



# Play marries tall talents

## On stage -- Good Boys and True

BY THE VANCOUVER PROVINCE    SEPTEMBER 8, 2009

On stage

Good Boys and True

Where: Firehall Arts Centre, 280 E. Cordova St.

When: Tomorrow to Sept. 19

Tickets: [firehallartscentre.ca/boxoffice](http://firehallartscentre.ca/boxoffice) or 604-689-0926

A familiar face to Stargate SG-1 viewers as Dr. Janet Frasier, Teryl Rothery has spent a lot of time in front of the camera over the years and her March 2007 production of Edward Albee's *A Delicate Balance* was nominated for a Jessie Richardson Theatre Award.

Jeff Hyslop, meanwhile, is best known for playing the lead role in Sir Andrew Lloyd-Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera* for -- wait for it -- 975 performances and is a longtime stage actor.

Between these two talents are more resumé items than could fit in a single story. So, having the two working together on the Eye Heart Productions' Canadian premiere of *Good Boys and True* is exciting.

Playwright Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa's 1988 play about a scandal at an exclusive prep school examines everything from class and gender divides to the cut-throat world of "polite" society. Rothery plays the lead role of the mother, Elizabeth Hardy, who has to deal with the likelihood that her son is the subject of a possible felony -- or at least the kind of bad act that gets kids in trouble when the results are posted on YouTube.

"Never compare your life to others, because you're never sure of what path they're on," says Rothery. "That's what this play is about and it's heavy and will certainly leave the audiences talking.

"Every one of the characters has to deal with conflicting allegiances and deciding what degree they will go to when protecting their loved ones."

Recognized for his work in musical theatre on stage and directing, this sort of drama is different terrain for Hyslop, who took on the project because of the strength of the play.

"It's a departure from musical theatre, but this is a beautifully crafted piece," says Hyslop. "There are challenges in it, too, because of its historical context being the time of video, pagers, Reagonomics and the class distinction between the private-school elites and others.

"I'm hoping that the ways technology has raced forward and our immediate gratification world won't affect the resonance of this play's examination of the pillars of society crumbling."

Rothery's character is one of those upper-crusters facing the chasm of a black mark against her reputation. Hyslop says the entire play is seen through her eyes and is the "ultimate expulsion from the world of safety only to turn back to it when trouble arises."

"The play is so well written in its revealing of the layers of emotions that are sparked by my son's actions and I love being able to bring the writing to life."

As for what's next after this play, Rothery is going to be appearing in the Battlestar Galactica spinoff Caprica. Hyslop plans on more directing.

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