



**BellaLuna
Productions**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FRESCO takes a fresh look at BC's Italian-Canadian History

Vancouver, February 9, 2012 – March 21-31, BellaLuna Productions premieres FRESCO, a new Canadian play about the importance of heritage and about one Italian-Canadian family's attempt to make peace with its history.

Rosina, a struggling performance artist, inherits her grandparents' crumbling house in East Vancouver, a neighbourhood in the throes of gentrification. The house is the only thing left of Rosina's Italian heritage and it will likely get bulldozed, along with all its stories, if she decides to sell it. Rosina is pulled in different directions: While the spirit of her *Nonna* and the 'ghosts' of the house's past urge her to keep it, her practical father, Michael, tells Rosina to sell it and not romanticize a family history that wasn't exactly *La Bella Vita*.

Indeed, FRESCO is Rosina's journey into her family's often painful past - into a generation of secrecy around World War II. As the Canadian government enacted the War Measures Act, some of the country's Italian population was interned and moved far away from their families. Other Italians in Vancouver were branded Enemy Aliens and were forced to report to the police on a monthly basis. Families were torn apart and struggled to cope with their new realities.

Directed by James Fagan Tait (*The Idiot/PuSh*) and performed by Susan Bertoia, Stefano Giulianetti, Marco Soriano and Michael Rinaldi, FRESCO celebrates the resilience, spirit and achievement of B.C.'s Italian Canadian community during a little-known but life-changing period in its history.

FRESCO was written by award-winning playwright Lucia Frangione and conceived with the BellaLuna Ensemble (Susan Bertoia, Aaron Freschi, Stefano Giulianetti and Marco Soriano) in association with the Vancouver Italian Cultural Centre as part of its ***A Question of Loyalty*** project, which also includes an exhibition and new book, both of which launch March 6.

FRESCO in Burnaby

JAMES COWAN THEATRE at the Shadbolt Centre for the Arts
March 21-24, 2012 at 8pm (2pm Matinees March 22 & 24)
TICKETS: \$15 - \$20 - BOX OFFICE: 604-205-3000 or www.shadboltcentre.com

FRESCO in Vancouver

THE CULTCH'S HISTORIC THEATRE, 1895 Venables Street, Vancouver, BC
March 28-31, 2012 at 8pm (2pm Matinees March 29 & 31)
TICKETS: \$15 - \$25 - BOX OFFICE: 604-251-1363 or www.thecultch.com

INFO: www.bellaluna.ca

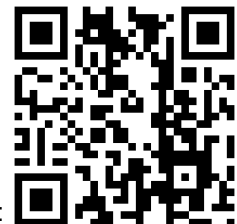
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FRESCO: