

MEDIA RELEASE

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**FESTIVAL
PLAYERS**
OF PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY

THE PLAYWRIGHTS ARE COMING! THE PLAYWRIGHTS ARE COMING!

Prince Edward County, ON, (March 5, 2010): Festival Players is having the writers over for tea and a chat - and you're invited! First up is Robert Chafe, whose play *Tempting Providence* is playing as part of the 2010 season. The reading takes place Sunday March 28, at 2pm at Books & Company in Picton. Admission is free and refreshments are provided.

Robert Chafe's work has been seen across Canada, the UK, and Australia. He is the author of fifteen stage scripts and co-author of another ten. He frequently collaborates with Siminovitch Prize winning director Jillian Keiley. Two of his plays (*Tempting Providence* and *Butler's Marsh*) were published in 2004 and shortlisted for the Governor General's Award for Drama. *Tempting Providence*, directed by Keiley and produced by Theatre Newfoundland Labrador, is entering its eighth year of national and international touring, and has been nominated for two Betty Mitchell Awards (Calgary), a Dora Mavor Moore Award (Toronto) and was recently awarded the Capital Critics Circle Award for Best Production after its run in Ottawa. Chafe has been writer in residence at Artistic Fraud, Playwrights Atlantic Resource Centre and Forest Forge Theatre, Hampshire, UK, and a guest instructor at Memorial University of Newfoundland, Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, and the National Theatre School of Canada.

Tempting Providence is a story of courage and strength told with simple elegance. Myra Bennet, a young British nurse, arrived on the rugged shores of Newfoundland in 1921. No roads, no electricity, no doctors for miles. She signed on for a year and stayed for a lifetime. Her legendary service took her all along the rugged 320 kilometer Northern Peninsula, in all kinds of weather, travelling on foot, on horseback, by dogsled and by boat, to deliver babies, set bones, extract teeth and more. She was known throughout Newfoundland and Labrador as "Florence Nightingale of the North". A spell-binding tale of strength and heroism told with humour and elegant simplicity.

Tempting Providence was commissioned by Theatre Newfoundland Labrador in 2000 and since its premiere production has played over 370 times in over 90 communities across Canada, England, Scotland, Ireland and Australia, and this year will add the US to its touring schedule. Festival Players is delighted to bring this production to our community.

Admission to the Playwrights Reading Series is free. Light refreshments available. For more information: 613.399.5677 or www.festivalplayers.ca

Playwrights Reading Series Sunday March 28, 2pm
With *Tempting Providence* playwright Robert Chafe
Books & Company, 289 Main Street, Picton

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