



### **DAREarts Teacher wows Shaw Supporters with Drama's Impact on Youth**

“On November 10<sup>th</sup> a crowd of Shaw Festival supporters that included Artistic Director Jackie Maxwell and members of the Shaw Festival Ensemble attending a breakfast fundraiser, ‘Raising the Curtain’ at Toronto’s Royal York hotel, suddenly snapped to attention and **really** listened to an unexpected speaker - Genevieve Anthony. She spoke about how the partnership that has been forged between DAREarts and the Shaw Festival has so powerfully impacted youth.\*

Even in that sophisticated and theatre loving crowd, Genevieve vividly demonstrated that just one theatre production can change the outlook and even the lives of young people who often face difficult challenges every day. As she told of the enthusiasm and complete involvement of DAREarts students when they attend the Shaw Festival, it was clear to everyone how mutually beneficial the partnership between the Shaw Festival and DAREarts is. Thanks to the generous sponsorship of Lombard Insurance and Coach Canada, The Shaw donates this opportunity to students and DAREarts reciprocates by providing a connection to the most important group in our society: enthusiastic young people who then remind everyone they come in touch with of the continuing and life changing value of the arts.

One eight grader, Genevieve told the audience, recently declared on the bus home after a performance that seeing the play – which had kept all the students on the edge of their seats – was “better than playing his favourite video game.” That line alone fulfilled the goal of the breakfast: . . . We want you to come and be inspired . . . . (we want you) to find out about great theatre at the Shaw.” As a DAREarts board member, sitting with an Ensemble Director, actors, a founding board member and a well known composer who all wanted to know more about DAREarts, I could not have been more proud.”

Monika Jensen Stevenson

*\*Each year since 2001, a busload of DAREarts teens benefit from a special Shaw Festival Day, thanks to the generous sponsorship of Lombard Insurance and Coach Canada.*