

**Workman Arts announces Free Performances for the Toronto run of  
*Edward The “Crazy Man”***

TORONTO, June 2, 2008 – **Workman Arts** is pleased to announce that their newest play, *Edward The “Crazy Man”*, will be free to the public throughout its Toronto run. This play for families and their children aged 9 and up about mental illness and homelessness will be accessible to both schools and the general public in an effort to help combat the stigma of mental illness. Written by **Emil Sher**, based on the award-winning children’s book by Marie Day, *Edward The “Crazy Man”* is directed by **Leah Cherniak** and previews June 8, **opens June 10** and runs to June 19 at **Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People**.

The play has a study guide developed by a team from the Toronto District School Board and the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. Ontario schools are quickly filling up the weekday student matinee performances of this entertaining and lesson-filled show. **The public may also attend the free performances on the weekend by reserving seats in advance. Reservations can be made by email to shannon\_quesnelle@camh.net or by calling 416-583-4339 ext 7.**

As well, Workman Arts will be preparing the play for a tour of Ontario. Endorsed by the Schizophrenia Society of Ontario, it and many other organizations are eager to see the play in communities outside Toronto and are helping to find dates and venues throughout the province for next season.

Young people seeing *Edward The “Crazy Man”* will learn about the issues relating to mental health, discrimination and difference in very accessible ways. By providing an opportunity for everyone to attend these shows, it will help raise awareness about mental health issues while entertainingly demonstrating lifelong lessons on compassion, diversity and acceptance.

Based on the award-winning children’s book by **Marie Day**, the play follows 12-year-old Charlie as he learns that Edward, a homeless man with strange clothing, is a real person with a family past, with abilities and problems, and with the capacity to care for others.

Workman Arts recognizes the educational value of dialogue; after each one-hour performance, the actors and mental health professionals will open up the discussion to the audience with a question and answer session meant to engage the issues in an interactive way and allow the audience to express their opinions and ideas about *Edward the “Crazy Man”*.

As well, comment forms will be available at the shows and online. Audience involvement from both adults and children will help Workman Arts develop the play even further to ensure it remains engaging and entertaining for all.

**Workman Arts** was founded as **Workman Theatre Project** in 1988 and has produced 38 original new Canadian plays and toured over to over 30 theatres across Ontario and Manitoba. During its nearly 20-year history, the company has produced 8 annual Being Scene art exhibitions, 4 multidisciplinary arts festivals and 15 Rendezvous with Madness film festivals. Founder and Executive Director **Lisa Brown** is a former nurse at the Queen Street Mental Health Centre. In 2004 she received a Meritorious Service Medal from the Governor General of Canada for her work with the company.

**Workman Arts** presents the world premiere of *Edward The “Crazy Man”*

Written by **Emil Sher** based on the award-winning children’s book by **Marie Day**, Directed by **Leah Cherniak**

**Previews June 8, Opens June 10 and runs to June 19, 2008**

**at the Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People, 165 Front Street East**

**Recommended for children 9 and up as well as adults.**

**Performances:** Sun June 8 at 1:30pm, Tues June 10 at 7pm (opening SOLD OUT),

Sat June 14 at 10:30am and 1:30pm, Sun June 15 at 10:30am and 1:30pm

**School Matinees open to the public:** Monday-Thursday 10am and 12:45pm

Reservations can be made by calling call 416-583-4339 ext 7 or by email to shannon\_quesnelle@camh.net