

January 12, 2010

For Immediate Release

### Artistic director Ken Schwartz heading to the *Stratford Shakespeare Festival*

**Two Planks and a Passion Theatre's** Ken Schwartz is heading to the **Stratford Shakespeare Festival** for several months as a participant in the *Michael Langham Workshop for Classical Text*. He will also be assistant director on the production of **Peter Pan** directed by Tim Carroll, opening at the Avon Stage on June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

"Professional development opportunities like this rarely exist for artists in mid-career, and I'm thrilled to be able to participate." Says Schwartz, speaking from his offices at the **Ross Creek Centre for the Arts** near Canning Nova Scotia. "I feel privileged to be selected for the inaugural year of this program, which I consider a rare and most welcome opportunity for personal growth as an artist."

Schwartz has been a founding artistic director of **Two Planks and a Passion Theatre** since 1992. His work as a director has recently been recognized with several awards, including the **Merritt** award for Outstanding Director and the **Established Artist Recognition Award** in 2008. His recent directorial credits include 2009's production of Allen Cole's **Rockbound**, which broke box office records for Two Planks in the summer of 2009.

Schwartz was one of 11 selected to participate in the program from nearly 100 applicants from Canada, the U.S. and the U.K. Overseen by David Latham, Theatre Training Consultant, and Dean Gabourie, Assistant Artistic Director, the Michael Langham Workshop for Classical Direction is intended for directors in the early and middle stages of their careers who have had some experience working with the classics, but not at a theatre of the complexity and scope of the Stratford Shakespeare Festival.

Trainees also participate in existing classes in text, voice, movement and other disciplines held by the Festival's Theatre Training Department, and in specialized classes taught by the Theatre Training Consultant, by Festival coaches and by invited instructors that explore specific textual, vocal and physical skills used in rehearsing a classical play.

Schwartz will be assisting director **Tim Carroll**, who is making his Stratford debut this season. From 1999 to 2005, he was associate director of **Shakespeare's Globe** where he directed *Twelfth Night*, *Richard II*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Tempest*, among others. His first opera production, Britten's *The Prodigal Son*, was for Kent Opera in 1994. Currently Tim is the director of two ground-breaking productions –**Hamlet** and **The Seagull**-for **Factory Theatre** in London, England which bring a fresh and challenging take on the classics and the potential for bringing a new spontaneous feel to some very well-known texts.

Schwartz will be returning to Nova Scotia on June 13<sup>th</sup> – just in time to begin rehearsals for the fourth season of Two Planks and a Passion Theatre's award-winning *Theatre Off The Grid* series at the Ross Creek Centre, scheduled to open on July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

For more information call 902.582.3073 or 902.582.3842 –ask for Artistic Director Ken Schwartz  
Or email [artisticdirectors@twoplanks.ca](mailto:artisticdirectors@twoplanks.ca).

[www.artscentre.ca](http://www.artscentre.ca) / [www.twoplanks.ca](http://www.twoplanks.ca)