

For Immediate Release – April 7, 2009

Tempus Theatre Celebrates Asian Heritage Month with Western Canadian Premiere of

36 VIEWS by Naomi Iizuka

May 1 – 23, 2009

Tues.-Sun. at 8:00 pm, Jericho Arts Centre

Tickets: \$25 plus service charges at www.ticketstonight.ca or 604-684-2787

Students & seniors: \$20 at the door only / Preview April 30 & all Tues.shows: pay-what-you-can at the door

Tempus Theatre, one of Vancouver's most exciting new theatrical voices, presents the Western Canadian premiere of *36 VIEWS* by award-winning Japanese American playwright **Naomi Iizuka**, in an innovative multi-disciplinary production directed by **Anthony F. Ingram** and starring **Keith Martin Gordey Annabel Kershaw, Michael Kopsa, Lissa Neptuno, Bert Steinmanis** and **Valerie Sing Turner**. Part romance, part mystery and part con game, the play casts a enthralling spell of poetic language, evocative sounds and beautiful images, even as it asks compelling and timely questions about cultural authenticity, the value of art in society, and the quest for truth in art and in human relationships.

Appropriately for a production running during **Asian Heritage Month**, *36 VIEWS* is a contemporary play set in a modern, metropolitan city that incorporates elements of traditional Japanese Kabuki and Noh theatre, as well as references to Japanese literature, music and visual art (including *The Tale of Genji*, the *Pillow Book of Sei Shonagon* and the works of Japanese master artists)...references that are fraught with fascinating ambiguity. "When you live in a country like Canada and a city like Vancouver," says Ingram (Tempus Theatre's artistic director), "and you've got all these cultural identities struggling to fit themselves in or define themselves against a predominantly northern European cultural influence...what is the difference between bastardizing a cultural touchstone and borrowing it to create a new cultural language?"

36 VIEWS moves effortlessly between that bigger picture and a more intimate, more personal one: in the playwright's words, "it's a play about how difficult it is to arrive at some fixed, unchanging truth about a human being, or a work of art, or a love affair. What we thought was the truth changes. Our perceptions shift, and it's complicated. People are complicated. Why they make certain choices is at times contradictory, and I wanted to build a play that captured in its actual form all those contradictions."

Plot synopsis: An art dealer and an art historian discover what appears to be an ancient manuscript, a priceless Japanese pillow book created by a medieval courtesan. As they try to prove its authenticity, their search becomes an erotic game of greed, love, and sleight-of-hand. In a series of 36 interlocking scenes, Naomi Iizuka's play explores the relationship between the imaginary and the real, and the lines and spaces that separate feelings and words, objects and images of objects, antiques and reproductions, and a person's heritage and physical features. Culture and commodity, fetish and forgery, and personal and professional revenge are all exposed in *36 VIEWS*.

Design Team: *36 VIEWS* will feature lighting by **Darren Boquist**, set by **Todd Parker**, sound by **Ronin Wong**, projections by **Corwin Ferguson** and costumes by **Nina Prelog**. It is co-produced by Tempus founders Anna Hagan, Anthony F. Ingram, Bert Steinmanis and Valerie Sing Turner, with Maria Denholme as Associate Producer.

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Founding Members:

Anna Hagan
Anthony F. Ingram
Bert Steinmanis
Valerie Sing Turner

Associate Member:

Teryl Rothery

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