



Funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

September 21, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Roberta Pereira / 203.432.2173 / roberta.pereira@yale.edu

Yale Repertory Theatre and The World Performance Project at Yale
present

The Veiled Monologues

Written and Directed by Adelheid Roosen

October 23-27

(New Haven, CT) Yale Repertory Theatre joins forces with The World Performance Project at Yale to present *The Veiled Monologues*, October 23-27, at the New Theater.

After acting in a production of Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues*, Dutch theatre artist Adelheid Roosen approached Muslim women living in the Netherlands and asked them similar questions about their sexuality. The result is a vital, surprising, and poetic portrait of love and relationships under Islam. Roosen has transformed her conversations into a series of dramatic and moving monologues performed in English by three actresses of Muslim descent. Each monologue is imbued with deep feeling and delicate detail, allowing more than a glimpse into each woman's soul. The play blends live music performed by a female musician on the saz, a lute-like instrument from Turkey, with dance and film projections.

Since its premiere in the Netherlands in 2001, *The Veiled Monologues* has been performed at a national convention of Holland's law enforcement agencies and at the Dutch parliament, in a nationally televised event, during the height of one of the debates on constitutional rights regarding religious minorities in Holland.

Adelheid Roosen, the writer and director of *The Veiled Monologues*, is a leading writer, actor, and director in Holland. In 2002, she played Portia in Toneelgroep Amsterdam's production of *The Merchant of Venice*, directed by the Syrian-Dutch director Ola Mafaalani. Two years later she worked with Mafaalani again in her production of *Romeo and Juliet*. In 2005 she initiated the *Zina Platform*

(www.zinaplatform.nl) for which Roosen serves as editor-in-chief, providing opportunities for Arabian, Turkish, and Kurdish artists to express themselves. Roosen has produced a number of television performances and documentaries, including *Vara's Nachtshow*, and *Dolle Zina*, which portrays five Muslim women living in Holland. Since 1986 Roosen has been Advisor of the Artistic Council and a Lecturer of Performing Arts at the Amsterdam Theatre School, and in 2006 became a mentor at *Das Arts*. Roosen is profiled in the June 2007 issue of *Theater* magazine, which also contains the first published English translation of *The Veiled Monologues*.

Adelheid Roosen's tour of the U.S. is presented in partnership with St. Ann's Warehouse (Brooklyn, NY) and American Repertory Theatre (Cambridge, MA).

Single tickets range from \$20 to \$48, with group discounts also available. Please visit yalerep.org/wpp or call 203.432.1234 for tickets. The New Theater is located at 1156 Chapel Street, New Haven.

The Veiled Monologues

Written and directed by Adelheid Roosen; featuring Oya Campelle, Nazmiye Oral, and Meral Polat; set design by Adelheid Roosen and Mijke de Jong; lighting design by Gelddof Verhaart and Dan Ottolander; video editing by Titus Tiel Groenestege; music design by Sevel Okyay and Sercan Engin. Presented by Yale Repertory Theatre, (James Bundy, Artistic Director; Victoria Nolan, Managing Director) and The World Performance Project at Yale (Joseph Roach, Principal Investigator; Emily Coates, Artistic Director). At the New Theater, 1156 Chapel Street, New Haven, October 23-27. Tickets \$20-\$48, Telephone: 203.432.1234 or visit yalerep.org/wpp.

Presented with support from The Consulate General of the Netherlands.

Performance Schedule:

Tuesday, October 23 at 8PM (post-show discussion)
Wednesday, October 24 at 8PM (post-show discussion)
Thursday, October 25 at 8PM
Friday, October 26 at 8PM
Saturday, October 27 at 2PM (post-show discussion)
Saturday, October 27 at 8PM

Note: Factsheet follows

#

The Veiled Monologues Factsheet

Press Quotes:

" . . . a magnificent demonstration of the power of theatre to change the terms of public debate. The monologues make visible — live, in real time, in close physical proximity — women, emotions, and beliefs that are hidden from the non-Muslim world." — Thomas Sellar, Editor, *Theater*

" . . . an hour and a half of stories and music, beginning with mint tea and sweets and ending in ovations and a sense of happiness. Welcome to *The Veiled Monologues*." — *De Groene Amsterdammer* (weekly Dutch opinion magazine)

" . . . Roosen's interest connects with here and now: what is happening, and who hides behind the veils. But another — far more important — aspect is the way in which the message comes across: vital, surprising, and poetic." — *De Volkskrant* (daily newspaper)

" The stories are also highly poetic, with wonderful details even where you would hardly expect them." — *NRC Handelsblad*

American Tour dates:

Adelheid Roosen's tour of the U.S. is presented in partnership with St. Ann's Warehouse (Brooklyn, NY) and American Repertory Theatre (Cambridge, MA).

St. Ann's Warehouse: 38 Water Street, Brooklyn, NY.

Friday, October 5 at 8PM
Saturday, October 6 at 7PM
Sunday, October 7 at 4.30PM
Tuesday, October 9 at 8PM
Friday, October 12 at 9.30PM
Saturday, October 13 at 7PM
Sunday, October 14 at 4.30PM

American Repertory Theatre: at Zero Arrow Theatre: corner of Arrow Street and Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA.

Tuesday, October 16 at 7.30PM
Wednesday, October 17 at 7.30PM
Thursday, October 18 at 7.30PM
Friday, October 19 at 8PM
Saturday, October 20 at 2PM

Saturday, October 20 at 8PM
Sunday, October 21 at 2PM

Symposium Information:

Symposium on Cultural Dislocation, Universal Human Rights, and Theater

October 25, 2007, 4:30-6 pm

Whitney Humanities Center, Auditorium, 53 Wall Street

Moderated by Thomas Sellar, Editor, Theater Magazine, Yale School of Drama

Free and open to the public

Presented in conjunction with the production of *The Veiled Monologues*, written and directed by Adelheid Roosen, this symposium examines the ethical, political, and artistic issues raised in the play. The symposium will address such questions as: given this diversity of nationalities, what relevance does the category "Muslim women" have? What legal responsibility does a government have to its immigrant citizens? Are there such things as universal human rights?

About The World Performance Project at Yale:

The World Performance Project (WPP) promotes programs in performance studies across departments at Yale. An interdisciplinary that draws from the arts, humanities, and human sciences (theater, drama, dance, visual arts, speech, linguistics, anthropology, sociology), performance studies defines as its objects cultural performances of all kinds, from theatrical presentations to rites of passage, and expands its frontiers anywhere significant performances are likely to take place, from Yorubaland to Disneyland.

WPP presents performances, workshops, and lectures by artists and scholars working in dance, theater, music, performance art and cultural performance, as it assists and collaborates with departments and programs throughout the university seeking to enhance their curriculum through live performance.

Affiliated with the Yale College Theater Studies Program and the Whitney Humanities Center, WPP is supported through funding provided by the Distinguished Achievement Award granted to Joseph Roach, Charles C. and Dorathea S. Dilley Professor of Theater and English, by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.