



For Immediate Release: November 15, 2011

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Tomasso's Party Premieres at The Next Stage Festival

TORONTO – Dora Award winning director **Nigel Shawn Williams** (*Brothel #9*, Factory Theatre; *Shakespeare's Dog*, Alberta Theatre Projects; *The Monument*, Obsidian Theatre) directs the premiere of **Jules Lewis'** *Tomasso's Party* at this year's **Next Stage Theatre Festival**, with performances on Jan 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 13, 14 & 15, 2012 at the Factory Studio Theatre. *Tomasso's Party* is a candid portrayal of two lovers, exposing their tempestuous and often comic relationship tortured by jealousy and insecurity.

Lewis' novel *Waiting for Ricky Tantrum* was critically praised and noted for its use of rich dialogue. Now, with the guidance of dramaturge **Iris Turcott**, he has crafted *Tomasso's Party*, his very first play, into a powerful, dark and delightfully twisted comedy. It is a great feat for any first time playwright to have such an experienced and celebrated director in Williams and dramaturge in Turcott bringing the first professional production of his work to the stage.

Featuring a young and talented cast of recent National Theatre School graduates **Simon Bracken** (*Romeo and Juliet*, Manitoba Theatre Centre; *The Particulars and In General*, Pyretic Productions) and **Leah Doz** (*A Raisin in the Sun*, Black Theatre Workshop), *Tomasso's Party* is designed by **Andre du Toit** (*The Rez Sisters*, Factory Theatre; *A Fool's Life*, Ahuri Theatre; *SPENT*, Theatre Smith-Gilmour, Why Not Theatre, TheatreRUN).

Tomasso's Party is being produced by **Rooftop Creations** (Toronto Fringe Patron Pick From *Mint Condition* to *Badly Used*) and is intended for mature audiences.

Tomasso's Party plays at the Factory Studio Theatre (125 Bathurst Street) Jan 4 at 9:30pm; Jan 5 at 7:15pm; Jan 6 at 5:00pm; Jan 7 at 3:00pm; Jan 8 at 5:30pm; Jan 11 at 8:45pm; Jan 13 at 9:30pm; Jan 14 at 3:00pm; Jan 15 at 7:15pm.

Tickets at \$12 for afternoon performances (5:00 and earlier) and \$15 for evening performances (7:15 and later).

Tickets are now available by phone at 416-966-1062 or online 24 hours a day at www.fringetoronto.com, or in person at Factory Theatre Fringe Box Office from January 4th, 2012.