

News Release

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Tuesday, January 8, 2013

DO YOU WANT WHAT I HAVE GOT? A CRAIGSLIST CANTATA

A TORONTO PREMIERE CO-PRODUCED BY

FACTORY THEATRE & ACTING UP STAGE COMPANY

TORONTO, ON... After playing to sold-out houses and rave reviews at Vancouver's PuSh Festival in 2012, ***Do You Want What I Have Got? A Craigslist Cantata***, by **Veda Hille** and **Bill Richardson**, will be playing **January 30 – March 3** in Factory's Studio Theatre. The Toronto premiere is co-produced by **Acting Up Stage Company** and **Factory Theatre**. *Do You Want What I Have Got? A Craigslist Cantata* is a contemporary exploration of humanity through the lens of Craigslist - an online classified site with over 50 million ads posted each month. Previews are on January 30, 31 and February 1, 2, 3 and 5. The previews are at 8 p.m., with the exception of the Sunday, February 3 preview at 7 p.m. The industry evening is on February 6, 8 p.m., and the opening is on February 7, 8 p.m., in the Studio. The show closes on March 3.



Veda
Hille



Bill
Richardson



Dmitry
Chepovetsky



Amiel
Gladstone



Bree
Greig



Daren A.
Herbert



Selina
Martin



Barry
Mirochnick



Monica
Dottor

"It's a rare occasion to find a hit Canadian musical, but after our presentation last year of *Ride the Cyclone*, lightning indeed struck twice when I saw *A Craigslist Cantata* at last year's PuSh Festival," said Mitchell Marcus, Artistic Producer, Acting Up Stage Company. "We are so honoured that Bill, Veda and Amiel gave us the Ontario rights to the show and agreed to launch a new production in Toronto. Featuring some of the original Vancouver collaborators, our new production includes an incredible local design team, new choreography by Monica Dottor and new cast member Daren A. Herbert who was Dora nominated for his work in our production of *Parade*. It has also been a perfect collaboration with Factory Theatre, and *Craigslist* has been the ideal project to merge their commitment to new Canadian work with our commitment to innovative and contemporary musical theatre."

Nina Lee Aquino and **Nigel Shawn Williams**, Factory Theatre's Interim Artistic Team, agree: "We are pleased to partner with Acting Up Stage to present this poignant and witty Canadian musical to Toronto audiences. And thrilled to offer such a fun piece to our subscribers, the first subscription offer in the Studio Theatre we have made in several years."

Directed by **Amiel Gladstone** (select directorial credits: Arts Club/PuSh Festival's world premiere of *Do You Want What I Have Got? A Craigslist Cantata*; world premiere of Theatre Replacement/PuSh Festival's *100% Vancouver*; Vancouver Opera's *Lucia di Lammermoor*), the musical features a strong cast and creative team. In the cast is **Dmitry Chepovetsky** (select acting credits: Canadian Stage's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; Vancouver Playhouse's *This*; world premiere of Arts Club/PuSh Festival's *Do You Want What I Have Got? A Craigslist Cantata*), **Bree Greig** (select acting credits: world premiere of Arts Club/PuSh Festival's *Do You Want What I Have Got? A Craigslist Cantata*; Footlight Theatre Company's *The Wizard of Oz* and *The Sound of Music*; Patrick Street Productions' *Bat Boy The Musical*), **Daren A. Herbert** (select acting credits: Acting Up Stage's *Parade*; DanCap Production's *The Toxic Avenger*), **Veda Hille** (composer, musical director and performer), **Selina Martin** (select acting credits: Arts Club/PuSh Festival's world premiere of *Do You Want What I Have Got? A Craigslist Cantata*; Crow's Theatre's *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *Dali*, *Godzilla*; One Yellow Rabbit Theatre's *Five Hole: Tales of Hockey Erotica*) and **Barry Mirochnick** (musician). Veda Hille is joined on the creative team by choreographer **Monica Dottor**, set and costume designer **Robin Fisher** and lighting designer **Kimberly Purtell**, with stage management by **Dustyn Wales**.

Craigslist is a PuSh Festival 2012 hit from Vancouver, and was a critical and audience success (Jesse Award 2012 Winner, Outstanding Original Score): "Must-see theatre... a hilarious and unexpectedly moving experience," says Jerry Wasserman, *The Province*; "Simply terrific," says Colin Thomas, *The Georgia Straight*; "Hilarious romp through classified quirkiness," says Erika Thorkelson, *The Vancouver Sun*; "Had me laughing almost continuously for ninety minutes," says Tessa Perkins, *Press Plus One*; and, "Witty, fast-paced, and original... a must see," says Cassie Silva, *Review Vancouver*.

All previews are at 8 p.m., except for the Sunday, February 3 preview at 7 p.m. Regular show times for *Craigslist* run Tuesday to Saturday, 8 p.m., plus two Saturday 2 p.m. matinee shows - February 9 and 23, and two shows on Sunday, 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.; preview tickets are \$22 with regular single tickets for *Craigslist* at \$35 Tuesday to Thursday and Sunday (advance), \$40 on Friday and \$47 on Saturday. Sunday Pay-What-You-Can (PWYC) tickets and savings for students, seniors, arts workers, and groups (10+) are available.

