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August 27, 2007

NIGHTWOOD THEATRE ANNOUNCES 2007/2008 SEASON

"Refusing to behave. It's a risky business." Nightwood Theatre

Toronto, ON... Nightwood Theatre proudly announces its playbill for 2007/2008 which includes the Toronto premiere of Linda Griffiths' witty, sexy and powerful ensemble piece ***Age of Arousal*** and Marjorie Chan's ***a nanking winter*** - a stunning drama about one of the darkest moments in the 20th Century. Says Interim Artistic Director Maja Ardal, "this season, Nightwood offers you rich stories of women who refuse to behave - and thank goodness for them!"

Nightwood continues to commit to the development of outstanding theatre by women with the 24th annual *Groundswell Festival*, featuring new works by an incredible assembly of playwrights and our two youth programs *Write From The Hip* and *Busting Out!* Back for its second year, we present our **EXTREME WOMEN** series -- over the course of one day, three innovative and controversial international plays will receive staged readings. And no season is complete without the annual celebration of International Women's Day...*FemCab* -- which returns in fine-form on March 4, 2007 at the Lula Lounge. As well, *Ga-la-licious*, our 2nd annual fundraising bash, is back on April 17th at the Courthouse Chamber Lounge.

Age of Arousal by Linda Griffiths

November 17 to December 16, 2007 (Opening Night: November 23, 2007)

at Factory Theatre Mainstage

Presented by Nightwood Theatre in association with Factory Theatre

Directed by Maja Ardal

Starring Clare Coulter, Sarah Dodd, Maggie Huculak, Ellen-Ray Hennessy, Gemma James-Smith and Dylan Smith

Set and Costume Design by Julia Tribe/**Lighting Design** by Kimberly Purtell/Composition by E.C. Woodley

"Griffiths is one of Canada's 'originals' known not only for the quality of her work, but for the sheer range of her career." Macleans Magazine

"Endlessly witty, vigorous, funny... brilliantly inventive..."
Calgary Herald

Genre-busting, rule-bending and ambitiously original, *Age of Arousal* is a lavish, sexy ensemble piece about the forbidden and gloriously liberated self. The setting is 1885: a time of great passion, great confusion. Mary Barfoot, an ex-militant suffragette, runs a school for secretaries with her beloved Rhoda. The school's invasion by three spinster sisters and a charismatic cad named Everard, creates a catalyst for political, sexual and emotional explosion. Ideas and libidos clash for dominance, as each character confronts the meaning of revolutionary courage. *Age of Arousal* makes its Toronto premiere fresh from an acclaimed run at Alberta Theatre Project's (ATP) PlayRites Festival and a Betty Mitchell Award nomination for Outstanding New Play.

Selected Bios:

Linda Griffiths

As playwright and actor, Griffiths is the winner of five Dora Mavor Moore Awards, a Gemini Award, two Chalmers Awards, the Quizzanne International Festival Award for *The Book of Jessica* and Los Angeles' A.G.A. Award for her performance in John Sayles' film "Liana." She has twice been nominated for the Governor General's Literary Award (*The Darling Family*, 1992, *Alien Creature*, 2000).

***a nanking winter* (all lower case) by Marjorie Chan**

February 23 to March 16, 2008 (Opening Night: February 27, 2008)

at Factory Theatre Mainstage

Presented by Nightwood Theatre in association with Cahoots Theatre Projects

Directed by Ruth Madoc-Jones

Starring Ella Chan, Insurp Choi, Brooke Johnson, Grace Lynn Kung and TBA

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it..." G. Santayana

"If world peace ever happens, it will be built on knowledge." June Callwood

Nightwood Theatre presents this stunning world premiere by Governor-General Award nominated Marjorie Chan (*China Doll*, Nightwood, 2004). A brazen young writer's campaign to ensure the past is not forgotten is challenged as she prepares for her book release - transporting us to one of the greatest horrors of the twentieth century. Nanking, China's capital in 1937, is in the first weeks of invasion. In the midst of the rampage, a small group of unlikely heroes band together to create a refuge from the unspeakable horror. A gripping account of survival in the darkest of times.

Winter 2007 marks the 70th anniversary of the Nanking massacre. In a six to seven week window, an estimated 300,000 Chinese were killed and masses of Chinese women were systemically raped and murdered. *a nanking winter* draws upon the book *The Rape of Nanking* by the iconic Iris Chang for inspiration. Chang, a passionate young American author who first brought the atrocities of Nanking to public attention in North America through her book, endured years of controversy. She took her own life in November 2004. The world premiere of *a nanking winter* also marks the 10th anniversary of the publication of *The Rape of Nanking*.

Selected Bios:

Marjorie Chan

Marjorie is a writer and performer and has delighted and commanded audiences across the country. She has voiced numerous radio dramas for CBC Radio including her own script, *Spring Arrival*.

Her debut as a playwright was the acclaimed drama *China Doll* (Nightwood Theatre) which was nominated for two Dora Mavor Moore Awards and subsequently nominated for a Governor General's Literary Award. It was also recently performed in Hong Kong as a part of Festival Canada Hong Kong. Marjorie wrote the libretto for the short opera *Mother Everest* for Opera To Go (Tapestry New Opera Works) which was recorded and aired on CBC Radio. For the 60th anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Marjorie, along with award-winning playwright Damien Atkins, adapted Hisashi Inoue's celebrated play about Hiroshima *in the garden, two suns* from Roger Pulvers' translation. Marjorie is the recipient of a Dora Mavor Moore Award in performance as well as the prestigious K.M. Hunter Artists Award in Theatre.

