

EMBARGO UNTIL June 2, 2010 at 11am

Media Refer: Dianne Weinrib / Eleni Deacon; DW Communications 416-703-5479

dw@dwcommunications.net

**Celebrated actor and director
R.H. THOMSON**

Presented with Barbara Hamilton Memorial Award



Toronto, June 2, 2010 – The **Barbara Hamilton Memorial Award** was inaugurated in 1996 and is given to a Canadian artist who demonstrates *excellence in the performing arts* and is dedicated to *advocating and being an ambassador for the arts in Canada*. The Barbara Hamilton Memorial Award is sponsored by the City of Toronto, and the recipient is awarded with a scroll and a cheque for \$1,000 from the City.

The Award was established to recognize Barbara Hamilton's illustrious career and her remarkable canon of work. A list of previous winners reads as a who's who of legendary Canadian performers: Don Harron, George Luscombe, John Neville, Douglas Campbell, Mervyn Blake, Charmion King, Maureen Forrester, Eric Peterson, William Hutt, Martha Burns, Albert Schultz, Karen Kain, Fiona Reid and Colin Mochrie.

The winner of this year's Barbara Hamilton Memorial Award is **R.H. Thomson**, a celebrated actor and director who has played in theatres from Halifax to Victoria in roles as diverse as Glenn Gould in 'Glenn' by David Young for Necessary Angel and Marc Antony in 'Julius Caesar' at the Stratford Festival.

Throughout his distinguished career, Thomson has earned Gemini, Genie, Dora and Merritt Awards. In 2001, he wrote and performed a solo piece called 'The Lost Boys' based on letters from his five great uncles who served in WWI. In 2008, he co-created and produced the international projection project, *Vigile 1914-1918 Vigil*, in London, England and seven Canadian cities.

Thomson has most recently appeared in Anouilh's 'Antigone' at Soulpepper Theatre, 'Harvey' at Montreal's Segal Centre, the Greek film 'Antanasia' by Panos Karkanevatos and the television mini-series *The Englishman's Boy* based on the novel by Guy Vanderhague.

Throughout his career, Thomson has been a strong supporter of Canadian work, as well as an arts activist both on the national and international stage.

The Barbara Hamilton Memorial Award is administered by the Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts (TAPA). The Barbara Hamilton Memorial Award selection committee is Martha Burns, Jacoba Knaapen, Eric Peterson and Jim Roe.

TAPA is an arts service organization that represents nearly 200 professional theatre, dance and opera companies in the City of Toronto, and works to create an environment in which the performing arts may flourish. In addition to the Dora Mavor Moore Awards, programs and services offered by TAPA include: T.O. TIX - Toronto's One-Stop Ticket Shop at Yonge-Dundas Square and online at www.totix.ca; The 5 Star Experience Theatre & Dining Packages, Toronto's Official Theatre Guide; and hipTIX. For more information visit www.tapa.ca.