To celebrate and provide an online participation aspect of [Do You Want What I Have Got? A Craigslist Cantata](#), Acting Up Stage Company and Factory Theatre are proud to partner with **Jennifer Walls** and her SINGular Sensation band in throwing an evening of Craigslist-inspired cabaret performances on February 13, 2013. For contest info about how to submit a video, see <http://actingupstage.com/local-news/a-craigslist-cabaret-contest#post-4051>

Call the box office at (416) 504-9971, visit in person during box office hours at 125 Bathurst Street, Toronto, or visit online

24/7 at www.factorytheatre.ca. Follow updates @actingupstage AND @factorytoronto (#singcraigslist) and <https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Factory-Theatre/214822535223760> and ausc.ca/facebook.

Factory Theatre 2012/13 season is sponsored by **BMO Financial Group**. Acting Up Stage Company's presenting Season Sponsor is **Nu-Trend Construction**.

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Company Biographies & Photographs are available upon request.

Media Call: Wednesday, January 30, 12:30 p.m. (RSVP required - email laurie@factorytheatre.ca)

Backgrounders: Acting Up Stage Company and Factory Theatre

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Backgrounder 1 - About Acting Up Stage Theatre Company

Acting Up Stage Company is excited to round off the 2012/2013 season with the inaugural **Banks Prize Showcase** and a brand new production of William Finn's landmark musical **Falsettos**. Created by and featuring **Alexis Gordon** and **Andres Sierra**, winners of the 2012 **Syd and Shirley Banks Prize for Emerging Artists**, the Banks Prize Showcase will be an intimate evening composed of signature songs and personal stories as they explore the obstacles of type, size, race and sound. Filled with highs and lows, laughter and tears, **Canada's Next Top Token** is a hilarious reminder of why anyone gets into this crazy career in the first place. Performances are on February 18 and 25 at 8 PM in the Factory Studio Theatre. From the creative team behind last year's Dora Award winning *Caroline, or Change*, *Falsettos* is set against the backdrop of the sexual-revolution and the emergence of AIDS. This Tony and Drama Desk Award winning musical tells the story of Marvin, a married father who – in 1979 – leaves his wife and son for another man. Previews are on April 23 and 24, *Falsettos* opens on April 25 and runs through May 12 at the Daniels Spectrum (formerly Regent Park Arts & Cultural Centre).

Since 2004, **Acting Up Stage Company (Mitchell Marcus, Artistic Producer)** has brought stellar Canadian casts to productions of contemporary and provocative musicals. The company has been heralded with rave reviews, sold-out performances, six (6) Dora Awards and six (6) Toronto Theatre Critics Awards for its productions, including the multiple Dora Award winning *Caroline, or Change*, as well as Dora nominated hits, *Parade*, *The Light In The Piazza*, *Elegies: A Song Cycle*, and *A New Brain*.

Backgrounder 2 - About Factory Theatre:

Now playing and upcoming shows in Factory Theatre's revitalized 2012/13 season include ***Every Letter Counts***, ***Iceland*** and ***Stopheart***. *Every Letter Counts*, by Nina Lee Aquino and directed by Nigel Shawn Williams, runs January 26 – February

24 in Factory's Mainspace Theatre. *Iceland*, by **Nicolas Billon** and directed by **Ravi Jain**, plays March 2 - 24 in Factory's Mainspace Theatre. Set against the backdrop of the banking crisis, a confrontation between a real estate agent and a tenant takes an unexpected turn. [*Iceland* previews on March 2, 3, 5 and 6 and opens on March 7.](#) Factory's 2012/13 season concludes with the world premiere of **Amy Lee Lavoie's** *Stopheart*, helmed by Edmonton-based director **Ron Jenkins**, May 4 – 26. Growing up in a small town is hard. Growing up “different” in a small town in Northern Ontario town called South Porcupine is even *harder*. *Stopheart* is a heart-wrenching side-splitting dark comedy. [*Stopheart* previews on May 4, 5, 7 and 8 and opens May 9.](#) *Iceland* and *Stopheart* show times are Tuesday to Saturday, 8pm, and Sunday, 2 p.m. (Sunday preview, 7 p.m.). Preview tickets are \$22. Regular single tickets are \$32 Tuesday to Thursday and Sunday (advance), \$36 Friday and \$42 Saturday.

For over four decades, Factory Theatre (**Nina Lee Aquino** and **Nigel Shawn Williams**, Interim Artistic Team) has developed and produced some of the finest theatrical works in our national canon and been home to some of the most gifted and prolific playwrights in our country. In any given year, more than 50,000 patrons come to Factory's historic Victorian mansion at the corner of Bathurst and Adelaide Streets (in the heart of Toronto's cultural west-end district) – an inviting, inclusive environment where ideas and imagination intersect. Factory Theatre is unique in that it is committed solely to the development and production of Canadian plays through staged readings, workshops, Natural Resources (resident creation groups), writers' retreats, residencies, Factory Wired (festivals of new work in progress), and ultimately premiere productions. The Factory Theatre play development program, led by Company Dramaturge **Iris Turcott**, is committed to the long-term investment of playwrights and creators and Canadian work that celebrates our diversity by engaging, provoking, entertaining, and inspiring our artists, audience and the community at large. Factory is not only “the home of the Canadian playwright” but is dedicated to serving our community by building a strong neighbourhood identity in our role as a cultural hub. Partnerships with local schools and businesses and initiatives, such as our Neighbours Nights and Curtain Raiser events, are what ground us as a remarkable artistic resource and cultural institution.