

For Immediate Release: Monday, September 11, 2017

****Please update your listings/announcements****

THE CONSENT EVENT

A play series and symposium navigating the minefield of modern sexuality

(Toronto) – Nightwood Theatre is thrilled to open its 38th season with a pair of bold and thought-provoking world premiere plays that grapple with sexuality and consent: Ellie Moon's *Asking for It* and Rose Napoli's *Lo (or Dear Mr. Wells)*. Both shows will run onstage at Streetcar Crowsnest, 345 Carlaw Avenue.

In a world where children and youth are exposed to sexual content via media and cellphones – and incidents of sexual assault and rape in social situations and on campus are all too prevalent for young women – more than ever, we need to have discussions around what constitutes consent and healthy sexual relationships. How do we speak to women and girls, men and boys about these issues?

Asking for It

By Ellie Moon

Directed by Brendan Healy

Starring Christine Horne, Steven McCarthy, Ellie Moon and Jaa Smith-Johnson

An In Association production, in association with Crow's Theatre, Nightwood Theatre and Necessary Angel Theatre Company

Streetcar Crowsnest: October 6 – 21, 2017

A daring documentary play that explores gender roles and sexual consent in the wake of the Ghomeshi scandal. *Asking for It* offers a candid, often funny, and sometimes uncomfortable look at shame, power, ambiguity, and misunderstanding in communication about sex.

"A bracing pleasure... A sly, intelligent piece of documentary theatre borne of Ghomeshi-gate."

– Simon Houpt, *Globe & Mail*

Content warning: Discussions about rape and choking. Mature sexual content.

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT:

Ellie Moon

Ellie Moon is an actor and writer. As an actor, she has worked on stages in Canada and Britain, including Soulpepper in Toronto and The Bush and Tristan Bates in London, UK, as well as in TV, film, and radio. Ellie was an invited member of the RSC Graduate Actor Young Company Workshops in 2015 and won the John Hartley Emerging Artist Prize (UK) the same year. *Asking for It* was developed in 2016, in Crow's inaugural documentary theatre unit. A public workshop of the play was presented by Crow's Theatre in partnership with Why Not Theatre; and further support for the development of the play was provided by The National Arts Centre. Ellie is currently developing a new play as part of Tarragon's 2017-18 playwriting unit and developing a feature film with Fab Filippo. Ellie founded the Secret Shakespeare Series in 2016 and has produced each installment of the charitable project.

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE:

Asking for It: October 6 – 21, 2017, Streetcar Crowsnest
Tuesday – Friday, 8:00 pm; Saturday, 2:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

Opening Night: Saturday, October 7, 2017

#askingforit #womenintheatre Instagram: @askingforitplay Twitter: @askingtheplay

Lo (or Dear Mr. Wells)

By Rose Napoli

Directed by Andrea Donaldson

Starring Vivien Endicott-Douglas and Sam Kalilieh

A Nightwood Theatre production in association with Crow's Theatre

Streetcar Crowsnest: October 25 – November 11, 2017

A feminist retake on a student/teacher relationship, wrestling with burgeoning sexuality and consent, literature and passion, and right and wrong. ***Lo (or Dear Mr. Wells)*** was developed through Nightwood Theatre's Write from the Hip playwright's unit.

"Napoli already has the gifts of sharp, believable dialogue, captivating imagery and deeper thematic resonances that many writers far more experienced lack." – *Toronto Star*

Content warning: Mature sexual content.

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT:

Rose Napoli

Rose is a Toronto-based playwright and actress. She is a two-time participant in the Banff/Citadel Professional Theatre Program and has worked in theatres across the country. Selected acting credits include: Juliet in *Romeo & Juliet* (Citadel Theatre/St. Lawrence Shakespeare, Capital Critics Nomination), Jamie in *The Incredible Speediness of Jamie Cavanaugh* (Roseneath Theatre), Hermia in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Canadian Stage/Citadel Theatre) and *The Fan* (Odyssey Theatre, Rideau Nomination). As a playwright, Rose debuted her first play, *Oregano*, at the Storefront Theatre in 2015. She has been a member of playwright units with Nightwood Theatre, Thousand Islands Playhouse and Tarragon Theatre. Her plays include: *Ten Creative Ways to Dispose of your Remains*, *Lo (Or Dear Mr. Wells)* and *Shrew (A Big Fat Italian Comedy Inspired by William Shakespeare)*.

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE:

***Lo (or Dear Mr. Wells)*:** October 25 – November 11, 2017, Streetcar Crowsnest
Tuesday – Friday, 7:30 pm; Saturday, 2:30 pm and 7:30 pm.

Opening Night: Saturday, October 28, 2017

#nwLo #womenintheatre

To expand the conversation about navigating sex and consent beyond the stage, In Association and Nightwood will be programming an afternoon symposium of panel discussions and a workshop at Streetcar Crowsnest, featuring consent and sexuality experts and activists, on October 15 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. The runs of *Asking for It* and *Lo (or Dear Mr. Wells)* will include guest speakers and artist talkbacks.

Speakers/panellists and schedule TBA.

Tickets for both *Asking for It* and *Lo (or Dear Mr. Wells)* range from \$20 to \$25, and are available in person at Streetcar Crowsnest Box Office, 345 Carlaw Avenue, 647-341-7390 or at nightwoodtheatre.net or crowstheatre.com

ABOUT NIGHTWOOD

As Canada's foremost feminist theatre, Nightwood provides an essential home for the creation of extraordinary theatre by women. Founded in 1979, Nightwood Theatre has created and produced award-winning plays that have garnered Dora Mavor Moore, Chalmers, Trillium and Governor General's awards. The company is helmed by Artistic Director Kelly Thornton and Managing Director Beth Brown, whose leadership has received public acclaim for artistic excellence, the successful training and development of emerging female talent, and its ongoing activism around gender equity.

For more information on *Asking for It* and *Lo (or Dear Mr. Wells)* or Nightwood Theatre, visit nightwoodtheatre.net

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