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For Immediate Release

Full Circle First Nations Performance

presents



**“In Full Voice” - Aboriginal Performance & Art Festival
February 20 – March 4, 2012**

Vancouver, BC - Full Circle: First Nations Performance presents the **11th Annual Talking Stick Festival** taking place from **February 20 – March 4**, in venues throughout the city of Vancouver. This year’s festival is unique in that along with performances of a wide range of disciplines from dance, comedy, music, and slam poetry, there are critically acclaimed plays that are an integral part of the festival. It is a year celebrating the Aboriginal communities truly having found their voice displaying maturity and depth in outstanding works. The traditional, the contemporary, and the blend of the two, along with an exhibit, a Community Powwow and workshops, all provide a rich experience not to be missed.

“It has always been my dream to showcase world class pieces of Aboriginal Canadian theatre in the festival, and this year the dream is realized”, stated Margo Kane, Artistic Managing Director. “We are presenting many artists of various disciplines whose creative spirits have been nurtured to reach a level of maturity exhibited in their rich works at this year’s festival.”

The festival kicks off with the traditional **Gala Opening Exhibit and Celebration on Monday, Feb. 20th at 8pm the Roundhouse Community Centre**. This year’s festival also includes three dynamic theatre pieces. The first is **Metis Mutt** on **Feb. 21 & 22** for only three performances - you don’t want to miss this one man show by Sheldon Elter. The Edmonton Sun says “Elter’s is a skilled actor and storyteller, and his presence commands attention throughout. By turns screamingly funny and brutally honest, it’s a one-man show that blows all kinds of prejudices out of the water.”

Next is a powerful drama by one of Canada’s award winning First Nations playwrights, **Drew Hayden Taylor’s** masterful presentation of ***In a World Created by A Drunken God***. Playing at the Roundhouse from Thurs. **Feb. 23 – 25**, it raises questions that transcend issues of culture, morality and history, cutting to the heart of what it means to be human in a world stripped of convenient labels and identity politics.

There is no one in the world like **Monique Mojica**, and you have never seen anything like her new show, the critically acclaimed, ***Chocolate Woman Dreams the Milky Way***, at the Roundhouse from **Feb. 28 – March 3**. Mojica is absolutely electrifying. *Chocolate Woman* follows a Kuna woman who’s lost her way and can find out who she is only by connecting with her history and culture, an innovative blend of physical theatre, visual story-telling and traditional Kuna aesthetic.

All of the 14 days are filled with traditional and contemporary Aboriginal art from dance works and hoop dancing to an evening of slam poetry called From Talking Stick to Microphone along with a number of Professional Development workshops and Artist Talks.

Included in the festival is an art **exhibition on display at the Roundhouse called “The Talking Stick” from Feb 20 – March 3.** For this exhibition, 9 Indigenous artists have been asked to exhibit their own version of the Talking Stick, based on contemporary or traditional versions. The artists are Rebecca Belmore, Lance Cardinal, Merritt Johnson, Peter Morin, Dionne Paul, Michelle Sylliboy, Janice Toulouse, Charlene Vickers, and Xwalacktun (Rick Harry).

This year’s festival is rich and diverse – truly exhibiting a maturity and depth of the Aboriginal community as they share their stories and art dynamically in Full Voice. This vibrant festival is bound to be a Sell Out. Buy Your Tickets Now!

For tickets visit ticketstonight.ca or call 604-684-2787 – Individual ticket prices range from \$12 - \$29 and Festival passes - \$85.75 adults, \$65.75 for Seniors/Student.

For further details on group rates and Pay What You Can performances, along with the full schedule of events visit, please visit www.fullcircle.ca

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TALKING STICK FESTIVAL 2012 HIGHLIGHTS

Metis Mutt by Sheldon Elter An autobiographical one-man show, the play recounts Metis Actor/Writer/Director and musician Sheldon Elter's coming of age through difficult family and cultural circumstances.

At the Roundhouse Community Centre, Tues. Feb 21 at 8pm & Weds. Feb. 22 at 1pm & 8pm.

In a World Created by a Drunken God by Drew Hayden Taylor

A powerful drama by one of Canada's leading First Nations playwrights (Drew Hayden Taylor), *In a World Created by a Drunken God* raises questions that transcend issues of culture, morality and history, cutting to the heart of what it means to be human in a world stripped of convenient labels and identity politics.

At the Roundhouse Community Centre, February 23 – 25 at 8pm

Celebration of Powwow Culture!

Explore and learn more about Powwow culture at the Talking Stick Festival. Bring your friends! Bring your family! Join in the Inter-tribal Dances! It's an interactive event for all ages.

At the Roundhouse Community Centre, Sunday, Feb 26, 12 noon to 9 pm.

Chocolate Woman Dreams the Milky Way by Monique Mojica

The Talking Stick Festival and Chocolate Woman Collective present *Chocolate Woman Dreams the Milky Way* an innovative blend of physical theatre, visual story-telling and traditional Kuna

aesthetic. Written by Toronto playwright and performer Monique Mojica and directed by internationally renowned Kuna actor and director Jose A. Colman.

At the Roundhouse Community Centre, Feb 28 - Mar 3 at 8pm

Poetry Slam: Zaccheus Jackson Nyce, a Blackfoot and 3-time Western Canadian Spoken Word champion, will lead 2012's poetry slam and will feature some of Canada's top spoken word artists going head to head!

At Café Deux Soleils, Friday March 2 at 8pm

WORKSHOPS AND ARTIST TALKS SERIES

Always popular, TSF's **Artist Talks Series** offers opportunities to artists and audience alike by providing a forum to gather together and engage in informal, informative and lively conversation. This is the chance to meet the artists, share ideas & ask questions in an up-close and personal setting. Complete details and scheduled of Artist Talks to come.

Workshop Series provides professional development training to both the emerging and established artists as well offering opportunities to 'newbies' who just want to get their feet wet. Complete Workshop programming to come.

