

VOLCANO *presents* **GOODNESS**

One of the top ten shows of the past decade in Toronto theatre
—NOW Magazine, 2010

The Company: Volcano, Toronto (www.volcano.ca), a national and international award-winning, idea-driven theatre company, based in Toronto, in partnership with sister company, Philadelphia-based Volcano USA.

The Project: *Goodness*, by Michael Redhill, directed by Ross Manson: winner of two top awards at the 2006 Edinburgh International Festival Fringe (including the Carol Tambor Foundation “Best of Edinburgh” Award – out a field of 1,867 productions); and a slew of rave reviews in Edinburgh, New York, Toronto, Winnipeg, Kigali and Huye, Rwanda.

The Story: *Goodness* is a play that examines genocide from a novel perspective. A Jewish-Canadian writer, and the descendent of Holocaust survivors, meets a woman who has lived through a much more recent genocide. The conflict between them fuels the play, which examines individual responsibility, prejudice, and revenge. The stage is filled with music from around the world, from Ukraine to Croatia to Zimbabwe. The audience, never told where the recent genocide occurred, is deprived of any easy platform from which to judge. Instead, they have to listen...



TORONTO : PRESS QUOTES
REMOUNT at THE THEATRE CENTRE. OCTOBER 2009

NOW Magazine (5 / 5 stars):

Extraordinary... There's not a wrong dramatic moment, including the haunting use of a cappella songs. A passionate, enthralling production, not to be missed.

— Jon Kaplan

<http://www.nowtoronto.com/stage/story.cfm?content=171435>

The Globe and Mail (3.5 / 4 stars):

Stories might not be enough, but this story comes close... a play that fearlessly throws itself at the thorniest questions posed by the violent last century and leaves no audience member unscratched... Under Ross Manson's skillful, simple direction, Goodness works on all its levels.

— J. Kelly Nestruck

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/arts/redhills-goodness-prepares-for-rwanda/article1291632/>

The Toronto Star (3.5 / 4 stars)

Smoulderingly intense... gut-wrenchingly convincing... you won't find it easy to forget.

— Richard Ouzounian

<http://www.thestar.com/entertainment/theatre/article/696977>

The Toronto Sun (4.5 / 5 stars)

Goodness reigns supreme: Play about genocide brought to dizzying new heights with tremendous cast and inspired direction... it is a work that demands to be seen.

— John Coulbourn

http://www.torontosun.com/entertainment/columnists/john_coulbourn/2009/09/18/10970496-sun.html

The National Post

Powerful... Superb... the personal and political...collide and explode.

— Robert Cushman

<http://www.nationalpost.com/story.html?id=2010257>

Mooney on Theatre

The perfect balance is kept and the work is seamless... a marvel to watch... if you want a moving piece of theatre, go see it.

—Lucy Allen

<http://www.mooneyontheatre.com/2009/09/goodness-volcano-theatre/#more-1443>

Classical 96 FM

A triumph.

—Paula Citron



NEW YORK CITY : PRESS QUOTES PERFORMANCE SPACE 122, MARCH 2007

The New York Times:

Michael Redhill's gripping and important play about genocide... has the intimacy and discordant reach of a late Beethoven string quartet... the clarity of Mr. Redhill's language, the economy of Ross Manson's direction and the excellent cast ... succeed in dramatizing its complexities ... haunting... shocking.

— Honor Moore, March 7, 2007

<http://theater2.nytimes.com/2007/03/07/theater/reviews/07good.html>

Backstage Magazine:

All the questions asked by the playwright and director Ross Manson ring true... Coupled with the cast's easy theatricality, Redhill's Goodness is intriguing and memorable.

— Sam Thielman, March 6, 2007.

http://www.backstage.com/bsa/news_reviews/nyc/review_display.jsp?vnu_content_id=1003553956

Flavorpill, NYC

... thought-provoking, powerfully acted production... heart-stopping...

— Joshua Stein, Issue 352, March 6–12, 2007

<http://nyc.flavorpill.net/89649>



**EDINBURGH : PRESS QUOTES
TRAVERSE THEATRE, AUGUST 2006**

Winner, Edinburgh Fringe First Award, 2006
Winner, Carol Tambor "Best of Edinburgh" Award, 2006

UK Preview Press on Volcano:

"The much-admired Canadian company" **London Times**
"The explosive Volcano company from Canada" **The Independent**
"Canada's Volcano Theatre has become a favourite at the Traverse" **The Guardian**

UK Reviews of Goodness:

The Independent *****

This explosive play, its European premiere presented by Canada's enterprising Volcano theatre, has genuine emotional texture, is rich in complexity, quirkiness and surprise, and not without brief shafts of wit...

I doubt if there will be a more gripping theatrical experience than Goodness at Edinburgh this year.

—Lynne Walker, Thurs, Aug 21, 2006



The Herald ****

Searingly intense... a near Pirandellian inquiry into the nature of truth, fiction, speculation and imagined history... Knitted together via a series of role-playing flashbacks by a six-strong ensemble, and with some spine-tingling choral singing derived from South Africa and Eastern Europe, a serious and profound rumination on the weight of moral responsibility in an unjust world goes beyond good and evil to get its man.

