

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
NEWS RELEASE

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“BLOODY BESS: A TALE OF PIRACY AND REVENGE”

**BackStage Theatre Company presents the swashbuckling thriller
at the Chicago Cultural Center Storefront Theater
June 12 – July 20, 2008**

BackStage Theatre Company, in association with Chicago DCA Theater, brings its own spin to the swashbuckling thriller in **Bloody Bess: A Tale of Piracy and Revenge**. Originally performed by Chicago’s own Organic Theatre, the full-out, stunt-filled tale of murder, betrayal, and revenge comes to the Storefront Theater, 66 E. Randolph Street, from June 12 to July 20, 2008. Members of the press are invited to the performance on Friday, June 13, at 7:30 p.m.

Bloody Bess: A Tale of Piracy and Revenge, conceived by Stuart Gordon and written by Williams J Norris and John Ostrander, is the story of Elizabeth Presberty, the upper-class daughter of the governor of Caribbean island Tobago, and her transformation into the ruthless pirate captain Bloody Bess. Elizabeth finds herself taken prisoner when her merchant vessel is boarded by pirates. She is held prisoner in hopes of a ransom from her wealthy father, and in the journey back to Tobago befriends Annie Bailey, a rough and angry female pirate. After betrayal by her intended and the murder of her father, well-bred Elizabeth turns to her new friend and the violent pirate life to exact her revenge.

Performances are Thursdays though Saturday evenings at 7:30 pm with matinees on Sundays at 3 pm. There will be no performance on Friday, July 4, due to the Independence Day holiday. Tickets are \$20 for general admission and \$18 for students and seniors. Discount rates are available for groups of 10 or more. The preview performance on June 12 costs only \$10. A special “Theatre Thursday” event on June 19 includes a pre-show reception and post-show backstage tour and fight demonstration with the director and members of the cast. Tickets for this event are \$30. All tickets are available by calling 312.742.TIXS (8497), visiting www.dcatheater.org, or stopping by the box office, open Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 6 p.m., and one hour prior to each performance.

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Bloody Bess: A Tale of Piracy and Revenge, conceived by Stuart Gordon and written by William J Norris and John Ostrander, is directed by award winning fight choreographer Geoff Coates. The cast features Babes with Blades Artistic Director Stephanie Repin as Annie Bailey, Dave Skvarla as Calico Jack Rackham, Scott Graham as Reynard Eaton, and Eva Swan in the title role of Bloody Bess. The pirate ship stage is designed by Heath Hayes, with lighting design by Matt Roth and sound design by Miles Polaski. Original music is composed by Tom Haigh. The remaining cast members include Greg Issac, Ron Kuzava (ensemble member), Chris Walsh, Adam Hinkle, Warren Johnson, Rian Jairell, Ed Nishioka, Jay Burkhart, Matthias Malhoff, Ross Travis, and Jonathan Kurtycz.

BackStage Theatre Company is an ensemble of theatre artists dedicated to works exploring topics related to family. Through the creation of bold and eclectic productions, the company examines what family means socially, spiritually, economically, emotionally, politically, and culturally. The company's recent productions include *Waiting for Lefty* by Clifford Odets and *How I Learned to Drive* by Paula Vogel.

The Storefront Theater and the Studio Theater, its companion theater located in the Chicago Cultural Center at 77 E. Randolph Street, comprise Chicago DCA Theater, an anchor of the downtown theater district. Chicago DCA Theater offers downtown audiences the best off-Loop theater experience with an exciting look at the vibrant emerging and developing theater companies that call Chicago home. Proposals for creative and innovative productions are now being accepted for the January to July 2009 season and must be postmarked before Monday, May 19, 2008.

For more information about **Bloody Bess: A Tale of Piracy and Revenge** and Chicago DCA Theater, visit www.dcatheater.org or call 312.742.TIXS (8497).

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Note to Press: Electronic Images Available Upon Request