

MAD DUCK

Equity Co-op

For immediate release
13 February 2006

- What:** The first full-production in Vancouver of Shakespeare's bloodiest tragedy: *Titus Andronicus*
- When:** Feb 28 – March 18, 2006. Previews Feb 28 – March 2; Opening Night 3 March.
All shows at 8:00 pm
- Where:** Jericho Arts Centre, 1675 Discovery Street, Vancouver
- How:** Tues 1/2 price, Wed-Sat \$18/\$20, Sun. By donation
Pre-show tickets \$16 at Biz Books
Reservations and info – 604.224.8007 ext 3
- Who:** Mad Duck Equity Co-Op, www.madduck.immediatetheatre.com
- Contact:** Andrew Templeton 778 896 2844, andrewtempleton@yahoo.ca

The play that nearly caused a riot in Berlin comes to Vancouver

A production of Shakespeare's goriest play - *Titus Andronicus* – nearly caused a riot earlier this month in Berlin. So outraged was the audience by the graphic violence – which included mutilation and rape – that they tried to storm the stage while the performance was in progress. *Titus Andronicus* is set to open in Vancouver on 3 March, produced by Mad Duck.

The Guardian newspaper quoted Claus Peymann, artistic director of the esteemed Berliner Ensemble: "I haven't experienced anything like this since the 60s. The mood was one of war. People were shouting 'Nazi theatre'. Perhaps people were surprised that this kind of violence can take place live on stage."

Jack Paterson, who will be directing Vancouver's first full staging of this violent revenge-play, confirmed that Mad Duck's production will go ahead as planned. Paterson stated: "While we are concerned about what happened in Berlin, it won't effect what we do here. Maybe this says more about our times than anything. With rising tensions and violence around the world, perhaps this play hits a little too close to home for some people. The play is violent. It is extreme. That's the point. If the shocking incident in Berlin proves one thing, it's the power this 400 year old text still has to provoke."

Titus Andronicus is the story of a soldier who brings the fever of war to a corrupt and decayed Rome, setting off a brutal cycle of revenge that consumes all around him. This violent and sexy production will include some of Vancouver's most exciting acting talent, including Anna Cummer (Jessie winner), Josh Drebit (Jessie nominee), Craig Erickson (Jessie Nominee), Lesley Ewen (John Moffat and Larry Lillo Prize winner), Teryl Rothery (StarGate SG-1) and Mike Wasko (Jessie Winner). Theatre veteran Keith Martin Gordey plays Titus. Jack Paterson, nominated for a Jessie for Julius Caesar, will direct.