

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
MARCH 2009

The Blue Room and theMOXYcollective present

## THE MAIDS by Jean Genet

*In a society that defines who you are by what you have,  
what happens to those who have nothing?*



**The Maids** by Jean Genet is a carefully crafted work of early French absurdist theatre which blurs the lines between fantasy and reality. New collaborative team theMOXYcollective will showcase WA women artists when Renée Newman-Storen directs this seminal work, **19 May - 6 June in The Blue Room Theatre.**

**The Maids** is a story from one of the twentieth century's most important writers, about the rituals of extravagance and the horrors of poverty; the agony of exclusion, and the ecstasy of imagination. Every night Claire and Solange take turns pretending to be their mistress in a crazed ritual, enacting their fantasy of murdering Madame.

"I find his work violent, evocative and visceral, and although *The Maids* was written over 60 years ago, I find it fascinating and relevant," says director Newman-Storen. "Challenging art should be unsettling, ambiguous and enthralling. This to me is Genet."

Writer Jean Genet was born in Paris, 1910, and depicted variously as either an impoverished orphan or the well loved adopted son of a carpenter, well versed in Latin, and lived an enigmatic life on the fringes of social acceptability.

**The Maids** is the first production from new independent theatre company theMOXYcollective, a performance collaboration between Mark Storen and Renee Newman-Storen, assembling a cast of experienced West Australian women artists including Caitlin Beresford-Ord (*A Moment on the Lips*, *The Mozart Faction* - Red Ryder) Ingrid Hartwig (*Twelfth Night*, *The Comedy of Errors* - Deckchair) and Caitlin McLoughlin (*A Moment on the Lips* - Red Ryder, *Bridging Puentes* - Spain).

Cherie Hewson will provide set and costume design, drawing on over twenty years experience in costuming with companies such as Barking Gecko, Yirra Yaakin, and Deckchair; lighting design is by Lisa McCready, the Technical Production Manager for Spare Parts Puppet Theatre, currently touring their production *The Arrival* in America; and the haunting and original sound design is provided by Felicity Groom - winner of the 2008 WA Top Song Competition for Triple J Unearthed.

"It is essential that the performers are strong and that the design - lighting, stage/costume and sound - is equally as powerful. I am extremely proud of the team we have assembled," Newman-Storen beams.

## THE MAIDS by Jean Genet

Directed by Renée Newman Storen. Featuring: Caitlin Beresford-Ord, Ingrid Hartwig and Caitlin McLoughlin.  
**19 May - 6 June. 8pm Tuesday - Saturday. Meet the Artists Tuesday 26 May**  
The Blue Room Theatre, 53 James St Northbridge  
Bookings 9227 7005 / [www.blueroom.org.au](http://www.blueroom.org.au)

Images, interviews, and competition prizes available on request.

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**theMOXYcollective**

 **Textile Traders**



The Blue Room *Monsters and Maidens* proudly supported by the City of Perth