

MTC SHINES THE SPOTLIGHT ON CANADIAN MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

WINNIPEG, May 2, 2012 – How do you help out a great cause and see a brilliant musical at the same time? Come experience Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre’s production of the award-winning and groundbreaking musical *Next to Normal* during Canadian Mental Health Awareness Week (May 7-13, 2012).

MTC has partnered with **Mood Disorders Association of Manitoba (MDAM)** and the **Manitoba Schizophrenia Society (MSS)** to help increase awareness about mental health issues while raising funds for each organization. Theatre lovers who want to attend the May 7 and 11 performances of *Next to Normal* can purchase tickets for 10% off. For every ticket sold to these performances, MTC will donate \$5.00 to the partner organization.

To purchase tickets and help make a donation to one of these organizations, simply call the MTC Box Office at 204-942-6537 or visit www.mtc.mb.ca/login and use the following promo codes:

Mood Disorders Association of Manitoba Night
Monday, May 7, 8pm
PROMO CODE: MDAM
(please note web offer expires 3 hours prior to curtain)

Manitoba Schizophrenia Society Night
Friday, May 11, 8pm
PROMO CODE: MSS
(please note web offer expires 3 hours prior to curtain)

MTC and the Winnipeg Free Press are also presenting **Beyond the Wings** on May 11 from 6 – 7:30 pm at the Winnipeg Free Press Café, 237 McDermot Avenue. This package includes:

- A ticket to the May 11, 8pm performance of *Next to Normal*
- A pre-show three-course dinner at the Winnipeg Free Press Café.
- A pre-show panel discussion about mental health and how *Next to Normal* tackles these issues. Panelists will include *Next to Normal* director **Robb Paterson**; psychiatrist **Dr. Eric Vickar**, who consulted on the production; **Chris Summerville**, Executive Director of MSS and CEO of the Schizophrenia Society of Canada, and **Tina Holland**, Education Director at MDAM, who lives with bipolar disorder. Moderators will be **Tara Brousseau**, Executive Director of MDAM, and Winnipeg Free Press columnist **Dan Lett**.

Tickets for **Beyond the Wings** are available for **\$55.00 including GST** from MTC Patron Services by phone at 204-942-6537 or in person at 174 Market Avenue. Individuals interested in the three-course dinner and panel discussion portion only can purchase tickets for \$25.00 including GST. Due to the nature of this event, capacity is limited. Winnipeg Free Press Arts and Life Card members who purchase this package will also receive a \$10 gift certificate to the Winnipeg Free Press Café at the event.

About Next to Normal

Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning musical Next to Normal delivers soul-soaring rock and stirring ballads about a suburban mom in treatment for bipolar disorder and her family as they struggle to cope with her illness. Next to Normal runs until May 12 at MTC’s John Hirsch Mainstage.

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For more information, please contact:

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