

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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www.dcatheater.org/press

“MARIA’S FIELD”

**TUTA Theatre Chicago presents
a modern and dramatic Russian fairytale
at the Chicago DCA Storefront Theater
January 20 – February 22, 2009**

TUTA Theatre Chicago, in association with Chicago DCA Theater, presents the United States premiere of **Maria’s Field** by Oleg Bogaev, one of Russia’s most exciting young playwrights. The production, well known in Russia but never performed outside of that country, comes to Chicago DCA Theater’s Storefront Theater at 66 E. Randolph Street, from January 20 – February 22, 2009. Members of the press are invited to the performance on Friday, January 23, at 7:30 p.m.

Maria’s Field looks back at the lost generation of Russian women who waited decades for their soldier husbands to return from World War II. Through laughter and tears, the play follows three one-hundred year old maidens as they journey through their own lives and the enchanted forest of 20th century Russian history. In fairytale-like adventures, they meet Hitler, Stalin, Marshal Zhukov, and even movie stars of their youth.

Performances are Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday afternoons at 3:00 p.m. A post-show reception with playwright Oleg Bogaev will follow the performance on Friday, January 23.

Tickets are \$25 for general admission and \$20 for students and seniors. The preview performances on January 20 and 21 cost \$20. Discounts are also available for groups of 10 or more. 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.; Sundays, noon to 4 p.m.; and one hour prior to each performance.

In association with **Maria’s Field**, TUTA Theatre is also presenting a staged reading of “Russian National Postal Service” with playwright Oleg Bogaev on Saturday, January 24, at 12 noon, at the TUTA Theatre Loft, 2032 W. Fulton, Ste. F-262-A. This free event is part of TUTA Theatre’s Russian Festival.

Playwright Oleg Bogaev’s 15 plays include “Russian National Postal Service,” “Antibuker,” “Eurasia,” “Siberian Transit,” and “Characters.” Critically acclaimed and popular among Russians, his works have been translated into more than six languages and performed around the world. While well known in Russia, **Maria’s Field** has never been performed abroad or in English.

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The title “Maria’s Field” refers in Russian to a common name for a village, in the way that “John Smith” refers to an anyman in English. The stories of the three main characters reference those of millions of women, including the playwright’s own grandmother, who waited unendingly for their soldier husbands to return from World War II. Without knowing the true fates of their men, they struggled along to raise children and face daily hardships.

Maria’s Field is co-directed by Luda Lopatina and TUTA Artistic Director Zeljko Djukic. Featuring Carolyn Hoerderman, Jennifer Byers, and Audre Budrys as the three Russian women, the cast also includes Angelina Momirovic, Jaimelyn Gray, Trey Maclin, Alzan Pelesic, James Bezy, and David Bettino.

The show’s set design is by Brandon Wardell with lighting by Keith Parham, sound by Mikhael Fiskel, costumes by Natasha Dujkic, and props by Sam Polce. Music is directed by Joshua Solomon and Erika Holleb.

TUTA Theatre Chicago aims to excite American audiences with theater that is relevant and challenging in its form or content. Since the company’s inception in 1995, TUTA is committed to producing theater and educational events that bridge all forms of cultural and geographical divides. In 2002, founders Zeljko and Natasha Djukic moved the company to Chicago. Recent lauded productions include “The Most Excellent and Lamentable Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet” and “Uncle Vanya,” which TUTA plans to restage this May at the Chopin Theatre. More information on TUTA Theatre Chicago can be found at www.tutato.com.

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 an 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 for the January to June 2010 season are now being accepted until May 15, 2009.

Discounted parking is available at Wabash Randolph Self Park at 20 E. Randolph. Patrons can receive the \$14 rate by validating their ticket at the Storefront Theater box office.

For more information about TUTA Theatre’s **Maria’s Field** and Chicago DCA Theater, visit call 312.742.TIXS (8497) or visit www.dcatheater.org. The enhanced website features more information about DCA Theater performances and programs, including a new blog, photo galleries, and visitor information.

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Note to Press: Electronic images are available at www.dcatheater.org/press or by request.