

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***Speak Truth to Power: Voices from Beyond the Dark* – A Canadian Premiere! International Human Rights Defenders Profiled**

Calgary, AB (Friday, April 3, 2009) – St. Mary's University College and Alberta Theatre Projects proudly present the Canadian premiere of ***Speak Truth to Power: Voices from Beyond the Dark*** by Ariel Dorfman. Directed by Marilyn Potts, featuring local professional actors, this production will bring the struggle for dignity and human rights to the forefront of Calgary's conscience.

Speak Truth to Power: Voices from Beyond the Dark is a multi-faceted project that has grown from a book written by human rights advocate Kerry Kennedy. Over the course of several years the book has inspired a moving and inspirational play by esteemed Chilean writer Ariel Dorfman and a stirring Photo Exhibition by Pulitzer Prize-winner Eddie Adams. The book is based on interviews and stories of courage gathered over two years by Ms. Kennedy who interviewed an inspiring array of defenders from more than 36 countries and five continents. With 51 compelling stories of triumph over adversity, the book features human rights defenders who are willing to stand up in the face of imminent danger, speak out and make a difference.

The play examines human rights with issues as far ranging as political rights, free expression, honor killings, demilitarization, environmental activism, mental health, children's rights, and national self-determination. The defenders come from all parts of the world and face every form of oppression and abuse, but they hold in common a profound capacity to ignite change. Staged internationally in Geneva, London, Helsinki, Athens, Madrid, Barcelona, Milan, Florence, New York, Sydney and Doha, this performance marks the Canadian premiere of the play.

Speak Truth to Power: Voices from Beyond the Dark is on **Monday, May 4, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.** on the ConocoPhillips STAGE in the Martha Cohen Theatre, 215 – 8 Ave SE. For tickets call Penny Watt at 403-254-3741 or go to www.stmu.ab.ca. Tickets are \$20 for Adults and \$10 for Students.

The Photo Exhibition ***Speak Truth to Power*** by Pulitzer Prize-winner Eddie Adams will be displayed **April 15, 2009 – May 28, 2009** at St. Mary's University College Midlands Building, 14500 Bannister Road SE. Exhibit hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 11:30 a.m. – 3 p.m., and Wednesdays from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. There is no charge for the Photo Exhibit.

Speak Truth to Power seeks to promote a more just and peaceful world by galvanizing public support for international human rights through cultural, educational and web-based programs (www.speaktruthtopower.org). ***Speak Truth*** is a core program of the Robert F. Kennedy Centre for Justice and Human Rights (www.rfkcentre.org).

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For more information, please contact
Jessica Dollard, Marketing and Communications Associate (Publicist) Telephone: 403-294-7433
ext. 1118 | Facsimile: 403-294-7493
E-mail: jdollard@atplive.com
www.ATPLive.com