

MEDIA RELEASE
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Life in a new country, endless possibilities . . .
Seasons of Immigration
Imperial Theatre — Friday, April 9 at 8 p.m.

"I believe everyone in the audience received from you a piece of their own identity. Maybe a little forgotten for some of us, painfully fresh for others, but unquestionably our own stories were told on the stage yesterday." — Audience member

An immigrant couple stands in a grocery store, dumbfounded by their options. They only want a can of tomatoes. But which can? Diced? Chopped? Crushed? Spiced? Stewed? Back home, they were never faced with such a surplus of possibilities. Paralyzed by indecision, the couple begins to bicker. They never imagined that coming to Canada, the land of plenty, would create such challenges at every turn. This particular couple is fictional — two characters in a play — but their feelings of confusion and alienation are universal, and are among the fundamental themes in the play **Seasons of Immigration**.

Coming to the Fort Reliance Auditorium at Imperial Theatre on Friday, April 9 at 8 p.m., **Seasons of Immigration** is a movement-based play, perfectly choreographed to offer snapshots into immigrants' lives, where laughter, tears and triumphs fit in one big proverbial suitcase. This is the story of people trapped in "transition", where humans struggle with seemingly endless possibilities and the tarnished sheen of a bright new world.

Immigrants arrive at the airport excited, hopeful, a little scared, suddenly overwhelmed. As they pass through customs they embark on a life unknown where everything seems shiny and new - they tour Niagara Falls, take ESL classes, drink Tim Hortons, apply for jobs, work in factories, fight with their wives and children, end up in the elevator going up the CN Tower and ponder the limitless variety of canned tomatoes!

Based on real-life stories collected by MT Space of Kitchener, Ontario, **Seasons of Immigration** brilliantly examines Canadian culture and the brave newcomers who jump into it feet first. Featuring a minimalist set, simple props and a visual artist who paints as the stories unfold on stage, **Seasons of Immigration** is told with honesty and humour.

"Art at its best that is both entertaining and provocative, with . . . ideas that often run counter to the average person's perception of Canadian culture — particularly ideas of fairness in dealing with people from other cultures. Bravo!" — The Waterloo Record

Since its inception four years ago, the MT Space has grown from a local grassroots organization to one that is gaining national attention, creating four main-stage productions with a fifth in development. Their work has been seen and reviewed in Montreal, Ottawa, London and Hamilton. MT Space has been invited to speak at national conferences about their unique processes and practices in engaging culturally diverse artists in their work and diverse communities in their audiences.

Artist Web site: www.mtspace.ca/show_soi08.html

Seasons of Immigration is a moving and enlightening play that will shine the light on what people face when coming to Canada — all done in a respectful, touching and funny way. Tickets are \$30, \$25, \$20; Youth 18 & Under: \$15 and can be purchased online at www.imperialtheatre.nb.ca, by visiting Imperial Theatre Box Office or by calling 674-4100 (or 1-800-323-SHOW for out-of-town callers).

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