FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –

“This is, hands down, one of the most innovative, interesting and brutal theatre pieces I’ve ever seen. It’s like pulling the wings off a butterfly.” - Jo Ledingham

“Formidable indeed…a tour de force, 4/4 stars.” - Globe and Mail

Crow’s Theatre in association with Canadian Stage present the award-winning and internationally acclaimed

Winners and Losers

Produced by Theatre Replacement and Neworld Theatre in association with Crow’s Theatre
Written and performed by Marcus Youssef and James Long
Directed by Chris Abraham

Toronto, October 9th, 2013 – Crow’s Theatre in association with Canadian Stage present Winners and Losers, an exhilarating, playful, and brutally honest two-hander produced by Vancouver’s Theatre Replacement and Neworld Theatre in association with the producers of the Dora-winning Someone Else. Winners and Losers will run in Toronto from Sunday, November 10 to Sunday, December 8 (Opening night November 14) at the Berkeley Street Theatre (26 Berkeley St.). Tickets from $22 to $49 are available by phone at 416-368-3110, online at www.crowstheatre.com, at www.canadianstage.com, or in person at the box office.

Winners and Losers is a staged conversation that embraces the ruthless logic of modern-day capitalism, and tests its impact on our closest personal relationships. Theatre artists and long-time friends Marcus Youssef and James Long sit at a table and play a game they made up called “winners and losers,” in which they name things and people — Pamela Anderson, microwave ovens, Goldman Sachs, their fathers — and debate whether, from their perspective, these things are winners or losers. As the conversation unfolds, the competition quickly begins to have an unanticipated cost.

Winners and Losers is written and performed by Marcus Youssef of Neworld Theatre and James Long of Theatre Replacement, and directed by 2013 Dora winner Chris Abraham of Crow’s Theatre. Youssef and Long do not play characters in the show, they are themselves, playing a game that explores terrain from the shallow and pithy to the political and then the deeply personal – a game that assumes that for someone to be a winner, someone else has to lose. The show is performed on a nearly bare stage - the set a table and two chairs - putting the entire focus on the shifting power dynamics between the players.
Crow’s Theatre Artistic Director, Chris Abraham, who just last year announced the company’s plans to open a new 14,000 square foot theatre facility in Toronto’s East-End, sees the partnership with Theatre Replacement and Neworld Theatre as exemplary of the expanded vision for the company, as cultural hub and curator of a new season of contemporary theatre that will introduce a new audience in Toronto’s east-end to outstanding contemporary theatre artists.

"In the last few years, Crow’s has sought out collaborations with theatre companies across the country that are also wrestling with our culture’s pivotal narratives - stories that shine a light on the important tectonic issues shaping our society. This season’s partnership with Vancouver’s Theatre Replacement and Neworld Theatre invites us to look at competition as a primary force in human relationships, as well as our strange cultural fascination with the categories of winner and loser.”

Abraham continues, “When Marcus and Jamie invited me to Vancouver, to check out the new piece they were writing about competition, capitalism, and friendship, I had no idea what to expect. After my first encounter with the piece I was hooked. It was at once the conversation you desperately do and desperately don’t want to have with your friend. I was deeply entertained and upset. The care they took in creating a portrait of their friendship and the risk they were taking putting it on the line, made the piece too interesting to pass up. I can’t wait to share this unique experience with Toronto audiences.”

Winners and Losers first premiered at the Gateway Theatre in Richmond, BC in late 2012 and then went on to play Vancouver’s PuSh International Performing Arts Festival to critical acclaim in January of 2013 and to win the Jessie Richardson Critics’ Choice Innovation Award. The show has since toured internationally to countries including Denmark, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, and the UK, as well as playing dates in Montreal and Ottawa. Winners and Losers will run in Toronto from Sunday, November 10 to Sunday, December 8 (Opening night November 14) at the Berkeley Street Theatre (26 Berkeley St.). Tickets from $22 to $49 are available by phone at 416-368-3110, online at www.crowstheatre.com, or in person at the box office.

For more information or interview requests, please contact:

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Hashtag: #winnersandlosers

About Winners and Losers:

Written and performed by Marcus Youssef and James Long
Directed by Chris Abraham

Lighting by Jonathan Ryder
Production management by Elia Kirby

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About Marcus Youssef

Marcus’ plays include: *Winners and Losers, How Has My Love Affected You?*, *Ali and Ali and the aXes of Evil and Ali & Ali: The Deportation Hearings*, *Everyone, Adrift*, *3299: Forms in Order, Peter Panties* and *A Line in the Sand*. His new play for young audiences *Jabber* premiered this year and is currently touring Quebec and the Maritimes with Geordie Productions. Marcus’ work is the recipient of the Rio-Tinto Alcan Performing Arts award, the Chalmers’ Canadian Play award, a Seattle Times Footlight award, and numerous Jessie Richardson, Masques and Doras theatre awards. They have been presented across North America, Australia and Europe, translated into Czech, Flemish, and Italian, and published by Talonbooks and Playwrights Canada Press. His fiction and journalism has been published widely, in Vancouver Magazine, Vancouver Sun, Grain, Ricepaper, This Magazine, Canadian Theatre Review, the Georgia Straight, The Tyee, on numerous blogs and on CBC Radio. Marcus is artistic director of Neworld Theatre and co-founder of the East Vancouver artist-run centre Progress Lab 1422. He sits on the advisory board of *Canadian Theatre Review*, and is a member of the City of Vancouver's Advisory Committee on Arts and Culture. He was an assistant professor at Concordia University in Montreal and continues to teach widely, implementing an interdisciplinary Bachelors in Performing Arts Program. Marcus is a graduate of the National Theatre School and holds an MFA from UBC.

