

MEDIA RELEASE – for immediate release

MALTHOUSE THEATRE

Playbox Theatre Company
trading as
MALTHOUSE THEATRE
at The CUB Malthouse
113 Sturt St Southbank
Victoria 3006

Telephone +613 9685 5100
Fax +613 9685 5112
www.malthousetheatre.com.au
ABN 58 006 885 463

MALTHOUSE THEATRE PRESENTS

MY STORIES YOUR EMAILS

BECKETT THEATRE
MARCH 23 – APRIL 3 2010

CREATED AND PERFORMED BY
URSULA MARTINEZ
DIRECTED BY **MARK WHITELAW**

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

ORIGINALLY COMMISSIONED BY **BARBICANBITE10**,
LONDON AND **QUEER UP NORTH**
INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL, MANCHESTER.



WARNING: MAY CONTAIN REALLY BORING NUDITY

Playful, provocative and unpredictable, Ursula Martinez treads where few performers dare to go. Known for her live art, comedy, nouvelle burlesque, and cabaret routines, Ursula has found herself in a 'spot of attention', as the real world and digital infamy collide in the Australian premiere of her new work *My Stories Your Emails*.

Combining spoken word, live art, character comedy and stand up, *My Stories Your Emails* begins with an exploration of unsought celebrity in the modern world. Ursula's famous 'Hanky Panky' burlesque routine - as seen in the world famous vaudeville variety show, *La Clique* - has become an internet sensation, as without her knowledge and consent, a film of the act was posted online. Fan mail was soon clogging up her inbox and Ursula has found herself becoming a reluctant object of attention - and lust.

What follows is Ursula's take on the whole affair – a comical and uncompromising investigation into identity, relationships, confession, obsession, miscommunication, the internet, fame, sex, loneliness and political incorrectness. *My Stories Your Emails* is a series of confessions and observations, Ursula's *own* stories, with a recounting of some of the emails the bootleg film of 'Hanky Panky' has generated. Ursula also feels compelled to agree to appear nude during the show.....

Ursula Martinez first appeared on the UK performance scene as part of *Queer Up North* ten years ago. Since then she has gone on to show her work at the Barbican and Sydney Opera House, co-create the Barbican's hit Christmas show *Office Party*, and star in new-wave vaudeville sensation *La Clique*.

"THIS IS VERY FUNNY, AS WELL AS DISTURBING IN ITS ILLUSTRATION OF THE PERILS OF UNSOUGHT CELEBRITY. MARTINEZ HAS TURNED UNSOLICITED IDOLATRY INTO A MEDITATION ON MISUNDERSTANDINGS, LONELINESS AND THE SEXUAL POLITICS OF CYBERSPACE."
LONDON EVENING STANDARD, UK

"IT IS FUNNY... FILTHY, AND AT TIMES DOWNRIGHT SINISTER... BENEATH IT ALL LURKS A PROFOUNDLY HAUNTING SENSE OF A PERCULIARLY MODERN FORM OF LONELINESS, IN WHICH PEOPLE LEAD VIRTUAL LIVES ONLINE, CONNECTED TO THE INTERNET, BUT DISCONNECTED FROM REAL HUMAN CONTACT"
THE TELEGRAPH, UK

"MARTINEZ'S STAGE PERFORMANCES LOOK DECEPTIVELY SIMPLE; BUT THIS IS A CONTRIVANCE THAT ALLOWS MARTINEZ TO UNDERTAKE HIGHLY COMPLEX INVESTIGATIONS INTO REALITY AND FICTION, AUTOBIOGRAPHY AND LIES, AND THE NATURE OF IDENTITY ITSELF, HER OWN MOST OF ALL."
THE GUARDIAN, UK

"TOUGH AND VULNERABLE, ADVENTUROUS AND FOOLHARDY... MARTINEZ TREADS WHERE FEW PERFORMERS DARE TO GO."
THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

Season info: MELBOURNE

Beckett Theatre, The CUB Malthouse

23 March – 3 April 2010

Opening night: Wednesday 24 March at 8.00pm

Season: Tuesdays 23 March at 7.00pm & Tuesday 30 March at 7.00pm,

Wednesday – Fridays at 8.00pm, Saturdays 5.00pm and 8.00pm,

Late show Thursday 1 April at 10.00pm

Booking info: www.malthousetheatre.com.au / 03 9685 5111

Ticket Prices: \$16.50 – \$37 + min booking fee \$1.50

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Media Contact:

Annette Vieuxseux - 03 9685 5173/ m 041 4306 949/ mediamanager@malthousetheatre.com.au

Abby Allen - 03 9685 5175/ m 0435 030 755 mediaassistant@malthousetheatre.com.au

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