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WORLD PREMIERE BY CANADIAN THEATRICAL GREATS

LET'S RUN AWAY

Written + Performed by Daniel MacIvor

Directed + Dramaturged by Daniel Brooks

Produced by reWork Productions Presented by Canadian Stage

Berkeley Street Theatre – October 31 to November 17



*Peter tries to tell us his story, but he can't stop interrupting himself,
because it's not told in his words.*

The dynamic duo of Daniel MacIvor and Daniel Brooks unite for their seventh collaboration. From the great minds that brought you *Here Lies Henry*, *Monster*, *Cul-de-sac*, and *Who Killed Spalding Gray*, comes another magnificent solo work, *Let's Run Away*, on stage at Canadian Stage's Berkeley Street Theatre, October 31-November 17.

BRENDAN HEALY, Artistic Director MONICA ESTEVES, Executive Director
ALEXANDRA BAILLIE & TONY BAYLIS, Board Co Chairs

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Considered one of Canada's the greatest theatrical collaborations, MacIvor and Brooks have spent 30 years creating solo works and ***Let's Run Away*** is a celebration of all they have explored about the style. ***Let's Run Away*** is a touching story of love and abandonment that chronicles the life of Peter. Finding his birth mother's manuscript -- a memoir written by a woman who abandoned him twice, once as a baby and once when he was a young man of 13 -- Peter decides to put on a show reading from the manuscript. His mother has figured prominently in his life for over fifty years, but judging by his mother's memoir, him not so much in hers.

Deliciously fraught, eccentric, and full of drama, ***Let's Run Away*** is a story of abandonment, family dynamics and identity -- who we are to others and how that relates to who we are to ourselves. Taking the audience on a transformative journey from judgement and rage to empathy and tenderness, this striking work is a gloriously captivating solo performance that represents the way we all feel at times -- lost.

"It is an absolute honour to welcome these giants of Canadian theatre back to our stage," says Canadian Stage Artistic Director Brendan Healy. "In this masterful new solo work, Brooks and MacIvor have crafted a remarkable character who embodies the isolation and disconnect that so many of us increasingly feel. ***Let's Run Away*** is a remarkable lesson in compassion brought to life by two of our country's greatest theatre makers."

Let's Run Away is on stage Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 8 PM, Fridays at 7 PM, Saturdays at 2 and 8 PM and Sundays at 2 PM from October 31 through November 17, 2019 at the Berkeley Street Theatre. Tickets are available online at canadianstage.com, by phone at 416-368-3110 or in person at the Berkeley Street box office.

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To receive further information or to request an interview, please contact

CATHY PAINE at 416-367-8243 ext. 250

cpaine@canadianstage.com

ABOUT DANIEL MACIVOR

Daniel MacIvor is originally from Cape Breton and divides his time between Toronto and Nova Scotia. Currently, Daniel runs reWork Productions with Marcie Januska. He has written numerous award-winning theatre productions including *See Bob Run*, *Never Swim Alone*, *His Greatness* and his work has been translated into French, Portuguese, Spanish, Czech, German and Japanese. With Daniel Brooks he created the solo shows *House*, *Here Lies Henry*, *Monster*, *Cul-de-sac*, *This Is What Happens Next* and *Who Killed Spalding Gray?*. He received the Governor General's Literary Award for Drama for

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his collection of *plays I Still Love You*, the Siminovitch Prize for Theatre and was also the recipient of an Obie Award and a GLAAD Award for his play *In On It*. Daniel wrote the libretto for Rufus Wainwright's *Hadrian*, staged at the Canadian Opera Company in October of 2018. Also, a screenwriter, Daniel has written the films *Marion Bridge*, *Wilby Wonderful*, *Trigger* and *Weirdos*, which he won a Canadian Screen Award for best original screenplay. He is currently developing a new musical *Here's What It Takes* with Steven Page for the Stratford Festival's 2020 season.

ABOUT DANIEL BROOKS

Daniel Brooks has made a significant contribution to theatre in Canada, as a writer, director, producer, performer and teacher. He has collaborated with a wide range of artists. His many works include a series of monologues created with Daniel MacIvor, multi-media work with Rick Miller, direction of work by John Mighton, Beckett, Sophocles, Ibsen, Mamet and Goethe, the musical *Drowsy Chaperone*, and many creations including *The Full Light of Day*, *The Noam Chomsky Lectures*, *Insomnia*, *The Eco Show*, *The Good Life*, *Bigger Than Jesus*, *Pokey Jones*, *Divisadero* and a series of plays created with Don McKellar and Tracy Wright (The Augusta Company). He was co-artistic director of The Augusta Company and Artistic Director of Necessary Angel from 2003-2012. Daniel teaches regularly, and in 2017-2018, he was the Barker Fairley Distinguished Visitor at the University of Toronto. His many awards include the Siminovitch Prize. His work has toured across Canada and around the world.

ABOUT CANADIAN STAGE

Canadian Stage is one of the country's leading not-for-profit contemporary performing arts organizations. Led by Artistic Director, Brendan Healy, and Executive Director, Monica Esteves, the company produces, presents, commissions, and collaborates with multiple partners on cross-disciplinary work with a focus on performance styles that integrate theatre, dance, film, visual arts and more. Sharing innovative and vibrant performance work from Canada and around the world, it stages performances at three Toronto venues: The Bluma Appel Theatre at the St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts; the Berkeley Street Theatre; and the High Park Amphitheatre.

ABOUT reWORK

reWork is a theatre company with a focus on the continued development of production through public workshops and international touring. Our creative energies are equally focused on all elements of production: performance, text, direction, design and marketing. We believe that theatre is an essential service to the human spirit and aspire to both enlighten and entertain.