

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Good Works Productions announces the staged reading of an award-winning play, the off-off Broadway hit “The Maternal Instinct”, as a benefit for the Connecticut Food Bank. The reading will take place at the Church of the Redeemer, corner of Whitney and Cold Spring, on Sunday, March 8th, at 3 pm. Donations will be accepted at the door for the Food Bank, with a suggested donation of \$10. For every five dollars donated, the Connecticut Food Bank can provide seventeen meals to families and individuals who would otherwise be hungry.

“The Maternal Instinct” is a drama with comedy about a lesbian marriage torn apart when one spouse feels an overwhelming need to have a baby. The play also deals with the science of nature versus nurture, and how much of our behavior may be predetermined by our genes. It was premiered at Louisiana Tech University’s New Works Festival in 2005, followed by performances at Boston Playwrights’ Theater and the Midtown International Theater Festival.

Reviews of the New York production praised the play for both its humor and drama. Jack Hanley wrote in nytheatre.com that “I experience that eerily magical feeling of being a voyeur of private lives, so private I feel compelled, out of respect, to turn away. But I don’t; I have a ticket. I get to watch. It’s theater at its best.” Reviewing the same production, Dan Bacalzo wrote for TheaterMania that “Bauer’s writing is engaging and witty, prompting plenty of laughter even as the playwright delves into subjects including alcoholism, biologically inherited traits, child-rearing, trust, and deception. This “Instinct” is right on target.”

Directing will be the playwright, Monica Bauer, a member of Church of the Redeemer and a Writing Fellow at Quinnipiac University. Bauer’s work has been produced in Denver, Boston, Atlanta, Cambridge, Providence, Los Angeles, and off-off Broadway. Awards include Outstanding Playwriting at this year’s Midtown International Theater Festival off-off Broadway(The Higher Education of Khalid Amir), Audience Favorite Award at Short Attention Span PlayFest (My Trip to the State Pen), and third place in the Eileen Heckart competition for Senior Drama (Real Estate). “The Maternal Instinct” was a runner-up in the New Works for Young Women competition. Her short play “Answering” was a finalist for the 2008 Heideman Award given by the Actors Theater of Louisville. She is a graduate of Brown, and Yale, and received an MA in playwriting in 2005.

Bauer has assembled an all-star cast of professional actors from the region, with four local performers and one from New York City. The cast includes Carolyn Ladd, Mariah Sage, Rebecka Jones, Jackie Sidle, and John Fico. All will be donating their services.

Mariah Sage is an actor and director who currently teaches Acting at Quinnipiac University and Hartford Stage. She is also the Co-Founder of Theatre 4, a new small professional company based in New Haven. (www.t4ct.com) Mariah earned her BFA in

Acting at NYU and her MFA in Acting at Brown University/Trinity Rep where she was a Stephen Sondheim Fellow.

Carolyn Ladd recently enjoyed performing in two of Monica Bauer's plays, *Unconventional* and *Answering* at the Arcs and Triumphs festival in New York. Other recent work includes William Walton's *Façade* performed at the Yale Center for British Art, and The Elm Shakespeare Production of *Romeo and Juliet*. Her training is from Northwestern University (MA, MS) and the Theatre School of DePaul University (MFA). She teaches Voice and Speech, Acting, and Musical Theatre at ACES-Educational Center for the Arts in New Haven, where she is currently working on a production of *A Midsummer's Night Dream*.

John Fico originated the role of southerner Abner Patch, Deputy Of Homeland Security, in the world premiere of A.R. Gurney's political comedy *SCREEN PLAY* at Tribeca's Flea Theater, directed by Jim Simpson. His other New York City credits include *PINK ELEPHANTS* at The Slipper Room, *LAUGHING WILD* with Hero Productions at The Homegrown Theatre, *HAIR*, & the 1994 *OUT IN THE WORLD* play series at The New Vineyard Theatre. TV credits include *SNL*, *AS THE WORLD TURNS* and commercials, both locally and abroad. He has been a member The Flea Theater's resident acting company "The Bats".

Locally, Jackie Sidle has performed with Theatre4, River Rep, Seven Angels and The Ivoryton Playhouse. In Chicago Jackie performed with StreetSigns, Zeppo Productions, Circle Theatre and Improv Olympic among others. She has created a one woman cabaret show which debuted at NYC's Duplex Cabaret Theatre last year. Jackie lives in Hamden with her fabulous family.

Rebecka Jones's credits include: Long Wharf, Hartford Stage, Page 73 Productions, Elm Shakespeare, Shakespeare & Company, Monomoy, and Quinnipiac's Theatre for the Community. A founding member of New Haven's Theatre 4, Rebecka received an MFA in Acting from Ohio University and teaches at Quinnipiac University.

Further information, contact Monica Bauer, 203-732-9077, playwrightmeb@aol.com

For more information about the playwright, see www.monocabauer.com.