* (2000) for the Canadian Opera Company, and *The Maids* (2004), *The Emperor of Atlantis* (2004), *La Voix Humaine* (2003), *Seven Deadly Sins* (2003), *Medusa* (2003), and *Elektra* (2002) for the Cincinnati Opera. With director Tim Albery, credits include *Rodelinda* (2005) for the Canadian Opera Company, *Nathan the Wise* (2004) for Soulpepper Theatre, *Idomeneo* (2002) for the National Reis Opera (Netherlands) and Opera North (England) and *The Abduction from the Seraglio* (2001) for De Vlaamse Opera (Belgium). Canstage credits include *Hair* and *Twelfth Night* (Dream in High Park, 1993).



Andrea Lundy ~ Lighting Designer

Andrea is a Toronto based award-winning lighting designer. She has been nominated for 19 Dora Mavor Moore Awards, winning a total of 6 times, twice for her work with Daniel Brooks for *Possible Worlds*, and *Insomnia*. Other work with Daniel includes *Half Life*, *Designated Mourner*, *Faust*, and *Good Life*. She spent 4 seasons at the Shaw Festival and has worked extensively with Tarragon Theatre, Soulpepper Theatre, Canstage, Factory Theatre, Theatre Passe Muraille, Neptune Theatre and many other Canadian companies. She has been the Head of Production at Theatre Passe Muraille and Tarragon Theatre as well as for the Dora Awards and the Siminovitch Awards.



Richard Feren ~ Composer/Sound Designer

Richard has been creating music and soundscapes for Canadian theatre, dance and film since 1992. For Necessary Angel: *Half Life*; *Insomnia*. As resident composer for da da kamera: *Cul-de-Sac*; *In On It*; *You Are Here*; *Monster*; *Here Lies Henry*; *The Soldier Dreams*; *Excerpts From The EMO Journals* (Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding Sound & Music). For Daniel Brooks: *The Designated Mourner*, *Faust*, *Possible Worlds*, *The Good Life*, *Betrayal*, *Endgame* (Dora Award), and *Phèdre*. Recently: *I Am My Own Wife* for the Saidye Bronfman Centre; Soulpepper's *The Chairs* and *King Lear*; and 2B Theatre's *Revisited*. Feature film work includes Robert Lepage's *Possible Worlds* and Daniel MacIvor's *Past Perfect*. Richard received the 1999 Pauline McGibbon Award.

Table d'hôte
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RESTAURANT



Crystal Salverda ~ Stage Manager

Crystal is thrilled to be back on tour with Necessary Angel Theatre Company's production of *Half Life*. Over the years Crystal has toured internationally and across Canada and has stage managed for Soulepper Theatre Company, Toronto Masque, Blyth Festival and The Grand Theatre, to name a few.



Kate Porter ~ Assistant Stage Manager

Thanks to Necessary Angel's trip to The Melbourne International Arts Festival, Kate spent her fall travelling in Australia and New Zealand. Last summer she stage-managed *The Red Priest* and ASM-ed *Anne and Gilbert* at the Thousand Islands Playhouse. She has toured with *Half Life* to Montreal, Quebec City, Ottawa, Winnipeg, Vancouver and Scotland. Kate has stage-managed *This Is How It Goes* at Neptune Theatre, *The Man Whose Mother Was A Pirate* at LKTYP and 2b theatre company's *Revisited* at the Theatre Centre, as well as workshops of Theatrefront's *The Cape Town Project* at Tarragon and *Opera Briefs 6* for Tapestry New Opera Works. ASM credits include the Canadian Opera Company's *Rheingold* and *Macbeth* and Ross Petty's *Snow White and the Group of Seven*.

Playwrights' Workshop Montréal, with the generous participation of the Centaur Theatre, presents a public reading of Maryse Warda's *Demi-vie*, a translation of John Mighton's *Half Life*, developed through the Tadoussac Playwrights' Residence.

The reading of *Demi-vie* will take place on:
February 6th, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. at the Centaur Theatre
Directed by Anthony Black (associate director of *Half Life*)
Written by John Mighton
Translated by Maryse Warda

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The Tadoussac Playwrights' Residence is made possible by Playwrights' Workshop Montréal in partnership with Canada's National Arts Centre English Theatre and Briony Glassco, Honorary Chair of the residency.

SEAGRAM ART GALLERY at CENTAUR THEATRE

Vickie Marston is originally from Wolfville, Nova Scotia. For the past 8 seasons she has been the Head of Props at Centaur Theatre. A Freelance Designer for many Theatres in Nova Scotia, The Atlantic Theatre Festival, Neptune Theatre and Mermaid Theatre, photography is an interest she has developed in her free time.

When words become unclear, I shall focus with photographs.
~Ansel Adams



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To create, develop and present a season of thought-provoking plays that reflect our artistic vision and inspire and engage the Montreal community is a joy and a privilege for all of us who are associated with this great theatre company.

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THEATRE OF TOMORROW

educates and inspires young leaders of tomorrow

Centaur Theatre Company is proud to have developed its popular Theatre of Tomorrow (TOT) program, designed to inspire and enhance the theatre going experience in the lives of thousands of local high-school students.

Each year, close to 3000 young people attend special matinee performances of Centaur Theatre Company productions through the TOT program. Centaur teams up with educators by providing participating high schools with tickets at special discount prices, instructional workbooks and the unique opportunity to meet the actors and creative team after the show. The TOT experience begins with students reading the play before attending the performance. Teachers are provided with a workbook that includes detailed background information on the play and production, notes on the playwright as well as suggested improvisations, preparation activities and theatre games. In many cases, seeing a show at the Centaur is the first live theatre experience for the student. With this in mind, the workbook includes an introduction to theatre etiquette, an overview of "who's who" in the theatre process as well as the inside track of what it takes to stage a theatrical production. Following the performance, students can articulate ideas and ask questions at a moderated talk-back session with the cast.

Centaur Theatre selects TOT productions for their educational value as well as their potential to entertain and inspire. T.O.T. Shows this season are *The Carpenter*, *Half Life*, *Relative Good*, *Maddy Heisler* and *Forever Yours*, *Marie-Lou*. The discounted ticket price and costs associated with TOT, are generously subsidized by Great West Life.

For more information on how you can support the Theatre of Tomorrow initiative and join Centaur Theatre Company in encouraging cultural activity in the lives of thousands of young people contact

Eric Sukhu, Group Sales and Outreach Coordinator at (514) 288-1229 x245 or by fax at (514) 288-8575.

At Great-West Life, London Life and Canada Life, we are committed to enriching communities through our support of the arts. We focus on accessibility and audience involvement, and encourage the participation and education of youth. We're proud to support Theatre of Tomorrow through the Centaur Theatre Company as they engage minds, entertain audiences and encourage new ideas.

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CENTAUR
THEATRE
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Centaur Theatre Company is a member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres and engages artists who are members of Canadian Actors' Equity Association, under the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement. Centaur Theatre Company performs under the auspices of the Centaur Foundation for the Performing Arts.

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