

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Plastic Makes Perfect

Transsexual Nina Arsenault Returning to Saint John to Share Stories About Her Physical and Spiritual Transformation After 60 Plastic Surgeries...

SAINT JOHN – Saint John Theatre Company is proud to have Nina Arsenault back as part of its new Presentation Series whereby guest artists perform in the intimate surroundings of the BMO Rehearsal Hall at 112 Princess Street.

Nina Arsenault is a Canadian transsexual columnist, freelance writer, actress and sex-trade worker who's performances have sold out across the country. In 2008, SJTC commissioned Nina's play *The Silicone Diaries* – since that inaugural Saint John performance the play has toured to sold-out venues in eight other cities including Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver. *"That production was very special. I had such a positive experience meeting the community in 2008. It's always wonderful to return to a place a second time, to feel welcomed back,"* adds Nina.

Queer Art Diva, Nina's latest piece of art, is a fusion of selected writings, monologues and visual art. There are three distinct pieces: *I Was Barbie*, *Me 'n' Tommy Lee* and a *Transformative Slide Show*.

I Was Barbie presents the real life story of a silicone transsexual representing Mattel's beloved plastic doll at her official 50th birthday party and the opening night of L'Oreal Fashion Week. *"I wasn't sure if they wanted me for the job to be ironic or glib, or if they weren't quite sure who they were hiring because I was surprised they would hire someone known for having massive amounts of plastic surgery to represent a doll accused of screwing up the bodies images of millions of little girls worldwide,"* adds Nina. *"So, it's a very real, but also satirical story about glamour, fashion and image -and I give the inside scoop on the behind the scenes carrying on with a bit of (Canadian) celebrity gossip."*

The second piece, *Me 'n' Tommy Lee*, is another real life story about the night Nina met up with rocker Tommy Lee. *"I think we often see on TV or in the media the same story about transsexuals - about a guy hitting on one of us, not knowing, then finding out, and his reaction. So this is my way of telling the story from the transsexual's point of view. Not in a Jerry Springer way, in a very intelligent way - but it's also my most hilarious story!"* adds Nina.



Queer Art Diva will conclude with a slide retrospective of Nina's physical transformations. "I've taken photographs of my body through my gender transition, through my various cosmetic procedures and continuing on through my ongoing spiritual transformations. Some of the photos are graphic, but they are done in a very artistic way. And, although they are very revealing I think they give real insight into a very human experience," notes Nina.



"I want the audience to come and be entertained, to laugh, to be joyful, but I think I will also give them lots to think about. I think that being queer is about living your life in new and rebellious ways, so hopefully a spirit of independence and freedom can be taken from the show as well. Also, the sense that art is sexy and that I think all of us like being provoked!" ~ Nina Arsenault.

The Saint John Theatre Company Presentation Series will also be featuring *Fishing* (May 31 – June 2) and *The Debacle* (June 14-16). *Queer Art Diva* will run April 19th – 21st (7:30pm). Tickets are \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door. For tickets please call 652-7582 or visit www.ticketpro.ca.

For more information please contact:

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