

# Bringing Research to LIFE

## Upcoming Events

Conversations in motion series presents:

### Linking Physical Activity & Positive Mental Health: Sharing the Evidence

Tuesday May 3, 2011  
8:45 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Millennium Library,  
251 Donald Street

Cost: \$25.00 (plus GST)  
Light lunch will be provided

Online registration will be open from April 11 - 28

To register, please visit:  
<http://www.umanitoba.ca/kinrec/research/conversations.html>

\* Login ID & PIN will be required to register online

For more info contact:

Nicole Dunn  
(204) 474-7451 or  
[nicole\\_dunn@umanitoba.ca](mailto:nicole_dunn@umanitoba.ca)

### Manitoba Institute For Materials (MIM) Presents its First Annual Conference

Wednesday May 11, 2011

Registration opens at 8:30 a.m.

Engineering & Information Technology Complex (EITC) Atrium

To RSVP or for more info please contact:

Michael Freund  
(204) 474-8772

\* RSVP required

# Calling on the artistic folk

## Where ART thou?

BY MELNI GHATTORA

Last summer Bill Kerr had the opportunity to star in what he describes as a "mountain and a monster of a roll." Kerr played the role of the father in *bedbound*, by Irish playwright Enda Walsh. The production was part of the 2010 Fringe Festival lineup; an opportunity made possible by the University of Manitoba's Creative Works grant program.

The professor by day received \$2,500 to fund the project, which also called upon his directing abilities. The original director had to drop out due to a scheduling conflict and Kerr soon found himself wearing the hat of actor and director. Fortunately good friend and local actor/director Arne MacPherson was able to sign on as co-director.

"I wish I hadn't actually done it," laughs Kerr, when asked about the challenges of acting in and directing the production. Although he could have easily held auditions for the role of the father, Kerr knew from the outset that was a project he wanted to tackle as an actor. "When you teach acting, it's important to continue to immerse yourself in the discipline in order to both understand it and to understand it more deeply," says Kerr.

On a research trip to Ireland he saw a play called *The Walworth Farce*, a more recent play by Enda Walsh. "I was just thrilled by it, I thought what an exciting and unexpected evening of theater," recalls Kerr. The next day he went out and bought as many Enda Walsh playwrights he was able to get his hands on. Upon reading *bedbound*, which he describes as an amazing ride, he immediately knew it was something he wanted to do.

Kerr, assistant professor, and theatre program coordinator, in the department of English, film and theatre, recognizes the importance of funding opportunities, specifically in the area of arts.

"As always in a creative field, and I shouldn't say just in the creative field because this is true in many fields, a little money goes a long way. People in the creative field are used to making do and to have that little bit of money can act as a real seed to create beyond what one might expect," says Kerr.

But it also does something else. According to Kerr, it also validates creative research as a valuable form of research. "The arts tend to be an experimental field, we have to get



Photo by Bill Kerr

Bill Kerr, Faculty of Arts, and Megan Andres, University of Manitoba graduate, starred in the 2010 production of *bedbound*, a claustrophobic drama that unravels the story of a despairing father and his polio stricken daughter.

out there and experiment. Our labs are perhaps not recognizable sometimes, although our spaces sometimes are. We need to get out there and experiment beyond the confinements of the university and that's what these grants allow us," says Kerr.

*bedbound*, which cast University of Manitoba graduate Megan Andres as the daughter, was Kerr's second production made possible by the Creative Works grant program. He received his first Creative Works grant in 2007, for his directorial project "*Squirrels*" & other delicious nuts: *Short works by David Mamet*," which debuted at the Master Playwrights Festival in 2008.

*Kerr is one of eight faculty members to receive funding through the Creative Works grants program in 2010. The program supports high quality creative works that meet peer standards of excellence and are suitable for publication, public performance or viewing. The annual May 1 deadline is fast approaching; for more information on this internal funding opportunity, please visit the Office of Research Services website: [http://umanitoba.ca/research/ors/internalfunding\\_deadlines\\_forms.html](http://umanitoba.ca/research/ors/internalfunding_deadlines_forms.html).*

### The 2010 Creative Works grant program recipients also include:

Alison Calder (\$2,500)  
Faculty of Arts  
*Maxims and contraries: A poetry and sweater project*

Lancelot Coar (\$1,904. 92)  
Faculty of Architecture  
*The design and creation of a flexible & transformable stage structure*

Gordon Fitzell (\$2,500)  
Faculty of Music  
*Two-week creative residency at Banff Centre, entailing musical performance, composition and production*

James Greene Jr. (\$2,500)  
Faculty of Music  
*New Soul Music: Songs of faith and perseverance*

Margaret Groome (\$2,500) & Robert Smith  
Faculty of Arts  
*The Adriana Theatre Collective production of Durrenblatt's Play Strindberg*

Gordon Reeve (\$2,500)  
School of Art  
*Katimak buoyancy as a passive energy source*

Dietmar Straub (\$2,500)  
Faculty of Architecture  
*Lots of bulb or the metamorphosis of a laun*

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Published by Research Communications and Marketing  
Office of the Vice-President (Research)  
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