



DENNIS GARNHUM, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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## MEDIA RELEASE

# THE CRITICS AGREE, **LOST – A MEMOIR** IS BREATHTAKING THEATRE

**OCTOBER 19 - NOVEMBER 7, 2010**

**October 23, 2010 – Calgary, AB...** Theatre Calgary's world premiere of the true story, *LOST – A MEMOIR*, adapted by **CATHY OSTLERE** and **DENNIS GARNHUM** has received outstanding reviews from the critics after its opening weekend.

Following the opening night this past Friday, Oct. 23, both the Calgary Herald and Calgary Sun responded extremely favourably to the show and both newspapers were taken aback by the work of actor **JAN ALEXANDRA SMITH**. Stephen Hunt, critic for the Calgary Herald, described Ms. Smith as having delivered "*a virtuoso performance*", while Louis B. Hobson, critic for the Calgary Sun, called her work "*a raw, uncompromising performance*".

Perhaps one of the best testaments to the success of the show, came from Mr. Hobson at the Calgary Sun. As *Lost* is a world premiere, Mr. Hobson wrote, "*There is no question *Lost – A Memoir* will become a staple of professional theatres around the world.*" Further praise was given to the show for the use of the multimedia and cutting-edge set. Mr. Hunt thought the "*multimedia expanse of film, sound and photography that almost becomes as much a character in *Lost* as Cathy is.*"

Audiences have been quick to embrace the show as well. Standing ovations for Ms. Smith close each performance, and Theatre Calgary is experiencing a higher than usual volume of audience feedback from the show.

Some of the patron comments include:

*"We are frequent theatregoers and have been subscribers to TC for over 25 years. Jan's performance is a highlight."*

*"Thank you to the author, Cathy Ostlere, for struggling through her pain and confusion to write such a moving story that we could all share and relate to in our lives."*

*"We have never been so moved after sitting through *LOST*. It magically transferred us into Cathy's life and what she was living each step of the way. We laughed, we cried, we felt Cathy's pain and we were highly entertained covering all those emotions. Jan deserves rave reviews for such a brilliant job."*

### **THE STORY**

In September, 1995, Cathy, her parents, husband and children have gathered at her Calgary home to celebrate her younger brother David's birthday. David is not with them, as David has spent the past few years travelling the world. Throughout his travels, his family has enjoyed his tradition of calling them on his birthday from wherever he is. What they don't know on this occasion is that David has secretly been sailing his boat, *Mugwump*, from Scotland to the island of Madeira with his girlfriend Sarah. Only Cathy knows his secret. And as the day passes, David's call never comes. After nearly two months of waiting, Cathy decides to fly to Madeira to search for her brother, or any information that will lead to his whereabouts.

First published as a memoir by Cathy Ostlere in 2008, Theatre Calgary's artistic director Dennis Garnhum picked up *Lost: A Memoir* from a bookstore for a casual read. Upon discovering that the story was a non-fiction account of a Calgarian Cathy Ostlere's journey to find her brother became a major catalyst for Garnhum to think that this could be done as a play, and primarily, as a one woman show. Two years later, after extensive workshopping, Theatre Calgary has premiered this work starring Jan Alexandra Smith.

*Performances at Theatre Calgary run Tuesday thru Sunday with evening curtain at 7:30pm (Tues-Thurs & Sunday) and 8:00pm (Fri & Sat), weekend matinees at 2:00pm. Tickets for all performances start at \$25.00 and can be purchased through Theatre Calgary at 403-294-7447, or online at [theatrecalgary.com](http://theatrecalgary.com). Rush tickets may be available at the box office, one half hour prior to showtimes for \$20. All performances take place in the Max Bell Theatre in the Epcor Centre for the Performing Arts.*

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