

# THE SHAKESPEARE SHOW

Or;  
**How an illiterate son of a Glover became  
the Greatest Playwright in the World**

After a three year hiatus, Monster Theatre is thrilled to be making their return to the Toronto Fringe with **The Shakespeare Show**. Based on the greatest theatrical debate of all time, **The Shakespeare Show** investigates, through fast-paced comedy, the theory that the plays of William Shakespeare were actually penned by Edward de Vere, the 17<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford.

Just like one of his tragic heroes, Oxford (Tara Travis) sets his own tragedy in motion by using young Will Shakespeare (Ryan Gladstone), the boy who holds the horses outside the theatre, as a 'front' for his playwriting ventures. The result? Another "*relentlessly clever, action-packed and intellectually satisfying*" (*Edmonton Journal*) **Monster Theatre** adventure; complete with puppets, songs, satire and swordfights.

Along the way we meet the Ghost of Christopher Marlowe, the Three Witches from The Scottish Play, Anne Hathaway, the victims of the Bubonic Plague and Queen Elizabeth herself!

In the end, Oxford is killed and charges Shakespeare to tell his story – hence, this...

**'The only play e'er writ by Will Shakespeare.'**

**Monster Theatre** has been creating plays and touring them across Canada since 2000. They are committed to presenting stories from mythology and history in exciting new packages for today's audiences. Past productions include **The Canada Show: The Complete History of Canada in One Hour** (*Winner 'Just For Laughs' Frankie award for Best Comedy*), **The Big Rock Show: The Complete History of the World** ("**★★★★★ Hilarious!**" -Westender, Vancouver), **Jesus Christ: The Lost Years** ("**★★★★★ One of the most deft pieces of physical comedy I have ever seen!**" -SEE Magazine), **Napoleon's Secret Diary** ("**★★★★★ Gladstone plays the little corporal with vulnerability, total charm and dead-on comic chops!**" -CBC Winnipeg), **Lavignia: A Modern Fairy Tale of Gigantic Proportions** ("**★★★★★ Tara Travis has to be the most likeable actor at the Fringe. It's impossible not to love her show!**" -CBC) and **The Seven Lives of Louis Riel** ("**★★★★★ The concept is as brilliant as the execution is funny!**" -CBC)

Written by **Monster Theatre's** Artistic Director Ryan Gladstone, **The Shakespeare Show** was exhaustively researched, and composed entirely in iambic pentameter and rhyming couplets. First produced in 2008, **The Shakespeare Show** won ***Pick of the Fringe*** in Vancouver. Directed by Karen Hamm, this fast-paced physical comedy has the actors each playing dozens of roles. A beautiful score is supplied by violin virtuoso Drew Jurecka (*Jeff Healey Band, Sarah Slean, Vinyl Café*), and Fight Choreography is supplied by Kevin James (*Bard on the Beach, Theatre Calgary*).

Playing at  
The Toronto Fringe Festival  
June 30- July 11, 2010  
www.fringetoronto.com

-30-

Media Contact: Tara Travis, Artistic Producer, Monster Theatre  
1-604-329-1391  
tara@monstertheatre.com

**www.monstertheatre.com**