



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Koffler Centre of the Arts and Suburban Beast present *Honesty*, a performance intervention in *Honest Ed's* by Jordan Tannahill and starring Virgilia Griffith

Toronto, ON, October 3, 2012 – The **Koffler Centre of the Arts** together with **Suburban Beast** are proud to present *Honesty*, a performance intervention in *Honest Ed's* by **Jordan Tannahill** and starring **Virgilia Griffith**, from **October 15 to November 4, 2012**.

The performance plays out in various locations within Toronto's iconic discount emporium, *Honest Ed's*. Performer Virgilia Griffith embodies the diverse people who sustain the store on a daily basis. Shape-shifting between voices, transcending age, gender, and race, Griffith comes to represent the very essence of Toronto's working class, who have come to rely on the store over decades.

Honesty is presented as a performance in two acts. In the first act, '**Honest Work**' (5 – 6:30 PM), Griffith will perform the real duties of ten *Honest Ed's* employees. The audience is encouraged to interact with her, to approach her and engage in conversation. She will otherwise quietly go about performing her job as a real employee would.

In the second act, '**Honest Stories**' (7:30 – 9 PM), Griffith will perform monologues as each employee, leading the audience on a performance promenade through the store - becoming a living, breathing archive of the store's many extraordinary personal narratives.

Honesty runs from **October 15 to November 4, 2012**. The performance exists in two acts over a 4-hour period each night: **Tuesday – Friday, 5 – 6:30 PM and 7:30 – 9 PM**, and **Saturday – Sunday, 2 – 3:30 PM and 4:30 – 6 PM**. Performances are free and take place within **Honest Ed's, 581 Bloor Street West, Toronto**. The performance location within the store will be posted at the main entrance on Bloor Street.

Honesty is the second presentation in Suburban Beast's Fall/Winter 2012 season and follows the critically acclaimed stage production *Feral Child*, written and directed by Jordan Tannahill. Suburban Beast is dedicated to creating docu-dramatic works of theatre exploring Toronto through the eyes of its diverse citizenry.

Honesty is presented in association with the Koffler Gallery Off-Site exhibition *Summer Special*. Taking its inspiration from the trademark signs and show bills of *Honest Ed's*, artists Corinne Carlson, Robin Collyer, Barr Gilmore, Jen Hutton, Sarah Lazarovic and Ron Terada create new works that explore the visual vocabulary of commercial and urban signage, infiltrating the iconic building and its façade with site-specific installations. The exhibition continues to November 11, 2012.

For more information, please visit: www.kofflerarts.org and www.suburbanbeast.ca

ABOUT JORDAN TANNAHILL

Jordan Tannahill is a playwright, filmmaker, and theatre director. Through his inter-arts atelier Suburban Beast, Tannahill stages interventions, parties, plays, and film screenings that explore the real stories of Torontonians in surreal ways. Over the past five years, he has created performances starring, or in collaboration with, the residents of Neighbourly Lane in Richmond Hill, long-haul truck drivers, U of T fraternities, Iraq War deserters, prison guards, and palliative care workers in a variety of found spaces and esteemed Toronto theatres. Jordan also creates short films centered around themes of self-mythology and queer childhood. His films have screened at venues including the British Film Institute, Toronto's Worldwide Short Film Festival, the Lucerne Int. Film Festival, the Uppsala Short Film Festival, and the National Art Gallery of Canada. He was the 2011 recipient of the Ken McDougall Award for Emerging Directors and the InsideOut LGBT Film and Video Festival's Emerging Canadian Artist Award.

ABOUT VIRGILIA GRIFFITH

Virgilia Griffith's diverse theatre practice includes acting, storytelling, directing, singing and writing. Recent performance credits include: *Give It Up* (Buzz Festival and SpringWorks Festival), *The Innocents* (Tango Co. and The Innocents Collective), *4our Women* (Obsidian Theatre Company - The Development Series), Mrs. Muller in *Doubt* (The Village Playhouse), *Strange Things Done* (The Empty Room), *Floating* (written and performed by Virgilia Griffith), *Combat* (Summerworks Festival), *Mariner* (Risk the Void), *Under Milk Wood* (The Empty Room), *Sleep Country* (Rock Paper Sistahz Festival), and *The Hairy Bird* (bcurrent directing project). Her directing credits include: "I" by Cassandra Walker and *Ways to Say Goodbye* by Emily Nixon. Virgilia is a graduate from the acting program at Ryerson Theatre School.

ABOUT THE KOFFLER CENTRE OF THE ARTS

Koffler Centre of the Arts is Canada's only cutting-edge contemporary, multidisciplinary Jewish cultural institution. It has a broad mandate to serve all, and present a wide range of artistic programs through a global lens in a specifically Canadian context. The Koffler Centre of the Arts is an agency of the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

Planning is underway on a brand new, architecturally innovative Koffler Centre of the Arts on the Sherman Campus at Bathurst and Sheppard. In July 2009, the Koffler's administrative offices and all classes opened in the Prosserman JCC on the Sherman Campus. Starting in fall 2013, Koffler Gallery exhibitions and related programs will be based at Artscape YOUNGplace in downtown Toronto. Koffler programs will continue at the Prosserman JCC on Sherman Campus and will debut at the new Schwartz/Reisman Centre on Lebovic Campus in Vaughan in fall 2012.

Koffler Centre of the Arts acknowledges the support of Cultural Season Sponsor **CIBC Wood Gundy**, Media Partner **National Post**, the **Ontario Arts Council** through the Community and Multidisciplinary Arts Organizations Program, our patrons and members. The Koffler Gallery gratefully acknowledges the support the City of Toronto through the **Toronto Arts Council**, the **Ontario Arts Council** and the **Canada Council for the Arts**.

KOFFLER ON THE ROAD!

Watch for Koffler programs off-site around Toronto! As it prepares for its new facility to be completed, the Koffler Centre of the Arts continues to program exhibitions, events, performances, classes and workshops at the Prosserman JCC on Sherman Campus, the Schwartz/Reisman Centre on Lebovic Campus and at various downtown sites in Toronto. Go to www.kofflerarts.org for details and watch for Koffler events in *your* neighbourhood!

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