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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

United Kingdom, Haiti, Afghanistan:
By Joanna Sherman

Through my company, Bond Street Theatre, I have been working to strengthen women's voices in areas of conflict. In Haiti, we have been creating plays against gender violence with the women's group FAVILEK (Women Victims, Stand Up, Get Up). In Afghanistan, women are largely excluded from performance of all sorts. Theatre is only now being recognized as a means to carry information into remote areas. Women, who are isolated by tradition and location, are most in need of news about their rights in Islam and by law. In response, we are creating all-female acting troupes that bring plays about vital issues to female audiences in cities and villages. These actresses risk physical harm by choosing to perform, yet they are eager to learn, and perform with grace and passion. Their courage to step outside the borders of tradition and speak out through theatre is inspiring, and I am happy to have the opportunity to assist them through training, example, and encouragement.

Chile: Mestiza Chile - May 12-15, 2013

Mestiza Chile 2013 is the first Women in Contemporary Theatre Festival and Gathering to be held in Chile. It's inspired by the strength and energy of every woman within the network. It will take place in Santiago de Chile, where we want to create a place for all of us to gather and share around theatre.

The program includes workshops, round tables, work demonstrations and performances. On this first version we proudly announce the presence of some of The Magdalena Project founders and finest Latin American artists. You may find detailed info at http://mestiza-chile.blogspot.com

Canada:
By Jia Yun Karen Cao

http://jps.library.utoronto.ca/index.php/wit/index
The Daniels Spectrum (formerly the Regent Park Arts and Cultural Centre) officially opened its doors in September with a Block-O-Rama party that included music, food, dance, spoken word and a mural of house keys.

The 38 million dollar building, created through a joint partnership between the city, a private developer and a non-profit, was part of a 15-year revitalization project of Canada’s first and oldest social housing community, Regent Park. With an aim to transform it from isolation into a mixed income, mix-use neighborhood, its 7,500 residents who speak 47 different languages now have access to state-of-the-art resources and space to showcase their vibrant cultures, talent and creativity. “Rooted in Regent Park and open to the world” – the Spectrum’s motto means unlike other theatres in the city, this one is built specifically for the Regent Park community.

The 60-000 square foot space is home to several tenants, including the Regent Park School of Music, the Collective of Black Artists (COBA), ArtHeart and Native Earth resident companies, Fu-Gen, Kaha:wi Dance Theatre, and Cahoots Theatre. There are 10 indoor and outdoor performance spaces available for booking, including a 400-seat theatre and a 4000-square foot courtyard.

China: Red Snow

The International Premiere of Red Snow at the ACT Shanghai International Contemporary Theatre Festival 2012, written by Diana Tso and directed by Beatriz Pizano. The story begins with Isabel Chang’s nightmare’s of a Chinese opera leads her to search for her grandmother’s silenced story. On her journey to Nanjing, China, she meets Jason Yamamoto who is connected to the same history. Their love unleashes three generations of guilt, shame and pain perpetuated by a holocaust still denied by the perpetrators today. Isabel’s grandfather and mother are survivors who have not spoken about this history since they fled in 1937 but this silence is shaken sixty years later by Isabel’s decision to go to Nanjing to pay homage to her grandmother.

November 25, 2012 at 2pm: Free Seminar with Red Snow music composer, Alice Ho and musicians Brandon Valdivia and Patty Chan with Red Snow playwright, Diana Tso about their journey in developing the text and music in creating music & text in storytelling that merges Eastern and Western artistic forms. www.redsnowcollective.ca

Denmark: The 7th Transit International Festival of Women’s Performance May 29 - June 9, 2013

Transit is an international theatre festival and meeting organized at Odin Teatret, Holstebro, Denmark, directed by Julia Varley, one of the founders of The Magdalena Project, a network of women in contemporary theatre that has existed since 1986. Transit and The Magdalena Project are committed to nurturing an awareness of women's contribution to theatre and to supporting exploration and research by offering concrete opportunities to as many women as possible, both

http://jps.library.utoronto.ca/index.php/wit/index
in the profession and in study. Both structures function internationally to give voice to the concerns of women working in theatre today. The festival encourages women to examine their role in the future of theatre, by presenting existing work by women, by sharing methodologies, by examining form as well as content and by making new material. The aim is to set up opportunities for women to explore new approaches to theatre making that reflect more profoundly their own experiences and political priorities as women. The ripple effect of *Transit Festival* usually results in other festivals and meetings, workshops and productions in close contact with the network of *The Magdalena Project*. 