News

To send news of a women’s theatre project in your part of the world, write: gaileyroad@gmail.com with the header: News for WiT.

South Africa

In January 2011, two theatre artists from Live Theatre, a company based in Newcastle in the United Kingdom, Amy Golden and Gez Casey began The Testimonies Project with colleagues in South Africa: Zamuxolo Mguduka and Ziphozakhe Hlobo. They selected a diverse group of nine young women between the ages of 17 and 30 to tell the stories of their lives in the new South Africa. In January 2012, Golden and Casey were joined by Ziphozakhe in Newcastle to listen to the recorded testimonies and create a piece of theatre. The creators hope that Mamela will portray commonalities between the women and help challenge the misconceptions and attitudes that currently exist between their communities. http://www.live.org.uk/education/community.php

Australia

In 2011, Third-Way Theatre’s Takin’ Up Space Project, undertaken in collaboration with the Indian Australian Women's community, explored the cultural impact of silencing women's experiences of domestic violence. The project was performed in five different locations across Melbourne. Currently, Third-Way Theatre is working on a project with Thai Community Theatre group GABFAI, based in Chiang Mai, Thailand. They are also planning a forum theatre project, with Barbara Santos on gender violence.

http://www.thirdwaytheatre.org/

Sweden

The Ninth International Women’s Playwright Conference will be held in Stockholm, Sweden from August 15-21, 2012. Hosted by Riksteatern Theatre, the theme of the conference is “The Democratic Stage” and will feature performances, workshops, seminars and readings. The conference will feature a presentation from
Al-Harah in Palestine and a keynote speech on theatre for children with Al-Harah’s General Director Marina Barham and Swedish director Suzanne Osten.
www.riksteatern.se/wpic

Canada

To celebrate her seventy-fifth birthday, a group of drama scholars from the University of Calgary hosted a conference on March 28 to 31 celebrating work of Canadian playwright Sharon Pollack. Pollock’s historical drama Walsh, based on the relationship between Chief Sitting Bull of the Oglala Sioux and James Walsh of the North West Mounted Police, was produced by Theatre Calgary as a major theatrical component of the 1988 Cultural Olympics held in conjunction with the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary. Her play The Making of Warriors was produced by the Canadian Broadcast Corporation in celebration of The Second International Women Playwrights Conference in 1991.