

## MEDIA RELEASE

# Imaginary Theatre presents TASHI

### TASHI TELLS THE BEST STORIES EVER!

*'Tashi ... is the best children's production I've ever seen...my daughter loved it and was adamant we stay for the 2<sup>nd</sup> story ( I had no intention of leaving). I really liked the way the actors connected to the audience and demystified the theatre process for the kids.'* M. Fitzpatrick (audience member and parent) 16/10/2009

Brisbane-based Imaginary Theatre are bringing their stage adaptations of the well-loved TASHI books to your town as part of a National Tour stopping in 17 venues across Australia. The performances have been seen by over 25,000 children and families since 2006 and are a wonderful early theatre experience for young children and families.

TASHI is the hero of a series of Australian books by Sydney based mother and daughter Anna and Barbara Fienberg. TASHI is a very small boy, from a very small village far, far away. He tells the best stories ever, very big stories, and some would say tall stories about his old life, the people of his village and the extraordinary adventures he had there before he came to Australia.

The two TASHI tales that will be told on this tour by the Imaginary Theatre ensemble are *TASHI, the Swan and the Dragon* and *Tashi and the Big Stinker*. Both stories are told in one performance session and are suitable for children aged 4 – 10 years.

Mark Radvan, Artistic Director of Imaginary Theatre said: 'These shows are a great way to introduce young children to the magic of theatre and the beauty of books. The two Tashi stories we're telling in this season are both full of magical and mysterious characters that are just so much fun!'

The TASHI productions combine creative staging, intricate designs, innovative storytelling and physical theatre to create high quality theatrical experiences for young children.

Audiences will get two 25 minute stories in one 70 minute show – a perfect length for little ones! Once children have been on a TASHI adventure they will want to explore his magical world again and again. Parents, you might find yourselves stopping at a bookstore on the way home. What a great way to help encourage your child to read!

The Adelaide season of this nationally touring production will be presented at Higher Ground Inc. Located in 9 Light Square, this year Higher Ground presented the children's theatre productions *Dinosaur Petting Zoo* and *Hayali's Mess* as part of the Adelaide Fringe Festival 2010.

**Tour managed and coordinated by Queensland Arts Council T/A arTour**

*The Australian Government is proud to be associated with this tour through the national performing arts touring program, Playing Australia, which gives Australians across the country the opportunity to see some of our best performing arts.*



Higher Ground Inc is a multi-arts venue with a broad programming structure that includes theatre, cabaret, visual arts and live music, with the aim of creating greater access and participation within the arts & creative industries in Adelaide.

"We have had great success in attracting children and their parents and schools to our previous Fringe productions" says Dushyant Kumar, Joint Coordinator of Higher Ground Inc "This innovative, engaging and educational production provides great continuity within our program of presenting quality theatre for young audiences in the 4-10 year old age groups."

**Artistic Team:** Mark Ravdan – Director; Margi Brown-Ash – Associate Director; Noa Rotem – Movement Director; Scott Barton - Lighting Designer; Fiona MacDonald – Sound Operator; Producer: Fiona MacDonald & MAPS for Artists – Katherine Hoeppe.

### **Cast**

TASHI – COURTNEY STEWART  
JACK – THOM BROWNING  
MUM/MULTI – JOANNA SMITH  
DAD/MULTI – CAMERON HURRY

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**2010 Regional Tour Dates:** *Queensland:* 28 & 29 Jul – Ayr, 30 Jul – 2 Aug – Thuringowa, 4 & 5 Aug – Mt Isa, , *Northern Territory:* 9 & 10 Aug – Darwin, *Western Australia:* 14 - 16 Aug – Port Hedland, 17 & 18 Aug – Karratha, 21 Aug – Margaret River, 24 & 25 Aug – Esperence, *South Australia:* 28 - 30 Aug – Tanunda, 31 Aug – 4 Sep – Adelaide, *Victoria:* 7 & 8 Sep – Warrnambool, 13 & 14 Sep – Warragul, 15 & 16 Sep – Sale, 18 - 20 Sep – Dandenong, *New South Wales:* 22 – 25 Sep – Parramatta, 28 – 29 Sep – Dubbo, 1 – 3 Oct -Wollongong

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