

THE ALUMNAE THEATRE COMPANY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April, 2011

GUINEAPIGGING

by CATHERINE FRID

Directed by Molly Thom

Q. Who or what are guinea pigs?

A. People, usually on the fringe of society, willing to risk their health for the chance to earn big bucks by testing unauthorized drugs. For some it's a way of life.

And that is the answer that inspired **Catherine Frid**, author of last year's SummerWorks hit *Homegrown*, to create her bold new comedy, *GuineaPigging*.

Premiering as part of Alumnae Theatre's 91st consecutive season, *GuineaPigging* focuses on Chris, a young woman suffering from a serious addiction and an unsatisfactory relationship who walks into a drug testing laboratory called Ideal Bio looking for a cure.

What does she find?

The science is suspect, the test cases are a polyglot bunch of weirdos eccentrics and, once the dosing starts, they begin to exhibit some bizarre side effects. This is Alice tumbling down the rabbit hole and events soon spiral wildly out of control.

Catherine's partner in *GuineaPigging*'s two-year development is Toronto Director and Dramaturge **Molly Thom**, responsible for many critically acclaimed productions including *The Bush-Ladies* and *Thirteen Hands*, who explains, "At the centre of this manic action is a young woman asking: who am I? What appears to be a satiric attack on big pharma is actually a quest play. At its heart is Chris, a very real person with a real dilemma, trying to save herself and find her way out of the labyrinth."

Laughing, Ms. Thom continues, "This is Cate Frid's first full-length play and what a challenge she has set herself! It's an immensely complicated and hugely ambitious undertaking with multiple plotlines, and what is so amazing is that Cate manages to keep all these balls in the air. **The action spins along with irresistible momentum as black comedy turns into farce, and farce into human drama.**"

Heading up the production team are Co-Producers **PJ Hammond** and **Tabitha Keast**, Assistant Director **Laurie Williams**, Stage Manager **Stacy Halloran** and Production Assistant **Navneet Rai**, Costume Designer **Jennie Grimard**, Set & Lighting Designer **Ed Rosing**, Props Hound **Razie Brownstone**, and Sound Designer **Angus Barlow**.

The cast is led by **Laura Vincent** as the central character, Chris, with fabulous and, frankly, outlandish support by **Arfina Abdourahime**, **Lionel Boodlal**, **Chantale Groulx**, **Krista Marchand**, **Chris Reid**, **Mike Vitorovich** and **Tim Walker**.

Molly Thom and Catherine Frid are available for interviews.

Contact Tina McCulloch at marketing@alumnaetheatre.com or by calling 416-364-4170.

The Details - GUINEAPIGGING

- Running Time:** GuineaPigging will run approximately two hours. There will be one intermission.
- Opening Night Gala:** Friday April 15, 2011
- Performances:** Friday April 15 - Saturday April 30, 2011
- Talkback with Playwright & Director:** Sunday April 17, following the matinée.
- Schedule:** Wednesday - Saturday 8:00pm; Sunday matinée at 2:00pm
- Tickets:** Wednesday: 2-for-1, Thursday, Friday & Saturday: \$20, Sunday: PWYC
- Location:** Alumnae Theatre, 70 Berkeley Street (at Adelaide Street East), Toronto
- Box Office:** 416-364-4170 (box 1) or email reservations@alumnaetheatre.com
Box Office opens one hour prior to each performance
Please note: Box Office does not accept credit or debit cards

ALUMNAE THEATRE - *Our 2011/2012 Season*

After Mrs. Rochester by Polly Teale
September 23 - October 8, 2011

Sylvia by A.R. Gurney
November 11 - November 26, 2011

The Trojan Women by Euripides, translation by Gwendolyn MacEwen
A retrospective choice from our 1992/1993 Season
January 20 - February 4, 2012

The 24th Annual New Ideas Festival
March 14 - March 31, 2012

Cosi by Louis Nowra
April 13 - April 28, 2012

For more information or to set up an interview please contact:
Tina McCulloch, Marketing & Publicity
at 416-364-4170 or marketing@alumnaetheatre.com

Alumnae Theatre Company (a non-union, not-for profit company) has been producing thought-provoking, challenging and rarely-performed plays since 1919.

Check our website at www.alumnaetheatre.com for press releases, production photographs, and a retrospective on how Alumnae Theatre shaped Toronto's theatre scene.