



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE April 4, 2006

MEDIA RELEASE

Please include in APRIL, MAY & JUNE calendar listings and announcements

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Pacific Theatre's **A BRIGHT PARTICULAR STAR** Presents the Passionate Story of One Woman Who Bucked the Victorian System

IN SHORT: Pacific Theatre presents the world premiere of **A BRIGHT PARTICULAR STAR** by Pacific's Artistic Director Ron Reed—the story Lilia MacDonald's passion for the Victorian stage, the best of parents' failures, and the beauty within one strong-willed daughter. **Playing May 4 to June 3. For tickets (\$14-\$28) call 604.731.5518 or pacifictheatre.org.**

Vancouver, BC – May 4 to June 3, 2006 (Opens May 5)

Victorian social mores forbid Lilia MacDonald from following her theatrical passions, but will they stop her? Pacific Theatre proudly presents the WORLD PREMIERE of **A BRIGHT PARTICULAR STAR** by award-winning playwright **Ron Reed**—a rich exploration of even the best of parents' failures and the beauty within one strong-willed daughter—running May 4 to June 3 at Pacific Theatre in Vancouver.

World-renowned author George MacDonald and family—Victorian hippies of a sort—take their homemade stage productions on tour across Europe. His daughter Lilia is swept up by the exhilaration of a life in the theatre—spurred on by family friends Mark Twain, Lewis Carroll and even London stage luminary Kate Terry. But faced with competing family expectations, blossoming romance with a well-to-do playboy, and an urge to serve London's poor, can Lilia justify so frivolous a passion?

Proper Victorian society perceived actresses as glorified sex trade workers, whereas Lilia's work on behalf of London's teeming underclass was celebrated. And even today, aspiring theatre artists routinely meet opposition to their vocation from practical-minded parents and overly-cautious religious communities. **A BRIGHT PARTICULAR STAR** exposes these well-meaning attempts to control others.

The MacDonalds were rooted in a profound, unconventional Christian faith and they had connections to both the Pre-Raphaelite and Aesthetic movements in art and literature. **C.S. Lewis**, the brilliant author of the *Chronicles of Narnia*, has said, "**I regard George MacDonald as my master; indeed, I have never written a book in which I did not quote from him.**"

Playwright **Ron Reed** began work on **A BRIGHT PARTICULAR STAR** six years ago, with extensive research into the history of George MacDonald's remarkable family and their world-class circle of friends. Artistic Director and founder of Pacific Theatre (1984), Reed received the Chalmers Canadian Play Award in 1997 for *Book of the Dragon*, and *Tent Meeting* (a collaboration with Morris Ertman) was nominated for Toronto's Dora Mavor Moore Award and Edmonton's Sterling Award as Outstanding New Play.

A BRIGHT PARTICULAR STAR is also directed by **Ron Reed** (*The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* Pacific Theatre hold-over cast), and this Emerging Artist Showcase features **Rebecca deBoer** as Lilia MacDonald (*Halo*, Pacific Theatre), **Kyle Jespersen** as George MacDonald (*Six Miniature Tragedies*, Studio 58/PuSh Festival), **Dan Amos** (*Shadowlands*, Pacific Theatre), **Jacqui Hoke** (*A Rattling Sound*, Stone's Throw/Pacific Theatre), **Ryan Hoke** (*The Elephant Man*, Five Bob Equity Co-Op), **Lori Kokotailo** (*The Hungry Season*, Pacific Theatre), **Candice Lindsay** (*As It Is In Heaven*, TWU), **Kathleen Parsons** (*Waiting for Godot*, York U) and **Stephen Waldschmidt** (*Chickens*, Pacific Theatre).

Set design is by **Stephen Waldschmidt** (*Leaving Ruin*, Pacific Theatre), lighting design is by **Mike Dickinson**, costume design is by **Nicole Bach** (Jessie nomination: *Chickens*), sound design is by **Dan Amos** (*Last Train to Nibroc*, Pacific Theatre), with stage management by **Lois Dawson**.

Details:	A BRIGHT PARTICULAR STAR by Ron Reed (WORLD PREMIERE)
When:	May 4 – June 3 (Opens May 5), Wed–Sat at 8pm, Sat at 2pm (\$10 Preview May 4) Talk Back – Friday, May 12 – discussion with the cast and playwright
Where:	Pacific Theatre , 1420 West 12th Ave (at Hemlock St), Vancouver, BC
Tickets:	\$14-\$28 – To reserve call 604.731.5518 , or visit pacifictheatre.org , or in person.

Images available at pacifictheatre.org/press.html – contact Steve for interviews and further info.