

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 5 to October 20, 2017

YPT presents *Bello* by Governor General Award-winning playwright Vern Thiessen

Toronto, ON – [Young People's Theatre](#) (YPT) is proud to present [Bello](#) – a unique co-production between Edmonton's [Concrete Theatre](#) and [L'Unithéâtre](#) – Alberta's only professional francophone theatre company. Written by Governor General Award-winning playwright [Vern Thiessen](#) (*Vimy, Einstein's Gift, Bird Brain*), this beautiful parable about overcoming fears of those who are different from us will be presented on the Mainstage from October 10th to 20th, with **French language performances available**.

Imagine a time when there were no phones, no cars and no light bulbs – when the land stretched out like a quilted bed and the sky was like an ocean overhead. A lonely young boy named Bern gets lost traveling home from school during a snowstorm. He meets an old woman who has been shunned by the village, and from this chance encounter, Bern makes a discovery – about himself, his family and the importance of compassion.

"It feels like in this political climate, it's interesting to have a play that looks at not judging people by their outward appearance... but finding out what's really inside. This seems like a really important message right now, to not judge people, but to get to know them, find out their real story, and welcome them into the community".

- [Mieko Ouchi](#), Director

Bello is based on stories from the Mennonite Ukraine of the 1920s, a world where hard times and struggle are part of daily life, but where the healing powers of humour, love and family ultimately flourish. Set in a fable-like world, *Bello* is a stunning production, performed in rhythm and rhyme with live sound – much like an old fashioned radio play – with foley (audio) effects presented on stage in full view of the audience. *Bello* recently won a [Sterling Award](#) for Outstanding Artistic Achievement, Theatre for Young Audiences.

Directed by [Mieko Ouchi](#), *Bello* features [Onika Henry](#), [Julia Seymour](#) and [Zak Tardif](#). French translation is by [Brian Dooley](#) with Production Design by [Patrick Beagan](#) and Stage Management by [Corben Kushneryk](#).

BELLO

Written by [Vern Thiessen](#)

Translated by [Brian Dooley](#)

Directed by [Mieko Ouchi](#)

A co-production by [Concrete Theatre](#) and [L'Unithéâtre](#) presented in English and in French

ON THE MAINSTAGE OCT. 10-20, 2017 | RECOMMENDED FOR AGES 6-9

Media opening: Wednesday, October 11 at 1 PM | Runs approximately 50 minutes

Performance Schedule: <http://www.youngpeopletheatre.ca/shows-tickets/bello/>

Young People's Theatre | 165 Front Street East, Toronto

Tickets: \$10-\$34 ea, HST & service charges extra | [Online: youngpeopletheatre.ca](#) | Subject to change without notice

Box Office: 416.862.2222 x2 | For more information visit youngpeopletheatre.ca

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