

## ENTERTAINMENT

*Last updated at 7:18 AM on 27/11/07*

**Spider weaves web of artists  
Theatre Dalhousie, symphony collaborate on original production**

**DEAN LISK**  
The Daily News



Sarah Levy (from left), Benedict Dingle and Margaret Leger star in *A Spider's Tale*.  
(Daily News/Ryan Taplin)

There are more than 100 artists involved in DalTheatre's newest production - a celebration of the performing arts told through the point of view of a small spider.

"It's probably the most collaborative show I have ever been involved in," Hans Boggild said.

The former head of Eastern Front Theatre is directing *A Spider's Tale* at his alma-mater.

"It's great to be able to draw all this talent together," he said about the production, which opens today.

"The great thing is that this is going to be very eye-popping."

The family show is based on a story by symphony violist Binnie Brennan.

She was inspired to write the tale after a spider descended from the roof of a concert hall and landed on her instrument during a performance.

"It was quite a big moment for her," Boggild said.

"She continued playing, and the spider got away, and everything was fine. But, it struck her. It was an epiphany for her - it was nature connecting with art."

In the story, the spider comes out of her web to attend a symphony concert and experience the beauty of classical music.

After her experience, Brennan went away and began writing the story and developing the main character, a spider called Trixie. She later gave the tale to David Overton, a professor at Dalhousie.

He and his students fleshed out a dramatic script, and worked with Zachary Florence to create original music and lyrics.

Symphony Nova Scotia also came on board, and the production will include a performance by its 37 musicians.

"Young people will learn a lot about the composition of the orchestra, and some of the great and magical sounds they can create," Boggild said. "It's cartoonish in a way."

He said the hope is that children and their parents will be enchanted by the story, which is played out with colourful lighting and the costumes worn by the 18 DalTheatre actors appearing in the show.

"The mission is to excite young people with the magic of classical music, and also the magic of the theatre," Boggild said.

