

**The family that blows up beaver dams together stays together.
Or something like that.**

PRESS RELEASE – 1 April 2005

DOROTHY SAID THEATRE! is proud to announce the launch of its first production, **LAST HOUSE**, a new play by **ALISON McELWAIN**. **LAST HOUSE** opens at the **THEATRE CENTRE** (1087 Queen Street West). Runs Friday April 1st until Sunday April 17th. Evening performances are Tuesday to Saturday, 8pm, and Sundays and Wednesdays at 2pm. Tickets for evening performances are \$22, Students/Equity Members/Groups \$17, Sunday Pay-What-You-Can, and Wednesday Matinees \$12. Tickets are available through the Theatre Centre Box Office (416-538-0988), www.dorothysaid.com

Veteran actors **OLIVER DENNIS** (Soulpepper's *Waiting for Godot*, *Translations*), **MARGOT DIONNE** (Stratford's *The Swanne*), and **MICHAEL SIMPSON** (Soulpepper's *Translations*, *Mirandolina*), and emerging actors **TRICIA LAHDE** (HurlyBurly's *Macbeth*) and **JODY HEWSTON** (Lightgeist Entertainment's *Magnus Opus*) bring this ensemble piece to life. **LAST HOUSE** features a father and son, each facing a forced retirement from their chosen professions; a mother uprooted from her comfortable life in the city and transplanted to the family cottage; a daughter who has left her job as a palliative care nurse; and a neighbor grieving the loss of his true love after losing her to a long, debilitating illness. **LAST HOUSE** is a comedy.

The production team for **LAST HOUSE** include director and set designer **ALISON McELWAIN**, lighting designer **KAREN BAYER**, costume designer **JOANNE MITCHELL**, sound designer **JODY HEWSTON**, assistant director **KEITH BARKER** and stage managed by **ANDREA SCHURMAN**.

DOROTHY SAID THEATRE!'s Co-Artistic Directors are **JODY HEWSTON** and **ALISON McELWAIN**. **LAST HOUSE** is McElwain's first full-length play. She has stage managed for Sandra Shamas, George Brown Theatre and Company of Sirens, and assistant stage managed for Soulpepper, CanStage, Factory Theatre and the World Stage Festival. She has produced, written and directed new work at the Toronto Fringe Festival and The Graduate Centre for the Study of Drama's Festival of Original Theatre. **JODY HEWSTON** is a Toronto-based actor and writer, who has worked -in both capacities- in film and theatre; most significantly the independent feature film *Magnus Opus*, and the first production of his own one-man play, *The Slump in the Chair*, at the Sudbury Theatre Centre.

LAST HOUSE has had two previous public readings in 2004, which featured artists such as John Neville, Oliver Dennis, Maria Vaccratsis, Sarah McVie and Jody Hewston.

DOROTHY SAID THEATRE! is mandated to present high quality theatre with Canadian artists to Canadian audiences, to give emerging artists a place to work as equals with established theatre artists, provide an arena for established professionals to try their hand at different aspects of their art, and to educate youth about theatre and theatre production through hands-on experience and an open-door policy. **LAST HOUSE** is made possible through the generous support of the Toronto Arts Council.

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For more media information, please contact:

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