

FROM: CHILLIWACK ARTS &
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High Resolution photo: [daisy_dress0048_press](#)
Photo Description: Miss Daisy and Hoke in conversation
Photo Credit: David Cooper

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AN UNLIKELY ACCOUNT OF FRIENDSHIP AND CHANGE.

CHILLIWACK, BC - Come and experience the heartwarming tale of *Driving Miss Daisy*, the beloved Pulitzer-prize winning play and film adaptation that is coming to the main stage of the Cultural Centre on February 5, 2014. The charming story of a Southern matriarch and her reluctance to accept the help of the compassionate chauffeur, hired by her son, has touched audiences for almost three decades, and this wittily written show brings out the heart and humour at the centre of their growing relationship.

Driving Miss Daisy centres upon 72 year old Daisy Werthan, a stubbornly independent widow who initially regards considerate old chauffeur Hoke Colburn with resentment and more than a dash of prejudice. Set in 1940s Georgia, the dynamic

between the traditionalist Miss Daisy and her newest acquaintance is one bounded initially by tensions and derision. Nicola Lipman, playing Daisy Werthan, says that “because of the fact that Hoke’s presence is imposed on Miss Daisy, it takes her a long time to accept him as a human being and not as an intruder in her life”. Her tenacity lessens as she comes to value the presence and care of wisecracking Hoke, who, as actor John Campbell says, “Over the 25 year period of the play, really falls in love with Daisy’s spirit and comes to admire her.” Over time, the relationship between these two unlikely companions transforms from one of reluctance and necessity to a deep and genuine friendship, and helps Daisy overcome her predispositions, revealing the ability of the human heart to open up to new possibilities. The 25 year journey that Daisy and Hoke take together carries the audience through a period defined by prejudice, shows an unexpected friendship unfolding before their eyes, and, as Campbell says, concludes with the realization “that this isn’t about two people that are black, white, or Jewish... male or female... or of any age. It’s about two souls.”

This heartfelt story has reached audiences across the world since 1987, when **Alfred Uhry** began his illustrious playwright career with ***Driving Miss Daisy***; the first of the “The Atlanta Trilogy” of plays set in Uhry’s home state of Georgia. The play has been featured on stage to rave reviews in North America, Australia and the United Kingdom, and famously achieved Hollywood success with Bruce Beresford’s Academy Award-winning screenplay starring Morgan Freeman and Jessica Tandy in 1989.

Arts Club Vancouver has chosen to celebrate its 50th season by inviting Mario Crudo; artistic director for Magnus Theatre in Thunder Bay, Ontario for over 20 years, to direct this rewarding and inspiring show for a series of dates in the Vancouver area

and Fraser Valley. Mario is very enthusiastic not only about his participation in the project, but also the broad appeal and resonance that *Driving Miss Daisy's* themes of prejudice, the changing times, and the beauty of friendship will have. Theatre-lovers and first-timers alike are guaranteed to be taken along on a profound and engaging emotional journey with *Driving Miss Daisy*, in this show “absolutely brimming with heart”, that packs a trunk load of wit and humour along for the ride.

Don't miss out on the opportunity to experience this account of human compassion and empathy when this touchingly witty performance and well-loved story comes to live the stage at Chilliwack Cultural Centre this February. Call the Centre Box Office at 604-391-SHOW (7469) or visit www.chilliwackculturalcentre.ca and get your advance tickets for this poignant production.

Driving Miss Daisy is generously sponsored by Driving Miss Daisy, The Chilliwack Progress, Department of Canadian Heritage, City of Chilliwack, British Columbia Arts Council, Province of British Columbia.

Additional Information

Interview with director Mario Crudo:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s3RWpzNmmEk>

Interview with Nicola Lipman (Daisy) and John Campbell (Hoke)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sTYNBZ_vpVI

Both produced by ArtsClub Vancouver

For additional information and to arrange interviews, contact:

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Chilliwack Cultural Centre

Owned by the City of Chilliwack, the Cultural Centre houses two unique performance venues, an art gallery, music instruction studios, arts and crafts studios, meeting rooms, offices, and is home to the Chilliwack Academy of Music and the Chilliwack Art Gallery. Since opening in 2010, over 150,000 tickets have been sold through the Centre Box Office, with a value exceeding 2,000,000. The Centre is overseen by The Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society on behalf of the City, and boasts The Chilliwack Academy of Music, The Chilliwack Visual Artists Association and The Chilliwack Players Guild as partners.

Chilliwack Cultural Centre highlights:

- 597 seat performance theatre
- 168 seat recital hall / rehearsal space / dance studio / meeting space
- Chilliwack Art gallery (22-foot high display area)
- 21 music instructional rooms
- Arts and crafts studios
- Storage and Archival Resource Room

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