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## **A PRAYER FOR OUR TIMES**

### ***A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant and A Prayer* a soulful look at a searing truth**

**Toronto—May 23, 2008**

WHEN V-DAY TORONTO producer and director Tanisha Taitt was handed the option of staging the new work *A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant and A Prayer* in March 2008 for the Toronto V-Day campaign ([www.vday.org](http://www.vday.org)), she said yes in an instant. Calling it her most powerful creative experience thus far, she vividly recalls the leather-clad and weathered rock & roll soundmen at Toronto's Phoenix Concert Theatre throwing their arms around her in tears following the show's conclusion. "Everyone should see this" she was told. "Every woman should see this, every teenage boy should see this. I think you might've have changed my life." As a result of her stirring work with V-Day, Taitt was chosen as one of the city's *Mille Femmes*, a group of women poised to be among the next great contributors to the arts in Toronto.

Now she is bringing the stunning work back to the stage for the Toronto Fringe Festival's 20th anniversary, in **Burning Bush Productions'** presentation of *A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant and A Prayer*, this time to be produced by award-winning playwright and actor Tracey Erin Smith. A groundbreaking collection of writings and monologues by world-renowned figures, *MMRP* was commissioned in 2006 by activist and playwright Eve Ensler (*The Vagina Monologues*) who also edited the piece, a beautifully written and thoughtfully compiled work that brings the issue of violence against women and girls to the forefront of our consciousness and makes it impossible to look away.



Human rights activist, *The Vagina Monologues* author and *MMRP* editor Eve Ensler

The play's diverse voices rise in a collective and courageous roar to break open, expose, and examine the insidiousness of brutality, neglect, exploitation or "just a little put-down". **Alice Walker** challenges women's cruelty to women, **Edward Albee** ruminates on *The Perfect Marriage* - an unsettling account of S&M within the binds of matrimony - **Kathy Najimy** recounts life in junior high with *Maurice* and **Maya Angelou** poeticizes about *Women Work*. Their inspired, funny, tragic, and gorgeous writings create a true and profound portrait of this issue's effect on every one of us. Says Taitt "Any man worth his salt aims to be a haven, a light, a soft place to fall. The male members of our cast prove that beautiful men do exist in abundance, and it's profoundly powerful to hear them tell these stories." *A Memory, a Monologue, a Rant, and a Prayer* is an unabashed, disturbing and beautiful look at violence against women and a shout out to the world to demand an end to it. And this time, some of those shouting loudest are men.

*A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant and A Prayer*  
Directed by Tanisha Taitt  
July 3-5 & 9-12 at 8 pm, July 6 & 13 at 3 pm  
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