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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

*Mixed Company Theatre Announces
The Forum Theatre Joker Master Class!*

Toronto, May 7, 2009

Mixed Company Theatre hosts its annual *Forum Theatre Joker Master Class* in Toronto, June 22 - 25. Facilitated by Artistic Director and founder of Mixed Company Theatre, Simon Malbogot, this 4-day interactive workshop, is designed for people experienced in Forum Theatre who want expand their knowledge and become *jokers*, or group facilitators.

The workshop challenges participants to become awake, aware and alert to the internal and external manipulators of human behaviour, and master the nuances of guiding a group through hard-to-talk about issues. Limited to 20 participants, Forum Theatre scenes are quickly created and participants practice various styles of facilitation, studying themselves and others with input from the group, learning conflict resolution, audience/group management, including games and techniques to further animate and explore opinions and ideas of an audience.

Acting and directing for more than 35 years, Malbogot has studied with *Theatre of the Oppressed* icons Augusto Boal, Jerzy Grotowski, and Eugenio Barba. Leading workshops internationally and directing productions across Canada, Malbogot brings Mixed Company's work to Finland, Ukraine, Turkey, Israel, India and Brazil. Malbogot guides the group through the fine art of *joking* - asking questions, making connections, and instructing how to engage groups, Forum Theatre audiences and *Spect-actors*.

All workshops are held at Mixed Company at 157 Carlton Street in Toronto. For further information or to register, reach us at www.mixedcompanytheatre.com or 416 515 8080. Interested participants should forward a resume, citing previous Forum Theatre experience, for consideration for registration. Participants must submit the \$450 Registration Fee by June 5 2009. These popular summer workshops are always well-attended, so forward your resume early!

Widely popular nationally and internationally, the Joker Master Class is preceded by the *Introduction to Forum Theatre Workshop* June 15 - June 18, for educators, social workers, community leaders and theatre professionals, workshop participants learn about the methodology of forum theatre, using masks to comprehend human behaviour.

Mixed Company Theatre produces innovative, socially relevant drama as a tool to educate, engage and empower for positive change.

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