About James Long

James has been making theatre since 1995 and artistic directs Theatre Replacement with fellow artist Maiko Bae Yamamoto. The company been presented extensively across North America and Europe. Work by Theatre Replacement recently presented in Toronto includes *Sexual Practices of the Japanese, WEETUBE, Clark and I Somewhere in Connecticut*, and *BIOBOXES: Artifacting Human Experience*. In addition to creating new work, Theatre Replacement hosts a two-week intensive for 20 mid career artists each summer called the *New Aesthetics Performance Intensive*. Past instructors have included Crystal Pite and Pol Heyvaert. In 2014, New Aesthetics will be led by Mariano Pensotti and Toshiki Okada. As a freelance teacher James has led workshops and classes to established artists across Canada and to students at The University of British Columbia, The University of Regina, Simon Fraser University, Studio 58 and Seattle’s Cornish College of the Arts.

As a freelance writer, actor and director he has had the pleasure of working with Rumble Productions, Neworld, Cindy Mochizuki, urban ink, Leaky Heaven Circus, Judy Radul, The Only Animal, Stan’s Cafe, CBC radio and the Electric Company, among many others. James directed The Chop Theatre’s *How to Disappear Completely*, winner of the best director award at 2013 the SummerWorks Festival. He is a graduate of Simon Fraser University.

About Chris Abraham

Chris Abraham has been the Artistic Director of Crow’s Theatre since 2007. At Crow’s, he has directed numerous productions including *Someone Else, Seeds, Eternal Hydra, I, Claudia, Boxhead, The Country*, and *Instructions to Any Future Socialist Government Wishing to Abolish Christmas*.

Chris is a multi-award winning theatre and film director, dramaturg and teacher who has worked with Canada’s foremost artists and theatres, including the Stratford Shakespeare Festival, Canadian Stage Company, Tarragon Theatre, Segal Centre, Centaur Theatre, Globe Theatre, Theatre Junction, among many others. In 2000, he co-founded and was the Co-Artistic Director of Bill Glassco’s Montreal Young Company. In 2003, Chris directed the film adaptation of Kristen Thomson’s award winning hit *I, Claudia* for which he won a Gemini award. The film was also named one of 2004’s top ten Canadian films by the Toronto International Film Festival.
A graduate of the National Theatre School’s directing program, Chris later served as Co-Director of the school’s renowned directing program (2006-2010). Chris was the recipient of the John Hirsch and Ken MacDougall awards and the Elinore and Lou Siminovitch Protege Award, for directors. Most recently, Chris directed the highly lauded Stratford Shakespeare Festival productions of For The Pleasure of Seeing Her Again, The Little Years, Thornton Wilder’s The Matchmaker, and 2013’s Othello.

**About Crow’s Theatre:**
Crow’s has a mission to ignite passionate and enduring engagement between our audiences and artists by creating, producing and promoting unforgettable theatre that examines and illuminates the pivotal narratives of our times. Founded in 1983, Crow’s Theatre is recognized in the Canadian theatre landscape as a provocative, daring, award-winning theatre company.

**About Theatre Replacement:**
Theatre Replacement is an ongoing collaboration between James Long and Maiko Bae Yamamoto. Whether working together or apart, the pair use extended processes to create performances from intentionally simple beginnings. The company’s work is about a genuine attempt to coexist with conversations, interviews and arguments colliding with Yamamoto and Long’s aesthetics resulting in theatrical experiences that are authentic, immediate and hopeful.

www.theatrerplacement.org

**About Neworld Theatre:**
Founded in 1994, Neworld uses popular forms to examine our lives in the context of who counts, who doesn’t and what our relationship is to the people we may think we aren’t. Resource sharing, creative partnerships and a deep commitment to both the principle and practice of collaboration are central to the work we make. We strive to tell stories that are as complicated and contradictory as the enormously small country we emerge from. www.neworldtheatre.com

**About Canadian Stage:**
Founded in 1987, Canadian Stage is one of the country’s leading not-for-profit contemporary theatre companies, with the 2013.2014 season marking the organization’s 26th season. Led by Artistic & General Director Matthew Jocelyn and Managing Director Su Hutchinson, Canadian Stage produces and showcases innovative theatre from Canada and around the world, allowing its audience to encounter daring work guided by a strong directorial vision and a 21st-century aesthetic. The company prides itself on presenting multidisciplinary pieces and work in translation that pushes the boundaries of form and style. Canadian Stage reinforces the presence of Canadian art and artists within an international context through work that mirrors the cultural diversity of Toronto. The company stages an annual season of work at three major venues (the Bluma Appel Theatre, the Berkeley Street Theatre and the High Park Amphitheatre) and runs a series of artist development and education initiatives, as well as youth and community outreach programs. For more information, visit www.canadianstage.com. CIBC: Proud Sponsor of the 2013.14 Berkeley Season at Canadian Stage