



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: ANNA KLEIN:

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ISADORA PRODUCTIONS EXPOSES THE ISSUES BEHIND THE GLOBAL SEX TRADE:

BECOMING NATASHA

A Theatre Production Sponsored by The Canadian Auto Workers Union

Hosted by the Stop the Trafficking Coalition

New York, NY (February 1, 2007) –The Canadian Auto Workers Union and Stop the Trafficking Coalition present: *Becoming Natasha*. *Becoming Natasha*, inspired by the book *The Natashas: Inside the Global Sex Trade* by Victor Malarek, is a company-created multi-media theater piece that tells the stories of three female victims of human trafficking – women who have been smuggled across international borders and tricked or forced into a life of sexual slavery. The piece goes inside the culture of the global sex trade by utilizing real testimony from Johns, Traffickers and Victims to outline the tradition of violence and ignorance that has driven what can only be called a modern slave trade. This production exposes the cultural and political issues behind the multi-billion dollar industry of human trafficking and weaves a terrifyingly real spectacle of what is now a billion dollar industry.

Each year in the United States close to 20,000 women, men and children are trafficked into the country. Worldwide estimates are that between 800,000 and 900,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year. Human trafficking is a \$10 billion global industry now ranked among drugs and illegal guns as one of the top three criminal money making schemes in the world. Sex trafficking is 90% women and girls. Human trafficking is rapidly becoming one of the largest sources of illegal income on the planet. The average American may believe that this problem has nothing to do with them, but thousands of women kidnapped from their homes and countries and have been trafficked as sex slaves in various homes, clubs and casinos across the globe, including North America.

Isadora Productions spent months researching human trafficking through organizations such as Safe Horizon, the FBI Anti-Trafficking Unit (Middle Eastern and Eurasian division) CAT-USA and a division of Amnesty International (Firefly). Under funding from the New York Contemporary Arts Foundation, the piece was presented as a work in progress at the 2005 International Theatre Methods Festival in Latvia. In New York City, *Becoming Natasha* was produced at the New York Six Figures Artists of Tomorrow Festival 2005 (New York Magazines “pick of the festival”), and opened a week of Amnesty International human rights events, *No One Signs Up To Be A Slave* at HERE Arts Space in New York. Educational performances include: HERE Arts Center in association with Eugene Lang College The New School for Liberal Arts and George Washington University (in association with Georgetown). BN was featured in Eve Ensler’s V-Day UNTIL THE VIOLENCE STOPS Grassroots Coalition, July 2006, was presented in association with Prostitution Research and Education in Chicago at American Theatre, July *Becoming Natasha* is featured in the April (2006) issue of *American Theatre Magazine*.

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DATES, TIMES, LOCATION AND TICKET PRICES

Becoming Natasha will be performed at the Robert Gill Theatre 214 College St. (Robert Gill Theatre 214 College St. 3rd floor (use St. George St. entrance) Not wheelchair accessible. Parking is located on Huron St. just north of College St. underground for \$6.00. The building is located on the NW corner of College and St. George streets, Toronto ON.

Performances are **Friday, March 23 and Saturday, March 24th at 8pm**. Performances will be followed by a panel discussion. Tickets are \$10 and can be bought at the Robert Gill Box office: 416-978-7986. Theatre will take VISA (and charge cost of processing VISA) over the phone. Email: reservations@isadoraproductions.org for group reservations.

This production contains explicit language and is not recommended for those under the age of 18.

LIST OF PANELISTS

TBA

ISADORA PRODUCTIONS

Isadora Productions is a professional production company that places a focus on creating work through collaborations with directors, writers, actors and performing artists of all genres. IP produces work that is not based on concept, but content - work that is unexpectedly poetic, free from stereotype, and thought provoking. **TO LEARN MORE VISIT: www.isadoraproductions.org.**

ABOUT THE SPONSORS:

The Canadian Auto Workers union is Canada's largest private sector union, representing 265,000 members who work in all sectors of our economy.

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Fact Sheet: *Becoming Natasha: A Work-in-Progress Prodi*

Title: *Becoming Natasha*

Author: Isadora Productions

Location: **ROBERT GILL THEATRE:** 214 College St. 3rd floor (use St. George St. entrance) Not wheelchair accessible. Parking is located on Huron St. just north of College St. underground for \$6.00.

Dates: Friday, March 23 at 8pm (with panel discussion following performance)
Saturday, March 24 at 8pm (with panel discussion following performance)

Tickets: \$10 per ticket

Box Office: 416-978-7986 (cash and credit card accepted) For reservations, email:
reservations@isadoraproductions.org

Special: *This production contains explicit language and is not recommended for those under the age of 18.*

Brief Synopsis:

Becoming Natasha, inspired by the book *The Natashas: Inside the Global Sex Trade* by Victor Malarek, is a company-created multi-media theater piece that tells the stories of three female victims of human trafficking – women who have been smuggled across international borders and tricked or forced into a life of sexual slavery. The piece goes inside the culture of the global sex trade by utilizing real testimony from Johns, Traffickers and Victims to outline the tradition of violence and ignorance that has driven what can only be called a modern slave trade. This production exposes the cultural and political issues behind the multi-billion dollar industry of human trafficking and weaves a terrifyingly real spectacle of what is now a billion dollar industry.

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