

# Mini-festival of plays at The Best

A mini-festival of plays is being presented by a Public Energy on July 25 to 29 at The Gordon Best Theatre.

The new plays are at different stages of creation, featuring some of the best acting and writing for theatre from Toronto and Peterborough, states a press release.

Public Energy is a new professional presenting company associated with Peterborough New Dance, aimed at generating the kind of public energy in a community that comes about when artist and audience meet around the creating, presenting and touring of new works of performance, states the release. "Encompassing theatre, music, performance art, film, video, and all the work that falls between genres, Public Energy will draw on Peterborough New Dance's seven-year history of presenting the best in contemporary dance, both locally and from across Canada," it states.

The festival, called From Page to Stage, will be the Peterborough premiere of Lambton Kent (Volcano Theatre, Toronto) by Andre Alexis, Canadian Stage playwright-in-residence.

Page to Stage will see the work of four authors brought to public view in a variety of ways, including a touring production of Lambton Kent, an entirely unique vision of Canada written by one of Canada's most acclaimed young black writers, André Alexis, and a workshop production of Invisible Things by Brian Mitolo, recently announced as 4th Line Theatre's writer-in-residence.

Lambton Kent has been invited to the 2001 Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Alexis, is playwright-in-residence at the Canadian Stage Company, and part of the Writers' Unit at Tarragon Theatre. His first novel, Childhood, received the Trillium Award and was short-listed for a Governor General's Award and Giller Prize.

Lambton Kent is a comic and philosophic musing on the



Yanna McIntosh, in Lambton Kent, to be at The Gordon Best Theatre July 26-28.

McIntosh has spent three seasons at the Stratford Festival, and played prominent roles in various film, theatre and television productions in Canada over the past 10 years. As the anthropologist Mtubu, she pre-

"The audience is cast in the role of the Nigerian Geographical Society, listening to the bizarre rituals of a faraway land. In the eyes of anthropologist Mtubu, the rituals of the Canadian people in their Ontario landscape are in turns amusing, frustrating, terrifying, and, ultimately, beautiful. Though at times comic and critical, this portrait is, ultimately, ennobling," the release states.

The production company behind Lambton Kent is Volcano Theatre, an award-winning Toronto-based independent theatre company spe-

Lambton Kent, Ross will also be acting as dramaturge for Page to Stage's program of New Play Readings. During the festival, Ross and a number of Peterborough actors will conduct workshops on scripts by local writers Christopher Wilton and Esther Vincent, culminating in a public reading of excerpts on Sunday, July 29 to close out the week.

Invisible Things is a new play by Brian Mitolo about biotechnology, and about love. It tells the story of two researchers at the moment of a great and grave scientific discovery that cannot disguise a moment of human betrayal, it states.

A writer, director and film maker, Mitolo is one of Peterborough's most prolific artists. A lineup of Peterborough theatre talent is taking part in this workshop production, including director Philip Oakley and performers Susan Spicer, Allie Hearn and Brad Brackenridge.

The workshop production will give Mitolo, an idea of what to keep and what to change in preparation for a full staging in the near future, states the release.

**Schedule of Page to Stage:**

■ Wednesday, July 25 - Invisible Things at 8 p.m. - pay what you can;

■ Thursday, July 26 - Lambton Kent at 8 p.m.; Invisible Things at 9:30 p.m.;

■ Friday, July 27 - Invisible Things at 8 p.m.; Lambton Kent at 9:30 p.m.;

■ Saturday, July 28 - Lambton Kent at 8 p.m.; Invisible Things at 9:30 p.m.;

■ Sunday, July 29 - New Play Readings at 2 p.m. - pay what you can.

All events are at The Gordon Best Theatre, 216 Hunter St. W. Tickets are \$12 for Lambton Kent, \$7 for Invisible Things, \$15 for both. Pay what you can July 25 and 29.

Tickets will be available at the door and in advance by reservation. Call.745-1788.