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by Lee Ann Waterman

Jun 10, 2010 - 4:00 PM

## Review: Markham Theatre promises exciting 2010-11 season

If there is a theme to Markham Theatre's 2010-11 season, it is diversity.

The jam-packed schedule, which runs from September to March, supports home-grown talent while attracting globally acclaimed performers, brings back veterans of their craft while welcoming up-and-comers and encompasses classical, pop, jazz, chorale and folk music, dance and the dramatic arts from around the globe, including Ireland, China, India, Spain and Cuba.

The theatre launched the season by bringing a small sampling of these artists to the stage June 7. The showcase managed to capture this sense of variety and captivate the audience.

Theatre-goers sang and clapped along with Judy&David during a sneak peak at their children's play, Beanstock. They were slightly spooked by Bilbo Baggins' run-in with Gollum in a scene from Theater San Fil giant puppetry production of The Hobbit; and charmed by cabaret singer Patricia O'Callaghan as she delivered back-to-back numbers in English, French and Ladino (Judaeo-Spanish).

Judging by the thunderous applause and standing ovations from several people, the star of the show was young Hungarian pianist Adam Gyorgy. Fingers flying across the keys at breakneck speeds, he played a couple Frank Liszt compositions, one from Bach and his own take on the classic Wedding March.

Another high point was the closing number, which brought Ms O'Callaghan back to the stage with legendary Canadian tenor Michael Burgess to perform Leonard Cohen's Hallelujah.

It was an auspicious preview of a season that promises to woo and wow local live entertainment lovers.

Highlights of the coming season include:

- five appearances by the wildly popular National Dance Company of Ireland with Rhythm of the Dance;
- three performances by the Jigu Thunder Drums of China;
- legendary flamenco guitarist Paco Pena accompanied by singers and dancers;
- the Vienna Boys' Choir;
- Canadian jazz favourite Holly Cole; and
- innovator in modern dance, the Paul Taylor Dance Company.

The theatre offers packages along seven themes: world stage, totally classical, jazz divas, fabulous footwork, great Canadian performers, nostalgia and family fun.

For the full season lineup, ticket and show information, visit [markhamtheatre.ca](http://markhamtheatre.ca) or call the box office at 905-305-7469.