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MEDIA RELEASE

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Liar, Cheat, Hero

Billy Bishop Goes to War

October 10 – 28, 2012

REGINA October 1, 2012 – The Globe Theatre 12|13 Main Stage season kicks off with the often hilarious, sometimes heartbreaking production of ***Billy Bishop Goes to War***, running from October 10 – 28, 2012.

By his own admission, William Avery Bishop was the Royal Military College's "worst student ever." But before he can be expelled, he enlists for service in the First World War. By the time Billy Bishop's wartime days are over, this colourful young scrapper from Owen Sound, Ontario, will become a hero who embodies the spirit of a newly emerging nation.

Since its first staging in 1978, *Billy Bishop Goes to War* has become one of the most popular and often produced theatrical works in Canada's history. Anchored by its haunted hero and his clear-eyed memories of war's tragedies and black comedies, this award-winning musical is given extra resonance by songs that are sometimes raucous, sometimes mournful, but always steeped in the realities of wartime. Experience *Billy Bishop Goes to War* and connect body and soul with a formative part of Canada's history.

The cast stars **Jacob James** as Billy Bishop, and **Zachary Flis** as the piano player. This is James' second time playing Billy Bishop, and he brings undeniable electricity to the role. Flis was last seen on the Globe Theatre stage as the musical director/piano player in *A Closer Walk With Patsy Cline* (2012).

The artistic crew is lead by director **Max Reimer**, from Vancouver, B.C. **Scott Penner** is the set and properties designer and **Robert Thomson** is the lighting designer. Joining Globe Theatre as the resident costume designer for the 12|13 season is **Emma Williams**. **Dianne Woodrow** is the stage manager, and **Monika Dembowy** is the apprentice stage manager.

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MEDIA CALL NOTICE: (television & radio media, print photographers, reporters)

Wednesday Oct 10, 2012 1:00pm – 1:30pm

Globe Theatre Main Stage, 2nd Floor 1801 Scarth Street

A scene from *Billy Bishop Goes to War* will be performed for television/radio media and print photographers. The cast will be available for interviews immediately after.

Please note: Due to demanding rehearsal and performance schedules, cast members may not be available for interviews outside of the media call. Please **attend the media call** for footage and one-on-one interviews.

Media Fact Sheet:

Billy Bishop Goes to War

Written and composed by John Gray in collaboration with Eric Peterson

Directed by Max Reimer

- ***Billy Bishop Goes to War*** is a musical, featuring live piano playing on stage.
- The piano has been generously donated by Dennis Weist Piano.
- Since *Billy Bishop Goes to War* premiered at the Vancouver East Cultural Centre in November 3, 1978, it has been revived more than 150 times.
- Billy Bishop came to stage when actor Eric Peterson (now familiar to many Canadians as the cantankerous Oscar Leroy in *Corner Gas*) lent a book to fellow actor and composer/writer John Gray while the two were working with Theatre Passe Muraille in Toronto. The book was *Winged Warfare*, an account of Billy Bishop's first 48 air victories, written by Bishop himself. Peterson played Bishop and Gray played the piano while narrating.
- The play has won the Governor General's Award, the Chalmers Award, and the Los Angeles Drama Critics Award.
- **Emma Williams**, hailing from the UK, joins the Globe Theatre as the resident costume designer for the 12 | 13 season. She will be designing costumes for Main Stage productions *Billy Bishop Goes to War*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Pride and Prejudice*, and *The Drowsy Chaperone*, and for *Midsummer [a play with songs]*, part of the Shumiatcher Sandbox Series.
- Tickets start as low as \$29 for economy seats