

canadianstage

“Once 10 people know a poem by heart... It will survive.”

– George Steiner

BY HEART

Written + Performed by Tiago Rodrigues

**Featuring Texts and Quotes by William Shakespeare, Ray Bradbury,
George Steiner, Joseph Brodsky, and others**

A Teatro Nacional D. Maria II Production Presented by Canadian Stage in Collaboration
with Théâtre Français De Toronto
Original Creation by Mundo Pereito

Berkeley Upstairs Theatre, May 30-June 2

“So deep, so intellectual and so magnificent that we come out of it profoundly moved.” – Le Figaro

“A beautiful experience about memory.” – Le Monde

“In a world where most of us memorise nothing more poetic than passwords and pin numbers, the memorizing of a piece of text turns out to be both subtle and powerful... Funny, tense, moving and strangely satisfying.” – Irish Times

Internationally celebrated Portuguese theatre artist and writer, Tiago Rodrigues brings the critically acclaimed *By Heart* to Canadian Stage’s Berkeley Street Upstairs Theatre for 5 shows only, May 30-June 2, 2019. An antidote for collective amnesia, this gently subversive theatre experience provides dramatic proof of the power of art and the importance of memory and words.

Putting the strength of our memory to work, in *By Heart*, Rodrigues invites ten audience members to join him on stage to learn a Shakespeare sonnet and then recite it. While they commit the verse to memory, Rodrigues tells the story of his grandmother -- who asked her grandson to choose a book for her to learn by heart so that she could read it in her mind after she lost her sight – along with anecdotes from notable writers, and characters from the world of literature. Slowly the mystery that binds the choice of poem and these tales is revealed.

BRENDAN HEALY, Artistic Director

MONICA ESTEVES, Executive Director

ALEXANDRA BAILLIE & TONY BAYLIS, Board Co
Chairs

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“We are proud to be presenting this tender work that has moved audiences around the world,” says Canadian Stage Artistic Director Brendan Healy. “Inventive and intimate, *By Heart* will have you fall in love with poetry and with live performance. It is a uniquely powerful experience that can only happen inside a theatre.”

By Heart is a piece about the importance of theatre and of the invisible smuggling of words and ideas that find a safe place in our heads and hearts.

By Heart is on stage at the Berkeley Street Upstairs Theatre, May 30-June 3. Performances run Thursday at 8 PM, Friday at 7 PM, Saturday at 5 and 8 PM, and Sunday at 2 PM.

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MEDIA NIGHT: MAY 30

To receive further information or for an interview request, please contact
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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 at the St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts; The Berkeley Street Theatre; and the High Park Amphitheatre.

ABOUT TIAGO RODRIGUES

Since he started out as an actor 20 years ago, Tiago Rodrigues has always looked at theater as a human assembly. In 2003, he co-founded with Magda Bizarro the company Mundo Perfeito, with which he created and presented performances in more than 20 countries. He collaborated with a large number of theatre artists, gave theater lessons in several schools and wrote screenplays, articles, poetry and essays. His latest performances (*By Heart*, *Bovary*, *The Way She Dies* or *Sopro*) granted him international recognition and, in 2018, he was awarded with the XV Europe Prize Theatrical Realities. The theatre of Tiago Rodrigues is deeply rooted in the idea of writing for and with the actors, searching a poetical transformation of reality through theatrical tools. He is the Artistic Director of the Teatro Nacional D. Maria II in Lisbon since 2015.

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