

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
May 30, 2017**

Announcing Nightwood Theatre's 2017-18 SEASON

Season to include four World Premieres and return engagements of two box office hits

(Toronto)—Artistic Director Kelly Thornton and Managing Director Beth Brown are proud to announce Nightwood Theatre's 2017-2018 season. In our 38th season we have assembled a full playbill representing some of the most dynamic female voices working in theatre today. Nightwood is proud to support and partner with the ever-burgeoning community of independent artists that are developing high caliber contemporary theatre.

Nightwood Theatre's Artistic Director Kelly Thornton says, "In a world that seems more and more polarized on the political stage, today's artists are inciting a powerful conversation in response. Each play in our 17/18 Season ignites a dialogue around the most electric issues of today. To borrow from one play in particular, *7th Cousins*, we face the profound question 'How can we be together?' This simple question runs like a current through each of our offerings. Unpacking the massive issues around sexuality, race, class, religion, politics and gender, our playwrights grapple with what fundamentally unites us - even in the face of what divides or oppresses us."

NIGHTWOOD THEATRE'S 2017-18 SEASON

THE CONSENT EVENT

A play series and symposium navigating the minefield of modern sexuality.

ASKING FOR IT

By Ellie Moon

Directed by Brendan Healy

an **In Association** production

in association with **Crow's Theatre**,

Nightwood Theatre and **Necessary Angel Theatre Company**

Onstage at Crow's Theatre

October 6 – 21, 2017

"A bracing pleasure... A sly, intelligent piece of documentary theatre." Simon Houpt, Globe and Mail

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.

LO (or Dear Mr. Wells)

By Rose Napoli

A **Nightwood Theatre** production

in association with **Crow's Theatre**

Onstage at Crow's Theatre

October 25 – November 11, 2017

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

A feminist retake on a student / teacher relationship, wrestling with burgeoning sexuality and consent, literature and passion, right and wrong. Developed through Nightwood Theatre's Write from the Hip playwright's unit.

UNHOLY

Written by Diane Flacks
Directed by Kelly Thornton
Produced by **Nightwood Theatre**
Onstage at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre
November 23 – December 10, 2017

“Diane Flacks has written exactly the right play to see right now.” - Stage-Door.com

NNNN - NOW Magazine

“Should women abandon religion?” Four female panelists face-off in a wild, whip-smart public debate about religion and misogyny. With opinions flying from a progressive Muslim lawyer, an Orthodox Jewish spiritual leader, an excommunicated nun and a lesbian atheist pundit, *Unholy* delivers an outrageously funny, no-holds-barred look at contemporary women in organized religion.

Nominated for a 2017 Dora Award for Outstanding New Play.

CALPURNIA

Written and Directed by Audrey Dwyer
A **Nightwood Theatre** and **Sulong Theatre** Co-Production
Onstage at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre
January 14 – February 4, 2018

“Audrey Dwyer’s direction pulls no punches.” - Torontoist

A hilarious and provocative look at class, race and family dynamics under the roof of a wealthy Jamaican-Canadian home. As Julie, a screenwriter, seeks to redress *To Kill a Mockingbird* through the perspective of Calpurnia - the Finch family maid - her tactics meet with explosive results at an important family dinner party. A brave, insightful, and outrageous new play.

MOUTHPIECE

Written by Norah Sadava & Amy Nostbakken
Directed and Composed by Amy Nostbakken
A **Nightwood Theatre** presentation of a **Quote Unquote Collective** production
At Buddies in Bad Times Theatre
April 11 – 22, 2018

“Productions as good as this are why we go to the theatre.” – The Slotkin Letter

“*Mouthpiece* is a gift to lovers of boundary-breaking theatre.” Five Stars – Stage Door

Mouthpiece follows one woman, for one day, as she tries to find her voice. Interweaving a cappella harmony, dissonance, text and physicality, two performers express the inner conflict that exists within a modern woman’s head: the push and the pull, the past and the present, the progress and the regression.

Nominated for three 2017 Dora Awards: Outstanding Production; Outstanding Performance - Ensemble; and Outstanding Sound Design/Composition for James Bunton and Amy Nostbakken. Winner of the Toronto Theatre Critics Award for Best Canadian Play.

7 TH COUSINS POP-UP PERFORMANCE SERIES

By Christine Brubaker and Erin Brubacher

Nightwood Theatre presents 7th Cousins
at various locations throughout the 2017-18 Season
Special one-time, inaugural performance July 31, 2017
The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 344
September location to be revealed...

Nightwood is thrilled to present a series of pop-up performances by 7th Cousins throughout Toronto. This vital project asks, “How can we be together?” through both the personal and political perspective of two Canadian women who walked a 700 km journey through the Bible Belt of Middle America, tracing the migration of their Mennonite ancestors. Described as an automythography, 7th Cousins explores truth, tales, and the space in between a shared and imagined past, present and future.

GROUNDSWELL UNPLUGGED: Write from the Hip Reading Series

Readings from our 2016/17 Emerging Playwrights program

*Facilitated by **Andrea Donaldson***

September 25 – 30, 2017

Ernest Balmer Studio, The Distillery District

Be the first to hear new work from some of the most exciting emerging female playwrights in the city. The 2016-17 *Write from the Hip* writers are **Elena Belyea, Deanna Kruger, Michelle Langille, Gitanjali Lena, Hannah Rittner** and **Lisa Ryder**. *Write from the Hip* is a year-long script development program designed to support new writers toward the completion of a full-length play. Come hear what these talented women have created.

See full schedule of Groundswell Unplugged in September, 2016. Visit nightwoodtheatre.net for details.

2017-18 TICKETS AND SEASON PASSES

World Premiere Pass – *Asking for It, Lo (or Dear Mr. Wells)* and *Calpurnia* - \$75 (\$60 for patrons under 30)

Full Season Pass – Includes productions in the World Premiere Pass, *Mouthpiece* and *Unholy* - \$125 (\$100 for patrons under 30)*

Season Passes go on sale June 1st, 2017. Call Nightwood Theatre at 416-944-1740 ext. 4, or purchase online at www.nightwoodtheatre.net.

Single Tickets range from PWYC to \$35 and will go on sale in Fall 2017.

*7th Cousins is not included in the Season Passes, but pass holders will receive a discount on tickets for the production.

ABOUT NIGHTWOOD THEATRE

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, which have won Dora Mavor Moore, Chalmers, Trillium and Governor General’s Awards. The company is led by Artistic Director Kelly Thornton and Managing Director Beth Brown, who have received public acclaim in artistic excellence, advocacy, and the successful training and development of emerging female talent.

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For more information on our productions and artist development activities, visit nightwoodtheatre.net

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For more information please contact:

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