—Neil Cooper, Aug 21, 2006
<http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/68298.html>

The Scotsman ****

This complex piece of fractured storytelling has some terrific... qualities, including a series of beautifully orchestrated performances from its six-strong cast, an inspired, light-touch use of traditional sung laments from Africa and central Europe, and an eloquent, free-flowing abstract production by Ross Manson. Above all, the show avoids the kind of easy cynicism that would have left Michael, as the classic naïve liberal hero, silenced by horror.

He remains articulate to the end, still defending his position with energy and wit; and when the cast turn to the audience with a final challenging stare that asks how we would respond in the kind of situation that leads to genocide, it's a mark of this show's courage and its resistance to fashionable pessimism, that it leaves the question feeling genuinely open.

—Joyce MacMillan, Aug 21, 2006
<http://www.edinburgh-festivals.com/reviews.cfm?id=1224262006&genre=Theatre>

UK Theatre Net *****

I didn't make many notes when I saw Goodness at the Traverse Theatre, because I spent much of the time with my knuckles in my mouth trying not to make a sound as I sobbed silently. This is an incredibly moving piece of theatre about our ability as human beings to turn love into hate and good into evil....

a stunning piece of theatre... thoroughly modern in conception... a tour de force of theatrical invention...

This is theatre that will reveal yourself to yourself, miss it at your peril.

—Antonia Windsor, Aug 17, 2006

<http://www.uktheatre.net/articles.asp?DoAction=Display&ID=1185&CatID=120&ListUnder=0>

The Guardian ***

Michael Redhill's knotty play is compelling, particularly in Ross Manson's disarmingly simple and beautifully acted production...

—Lyn Gardner, Aug 18, 2006

<http://arts.guardian.co.uk/critic/review/0,,1852911,00.html>

The Edinburgh Guide *****

... an enthralling, moving drama that concerns itself with concepts of history, guilt and social responsibility ... a dramatic stand-off of unbearable intensity A memorable production, and a stunning new play from the pen of a quite considerable talent.

— Edmund Gould, Aug 22 2006

http://www.edinburghguide.com/festival/2006/fringe/review_theatre.php?page=g

Metro ****

Canada's Volcano theatre scored a hit at last year's Fringe with My Pyramids... With Goodness, by Michael Redhill, Volcano looks set to repeat that success... A philosophical and intellectually challenging war-crimes thriller... this is an intriguing and engaging ideas-packed play about the act of witness...

—Alan Chadwick, Aug 23, 2006

The List ****

<http://www.list.co.uk/festival/index.php?w=module:article,action:view,id:823>

Told effectively as a meta-narrative, this piece by Michael Redhill explores the subtle causes of mass hysteria and brutality from small beginnings to morally complex ends. Beautifully sung and performed, with a tight and compelling courtroom drama structure, this invigorating production from Volcano comes highly recommended.

—Steve Cramer, Aug 24, 2006

**TORONTO PREMIERE
TARRAGON THEATRE, OCTOBER 2005**

The Globe & Mail ***

There's more than plain goodness in Goodness. There's fierce intelligence in the writing of novelist and playwright Michael Redhill, in Ross Manson's direction, and in Teresa Przybylski's set design, a breathtaking but simple transformation of the Tarragon Theatre Extra Space... some of the most gripping moments I've seen in Canadian theatre in quite some time.

—Kamal al Solaylee, 27 October 2005

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20051027.GOODNESS27/TPStory/TPEntertainment/>

eye weekly ****

Incisive direction and committed performances... Goodness radically undermines commonly held beliefs that only good people suffer and that suffering brings knowledge. If justice can never be impartial, what dark forces motivate our impulse to judge and condemn?

— Christopher Hoile

http://www.eye.net/eye/issue/issue_11.03.05/arts/onstage.php

NOW Magazine ****

a riveting, tense, unflinching production... Part mystery, part ethical dilemma, the play grabs us from the start in this fine staging... Goodness asks questions, making us think without supplying easy answers. Just as the last musical section ends on an unresolved note, so do the issues that Redhill presents so provocatively. It's a thrilling piece of theatre, raising issues you'll be debating long after you've left the Tarragon.

—Jon Kaplan, 3–9 November, 2005

http://www.nowtoronto.com/issues/2005-11-03/stage_theatrereviews2.php

The Toronto Sun

Our morality is most often painted in stark shades of black and white, while our lives most often are lived in shades of grey. It takes a huge act of faith or intellect to draw the two together. They do come together briefly and powerfully in Goodness... In a careful alliance between the playwright and director Ross Manson, the genocide in question becomes not a single event, but instead embraces most of the killing sprees that have horrified our modern age... highly effective...

—John Coulbourn, 27 October 2005

http://www.torontosun.com/Entertainment/Columnists/Coulbourn_John/2005/10/27/1280067.html