

FROM: CHILLIWACK ARTS &
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High Resolution photo: [CornerGas_EricPeterson.jpg](#)
Description: Corner Gas's Eric Peterson stars in SEEDS.
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Suspense Meets Conscience - Corner Gas' Eric Peterson Stars in the Court-Room Drama of *Seeds*

CHILLIWACK, BC— You've seen him playing Brent Butt's Dad Oscar Leroy in the hit TV show Corner Gas - and now you'll be able to witness him live on stage here in Chilliwack - the incredible **Eric Peterson** will be coming to town on **January 26, 2016**, taking centre-stage in the riveting docu-drama ***Seeds***. A production packed with suspense, drama, and thought-provoking poignancy, and featuring one of Canada's most well-loved actors, ***Seeds*** is set to be a highlight of the **Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society's** presentation 2015/16 season - make sure to be part of the excitement and buy a ticket today!

With its court-room drama style tension, skilful theatrical magic, and factual foundations, ***Seeds*** is a piece of theatre all of its own - marrying the imagination with

the conscience and expressing it all through the talents of a truly fantastic cast. Created by Montreal's Porte Parole Theatre, *Seeds* presents the story of Percy Schmeiser - the independent Saskatchewan farmer that was accused of patent infringement by Monsanto - through the innovative and enthralling medium of docu-drama theatre. Based on legal transcripts and interviews from one of the most prominent and provocative legal battles in Canadian history, the production's pioneering approach brings the events upon which *Seeds* is based to life in the most dynamic, powerful, and realistic way possible. Intellectually stirring; emotionally charged; and central to the contemporary debate around food and farming practices, *Seeds* is a piece of theatre that demands attention not just for its captivating suspense and entertainment value, but for its thought-provoking social significance.

This unique approach gives *Seeds* the perfect balance of live entertainment and intellectual engagement. It's a play that stimulates the mind as much as captures the heart, and one that **Peterson**, who plays the tenacious and impassioned Percy Schmeiser with commanding conviction, is especially thrilled to be involved with. "I'm a huge fan of the documentary theatre approach that takes verbatim work and transcribes that into a dialogue that can be used in a theatrical way. And to put something to stage that has a civic interest, in which we're talking about issues and events in the society we're in at present, including the legal, social, nutritional and political ramifications - I'm very happy to be part of something like that. The docudrama approach of *Seeds* is interesting because it's both an unusual form of theatre, but also an unusual *use* of theatre - and with the many successful tours we've seen the satisfaction the audience gets from that."

"The mandate of Porte Parole is to be 'the artistic citizen' - and the balance in which *Seeds* tackles complex issues shows the company and creators' dedication to this ideal. It's a very important production to us both as artists and to the rest of society."

Eric Peterson

Flawless in his portrayal of Schmeiser (“Peterson doesn’t just play the part of Schmeiser, he lives it”), **Eric Peterson** brings a wealth of experience to the production - and with his illustrious career in television and stage acting, Peterson is an individual well-qualified to state when a play offers more than your regular show experience.

“I think the common wisdom is not right”, he says, “certainly in the show business world - in that you have to dumb everything down and it has to be tuneful and make everybody feel good, and we certainly have a plethora of entertainment that satisfies that. But there really is an untapped vein there for this kind of theatre; as you say, audiences like to use their intelligence, and they like to use their imagination; they get a great deal of enjoyment out of that. This is a play that offers that experience.”

A production that opens up the conversation around food production, that reveals the humanity and personal toll behind taking on one of the world’s biggest corporations, and that poses some of the most crucial questions of our time, **Seeds** is essential viewing for those both concerned and invested in the modern understanding of food. From GMO concerns to the debate of how to sustain the global population, and from the tiniest blade of grass to the industrialized nature of modern agriculture, every facet of our existence feeds into this complex topic - and **Seeds** takes it all on with inspiring vitality and remarkable acting. Make sure to be part of the experience, and book your tickets to **Seeds** today!

Tickets are \$35 for adults, \$32 for seniors and \$30 for students and are available at The Centre Box Office, visit www.chilliwackculturalcentre.ca or call 604-391-SHOW(7469) for more information.

Seeds is generously sponsored by: Bronze Sponsor: Aromatica Fine Teas, Accommodation Sponsor: The Best Western Rainbow Inn, Media Sponsors: The Chilliwack Progress, Government Sponsors: Department of Canadian Heritage, City of Chilliwack, British Columbia Arts Council, Province of British Columbia.

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 270,000 tickets have been sold through the Centre Box Office, with a value exceeding 3,6400,00. The Centre is overseen by The Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society on behalf of the City.

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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Chilliwack Visual Artists Association

The Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society is registered under the British Columbia Society Act as a not-for-profit society (society number S-54973), and is a registered Canadian charitable organization under the Canadian Charities Directorate. (charity number 805742897 RR0001)

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