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**Theatre on Fire and the Charlestown Working Theater to Present MISS MARGARIDA'S WAY,
Tragicomic Monologue for an Impetuous Woman
Written by Roberto Athayde, Directed by Darren Evans**

MISS MARGARIDA'S WAY

by Roberto Athayde

Directed by Darren Evans

Presented by Theatre on Fire; Darren Evans, Artistic Director, and the Charlestown Working Theater

Performing at: Charlestown Working Theater

442 Bunker Hill Street

May 8-9, 14-16, and 21-23, 2009

Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm

Ticket Prices: Thursdays \$15

Fridays and Saturdays \$20

\$10 seniors

Students FREE for all shows (with ID)

Box Office: www.charlestownworkingtheater.org

866-811-4111 (toll free)

Boston, MA– Theatre on Fire closes its fourth season at the Charlestown Working Theater with **MISS MARGARIDA'S WAY** by Roberto Athayde from May 8 – 23, 2009. **MISS MARGARIDA'S WAY**, set in an eighth grade biology class with the audience as the students, is a caustic, hilarious allegory about power and repression. Due to adult language, the play is recommended for mature audiences only.

MISS MARGARIDA'S WAY premiered in 1973 in Athayde's native Brazil, where it was quickly banned by the military government. A censored version was allowed to continue a week later, but by then the genie was out of the bottle. The play began to be performed all across the globe, finally taking New York by storm in 1977, with Estelle Parsons in the title role. Ms. Parsons received a Tony Award nomination for Best Actress for her performance, and later reprised the role for a Broadway revival in 1990.

Roberto Athayde is a Brazilian playwright and director. He penned **MISS MARGARIDA'S WAY** at the age of 21, and directed both Broadway productions. He has since authored more than 13 plays, many produced in his native country.

“My focus this season has been on power and abuse of power,” says Artistic Director Darren Evans, “and **MISS MARGARIDA'S WAY** fits that theme perfectly. The stuff that comes out of Miss Margarida's mouth is so outrageous and inflammatory it seems ridiculous, and yet you hear the same nonsense from dictators and tyrants to this day. I sit there in rehearsal chortling about what she says, then I think, ‘Didn't I just hear Mugabe say something like that the other day?’”

In an interview with The New York Times, Athayde remarked, “It's such flexible material. In Italy it was seen as a Marxist statement. Miss Margarida came in with a tape recorder blasting out ‘Ride of the Valkyries’. And there were swastikas. There have been 13 different productions in Germany – and also ones in Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary. In France, it was treated as a political trip despite the fact that France is not a totalitarian country.”

Evans continues: “I also love the play’s classroom setting. It’s universal – everyone can immediately relate to being in class. And we’re going to emphasize that by removing the risers and chairs and filling the Charlestown Working Theater with student desks. The audience will literally be the students in this class. It’s going to allow Miss Margarida to interact with her class up close and personal – no separation, just like in middle school.”

“You might want to bring an apple for the teacher, just in case,” Evans jokes.

Theatre on Fire is small theatre company dedicated to producing hot, high-quality shows that take you out of your comfort zone. We don’t do cute and we don’t do boring. TOF was nominated for five IRNE awards for its Fall production of “One for the Road” by Harold Pinter, including Best Actor, Best Director, and Best Play. Now in its fourth season, Theatre on Fire is proud to be a Resident Company at the Charlestown Working Theater (CWT). Darren Evans explains: “CWT has given us a wonderful opportunity to grow and thrive in these early stages of our existence. It’s a great organization, a funky facility, and a truly welcoming environment.”

The Charlestown Working Theater was founded on the idea that a theater and a community can engage in a dialogue which results in creative, artistic expression, an exciting exchange of ideas, and a deeper understanding of the people who make up the community. CWT’s Resident Artists Program, established in 1997 to create the opportunity and environment for area theatre artists to develop, rehearse, and perform creative theatre productions, has grown to full capacity. Today, the Resident Artists Program hosts the work of local, national, and international artists, including nationally recognized companies such as Mabou Mines (NY) and Great Small Works (NY), leading regional companies including Double Edge Theatre and Beau Jest Moving Theatre, and international companies such as Berlin’s Theatre Kranevit, Zuppa Circus from Nova Scotia, and Argentina’s Jicara Teatro.

For more information on **MISS MARGARIDA’S WAY** or Theatre on Fire, please visit www.theatreonfire.org.

Tickets are available online at www.charlestownworkingtheater.org, or by phone at 866-811-4111 (toll free).

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