THE 24TH ANNUAL GROUNDSWELL FESTIVAL

September 9 to September 15, 2007 in the Tapestry-Nightwood New Work Studio, The Cannery - Building #58, Studio 315

Admission: Pay-What-You-Can

The Groundswell Festival of New Works by Women is a nationally recognized forum for the creation and development of theatre by women, boasting impressive alumnae. Selected from over 150 submissions, the strength of these voices reflects our ongoing commitment to the development of artistic excellence among Canadian theatre artists.

Sunday, September 9 at 4pm

Busting Out!

A collective creation from our free summer program for girls (12-16), crafted from their own writing and under the guidance of professional female artists. Program Director is Anna Chatterton.

Monday, Sept. 10 at 8pm

The Unfortunate Misadventures of Masha Galinski by Erin Shields

Inspired by the feminist fairy tales of Angela Carter, Masha journeys to an erotically-tinged storyland where danger and absurdity go hand in hand.

Tuesday, September 11 at 8pm

Desert Story by Dennison Smith

In the Navaho Desert on her 15th birthday, a girl reviews her life.

Wednesday, September 12 at 8pm

Light Swooping Through by Stacey Engels

Inspired by the life, art, and writings of Emily Carr, this is a journey into the wonderland of the creative process.

Thursday, September 13 at 8pm

a nanking winter by Marjorie Chan

The brave pen of a young writer transports us to one of the most horrible massacres in the 20th century.

Friday, September 14 at 8pm

Oil Man by Sonja Mills

The Jones family has an illustrious hundred year history with the Empire Oil Company but the end of an era is upon us...

Friday, September 14 at 9:30pm

The Corpse Bride by Niki Landau

Based on a famous Yiddish folk tale this movement piece is about the survival of love.

Saturday, September 15 at 8pm

Write From The Hip

A fresh slate of short plays from our youth playwriting program – Playwrights include Steph Berntson, Jayne Collins, Audrey Dwyer, Julia Lederer, Arti Mehta and Rebecca Singh. After five-months of weekly mentoring and workshops, The Hip culminates in these staged readings with professional directors, actors and participants of our Emerging Actors program. Program Director is Lisa Codrington.

FemCab

Tuesday March 4, 2008

Lula Lounge, 1585 Dundas Street West

Admission: \$28.00

Book your tickets by calling 416.944.1740 ext.7

Our notorious celebration of International Women's Day returns! Performing artists of every discipline hit the stage in a raucous salute to the extraordinary achievements of women.

GA-LA-LICIOUS

Thursday April 17, 2008

The Courthouse Lounge, 57 Adelaide Street East

Early Bird Tickets: \$45.00 (before March 17)

Regular Tickets: \$55.00

Book your tickets by calling 416.944.1740 ext.7

Join us for our second annual fundraising gala! Gorge on delectable music, capricious comedy and first-rate guest appearances. Last year we brought you the indomitable Sarah Harmer and you won't be disappointed this year.

EXTREME WOMEN

Sunday May 4, 2008

Gladstone Hotel, 1214 Queen Street West

Tickets: \$10

Book your tickets by calling 416.944.1740 ext.7

Join us for our 2nd annual staged readings of three innovative international works at one of the city's most innovative spaces.

1:00 p.m. - *The Saviour of Potsdam*

by Theresia Walser (Austria)

Exposes the ethics of ordinary people against a backdrop of anti-immigrant racism.

4:00 p.m. - *Stoning Mary*

by Debbie Tucker Green (England)

Imports the idea of public stoning into an ordinary family's life.

7:00 p.m.- *In Darfur*

by Winter Miller (United States)

Throws us into a terrifying world of genocide and examines the ethics of western media.

ABOUT NIGHTWOOD THEATRE

Nightwood Theatre – Artistic Director **Kelly Thornton** (on leave until March 2008) – Interim Artistic Director **Maja Ardal** and Producer **Monica Esteves**.

For 28 years, Nightwood Theatre has developed, produced and toured landmark, award-winning plays by and about women. The company's tremendous work in play creation bore fruit to many renowned and acclaimed plays that are now part of the Canadian theatre canon. These include *Good Night Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)* by Ann-Marie MacDonald, *The Adventures of a Black Girl in Search of God* by Djanet Sears, *The Danish Play* by Sonja Mills and over 50 other new Canadian plays by women.

Nightwood plays have won Canada's highest literary and performing arts honours, including Governor General, Chalmers, Dora Mavor Moore and Trillium Awards. Nightwood is a valued member of various communities, at a local, regional and national level. Through our youth initiatives and mentorship programs, our various festivals, productions, events, colourful history, an important mandate and an exciting fundraisers and collaborations with other organizations, Nightwood is a growing, thriving success story with an important mandate and an exciting future.

Age of Arousal and a nanking winter Details

DATES:	Age of Arousal: November 17 to December 16, 2007 a nanking winter: February 23 to March 16, 2008
MEDIA/VIP:	Friday, November 23, 2007 (<i>Age of Arousal</i>) and Wednesday, February 27, 2008 (<i>a nanking winter</i>)
SHOW TIMES:	Tuesday to Saturday at 8:00 p.m., Wednesday 12:30 p.m., Saturday 2:00 p.m., Sunday 2:00 p.m., Friday February 29 th 12:30 p.m. matinee
TICKETS:	Single Tickets: \$25 - \$36 Sunday PWYC Previews: \$12 Passholders save over 20% on tickets when booking for both productions
LOCATION:	Factory Theatre, Mainstage, 125 Bathurst Street
BOX OFFICE:	Tickets are available in advance by calling (416) 504-9971 or online at www.nightwoodtheatre.net

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