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YALE CABARET OPENS 41ST SEASON CELEBRATING ICONS AND ICONOCLASTS

NEW HAVEN, CT- The Yale Cabaret, serving as the iconic home of the students of Yale School of Drama and their experimentations in the performing arts, enters its 41st season this fall.

Coming off of a successful 40th anniversary season, the 2008-09 season looks to the future while mindful of the past and present. The Cabaret, home to countless world and American premiers, re-commits its creative efforts to a lineup of shows featuring imaginative examinations of cultural themes and daring questioning of not only forms of storytelling, but with the entire idea of performance itself.

The Yale Cabaret looks forward to ten shows presented by Yale School of Drama students this fall, each presenting a unique perspective on the idea of icons and iconoclasts; which fulfills the goal of Artistic Director Patricia McGregor (MFA '09, Directing) for "big gutsy theater that wears its heart on its sleeve and wants to change the world."

Founded in 1968, the Yale Cabaret has produced innovative work written by seminal writers for the American theatre such as Christopher Durang and Wendy Wasserstein; it has housed the talents of prodigious actors the likes of Meryl Streep and Liev Schreiber; it has cultivated the talents of countless designers, stage managers, technical directors, theatre managers, dramaturgs, and directors. In short, the Cabaret has served and continues to serve as the breeding ground for the world's next generation of elite theatre artists. Begun as a late-night coffee house and private performance space for Yale School of Drama faculty and guest artists, the Cabaret was eventually handed over to the students as a public laboratory for their passion projects. Unique to the Yale Cabaret is that every year a new leadership team has the exciting job of creating a new artistic vision—making no two seasons alike. The first three shows of this season promise to continue the tradition of new and re-envisioned work at the cabaret:

SPECIAL EVENT: *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill* (October 2-4) Written by Lanie Robinson, musical arrangement by Danny Holgate, directed by Patricia McGregor (Directing '09).

"You know what I want? I want a club. Very small. Very Cozy. Where I can sing to all my friends. That's all. What else is there?"

In an unforgettable performance, songstress Christina Acosta (Acting '10) recreates one of Billie Holiday's last shows, inviting us all to examine the things that get us through the day and keep us warm at night. MEMBERSHIPS CANNOT BE REDEEMED FOR THIS PRODUCTION.

Whose Cabaret is it Anyway? (October 9-11) Curated by Rebecca Phillips (Dramaturgy '09).

An unpredictable, uproarious, raucous, cutthroat, irreverent (and quite possibly irrelevant), fly-by-the-seat-of-your-pants competition for comedy teams from all over Yale University, *Whose Cabaret is it Anyway?* seeks to find the funniest jokesters on campus.

Three Sisters, or The Dormouse's Tale (October 16-18) Book, music, and lyrics by Brian Valencia (Dramaturgy '10), directed by Christopher Mirto (Directing '10).

Olga, Masha, and Irina live in a provincial house in Russia at the bottom of a treacle well. But all they can think about and talk about ~~is going to Moscow~~ *sing about* is going to Moscow getting out. So what's stopping them? Chekhov gets a little help from Lewis Carroll in this new ~~play~~ *musical*.

In addition to new and innovative shows, the Yale Cabaret welcomes a new leader in the kitchen, Anna's Gourmet Catering. Anna brings a new menu of traditional favorites alongside more imaginative creations. Accommodations can be made for large parties.

This year's management team is made up of Managing Director Aurélie Fisher and Artistic Director Patricia McGregor. Having just returned from her fellowship with the Orange County Performing Arts Center, Aurélie Fisher is entering her third and final year in the M.F.A. program in Theater Management at Yale School of Drama. She received a B.A. from Hamilton College, after which she spent three years at the Metropolitan Opera as Technical Archivist. In 2004, she founded Pig Brooch, a theater company dedicated to ensemble theater in New York City. Patricia McGregor's recent productions directed at Yale include *Sidewalk Opera*, *Dancing in the Dark*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Covering Skyline is Nothing*, *In the Meantime*, *In the Cypher*, *Imaginary Audience*, *The Twenty-Four Hour Plays*, and *Guernica-The Musical!* She has worked several times with the Foundry theater, including directing their production of *365 Plays/ 365 Days* at the Public Theater. In New York, Patricia was a Van Lier Directing Fellow at Second Stage Theater. Currently, she is developing a production of *Blood Dazzler* about hurricane Katrina with poet Patricia Smith and her sister, choreographer Paloma McGregor. An avid volunteer with the 52nd Street Project, at Yale she is a Paul and Daisy Soros Fellow as well as a McDougal Scholar.

Performances are Thursdays through Saturdays at 8:00 pm, additional performances Friday and Saturday at 11:00 PM, a new start time designed with its own special menu to accommodate night owls. Doors open at 6:30pm for dinner before the early show, and at 9:30pm for lighter fare before the late show.

Tickets are \$15 and \$10 for students. In addition, the Yale Cabaret offers 10-ticket memberships for \$65 and \$45 for students, an excellent deal for the avid theatergoer and a great gift for any fan of the Cabaret. Tickets can be spread out over ten shows or can be used to bring a friend to five, or all ten on one weekend. The savings add up with a Yale Cabaret membership; regular packages amount to only \$6.50 a ticket and \$4.50 for students! Special event tickets are \$20, \$15 for students. Food and drinks are priced separately.

Yale Cabaret is located at 217 Park Street between Chapel and Edgewood Streets in downtown New Haven.

For more information, visit the Yale Cabaret website at yalecabaret.org or call the box office at 203-432-1566.