

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Want To Spend Christmas Eve At The Bates Motel?

Hamilton, Ontario, July 4, 2010 — You don't? How about the Julibee Motel? Norman Bates doesn't run it. Fortunately. But Cassie Fromert does. You'll meet Cassie in this new psychological drama by Hamilton's John Bandler at The Hamilton Fringe Festival, July 15-25, 2010. Go to www.bandler.com/motel for show times and venue for a 60-minute *Christmas Eve at the Julibee Motel*. Christmas Eve begins this July 16.

So, it's Christmas Eve and Cassie's about to lock up her Julibee Motel. She's behind the check-in counter, reliving one of her daddy's bedtime stories, when an icy rainstorm sweeps the well-heeled Mick Thurson into her lobby. He insists on a room and is willing to pay whatever she asks. She insists the motel is closed for Christmas. His name is familiar, but she doesn't let on. Instead, she kicks their hard-core banter into an emotional rollercoaster of confessions, threats, and unfulfilled desires. As each one struggles for control, Mick must decide whether he wants to die, and Cassie must decide whether she wants him to live.

This world premiere of an original Canadian play stars local artists Monica Cairney as Cassie and Duncan Thompson as Mick. Michael Anania directs. Riane Leonard manages the stage.

As Mick vacillates between life and death, and Cassie spins her yarns and eggs him on, you'll squirm in your seat. All this at the Downtown Arts Centre Studio, 28 Rebecca Street.

Michael and Monica appeared as actors in the 2009 Hamilton Fringe Festival's 'Pick of the Fringe' show *A Modicum of Freedom*. Actor Duncan Thompson played Ron Miller in Theatre Burlington's 2010 award-winning production of *Breaking The Code*, and garnered a Theatre Ontario Festival 2010 nomination for Outstanding Performance by a Male in a Supporting Role. For the same production, John Bandler received the 2010 Western Ontario Drama League adjudicator's special award for Dialect Coaching.

Professor, engineer, entrepreneur, and author, John Bandler is a long-time Hamilton area resident. His fiction includes four stage plays, a screenplay, and a novel.

Monica Cairney is a 2008 McMaster graduate as well as a McMaster theatre veteran. She works both on and off stage with various local theatre communities such as Dundas Little Theatre, Hammer Entertainment, Black Box Fire and Theatre Burlington.

Duncan Thompson is a McMaster University student, but he always makes time for theatre. Since discovering his passion for the stage through McMaster's theatre and film program, he graces the theatre stages throughout Hamilton, Burlington and Dundas.

Michael Anania is a 2007 McMaster graduate, and currently an elementary school teacher in Halton. This is his second directorial endeavor. In the 2009/2010 season, he acted in two shows of Dundas Little Theatre.

Riane Leonard is a 2008 McMaster graduate. She is involved in various production aspects with McMaster Musical Theatre, Hammer Entertainment and Black Box Fire.