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## Local Production Challenges Audiences with Moral Dilemma

*Death and the Maiden examines the moral implications of revenge*



SAINT JOHN - In a brutal dictatorship, a young woman activist was tortured. Several years later, the country has returned to democracy and the now middle aged woman thinks she recognizes the man who tortured and raped her. Is she right? And if she is, does she have the right to exact her own retribution?

*Death and the Maiden*, an award winning play written by Ariel Dorfman, presents an intense story about one woman's life-long struggle and her need for retribution. "While based on the situation in Chile in the 1970's to 1990's, this play speaks to any situation where the rights of one have been abused by another and what, if anything, that victim is entitled to do in response," notes Director Dean Turner. "The audience will have to make up their own minds about whether the man accused of torture is actually guilty, and even if he is, does that give his victim the right to now take the law into her own hands."

This passionate piece will be performed at the home of the Saint John Theatre Company at 112 Princess St from February 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> as part of the in house Studio Series being offered this season. The objective of the Studio Series is to offer non-traditional works in a smaller setting designed to draw audience members deeper into the play.

The set will be minimal and only three cast members are involved in this production, allowing audience members to be drawn into the intense interplay between the characters. "This is a very intense piece of theatre focused on the relationship between the woman, her loving husband and the doctor she accuses of being her torturer years before," adds Director Dean Turner.

Long time theatre company member Lindsay Bell will be playing the leading role of Paulina Salas. Paulina, a victim of torture as a young woman, is insecure and feels inferior until she gains control and power over the situation with weapon in hand. Her character changes into a more secure, confident and vengeful woman. "As an actor, the integrity and complexity of the characters and their situation is a gold mine - there is a wealth of opportunities to explore and discover in the rehearsal process," adds Bell. "Paulina has such strength in her fragility, and this inherent conflict in her character makes this role an incredible challenge, but also an intriguing opportunity to delve into her world, despite the darkness of that world."



*Death and the Maiden* will play at 112 Princess St. from February 9-11, 2012. Tickets are available by calling 506-652-7582 or visit: [www.ticketpro.ca](http://www.ticketpro.ca).

For more information please contact:

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