

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
ADVANCE INFORMATION ON
A BOSTON PREMIERE OF A NEW WORK
RUN FROM MARCH 30-APRIL 16, 2006
THU-SAT @ 8:00, SUN @ 3:00
Suggested donation, \$20 for adults, \$15 for students/seniors
CONTACT: PRODUCER/DIRECTOR MELISSA WENTWORTH
PHONE: 617 320-2442
EMAIL: OOTBTC@AOL.COM
PHOTOS AND FURTHER INFORMATION AT
WEBSITE: WWW.OOTBTC.COM

**New England premiere of *The Maternal Instinct* Opens March 30
At Boston Playwrights' Theatre**

The New England premiere of *The Maternal Instinct* by award-winning playwright **Monica Bauer** appears for a limited three-week engagement March 30 through April 16 at the Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 949 Commonwealth Avenue. Bauer is a 2005 graduate of the MA program in playwriting at Boston University. Her work has been seen locally in the Boston Theater Marathon, as well as in the Hovey Summer Shorts, Arlington Center for the Arts New Theater Works Series, and the Seven Ages Festival at Natick Center for the Arts.

Previously staged as part of the Winter New Play Festival at Louisiana Tech in February, 2006, *The Maternal Instinct* will be performed Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. A shorter version of the work was seen in 2005 as part of the First Stages reading series at Boston Playwrights' Theatre. *The Maternal Instinct* was awarded third place in the 2005 National New Works for Young Women playwriting competition.

The play is set in Boston, where Lillian, a brilliant scientist, is experimenting with the maternal instinct in her MIT lab, while her spouse, Sarah, has newly discovered a maternal instinct of her own that threatens to pull them apart. *The Maternal Instinct* is a bittersweet drama about the power and mystery of love, addictions, and conflicting desires.

Wentworth leads an ensemble of seasoned Boston actors in this Actors' Equity showcase. *The Maternal Instinct* stars **Rena Baskin, Stephen Cooper, Alisha Jansky, Elise Manning, and Karen Woodward Massey**.

March 30-April 16, 2006, Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 3 p.m.
Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 949 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (Green Line B to Pleasant Street stop)
Box Office: 866-811-4111 or online at www.ootbtc.com
\$20 Adults \$15 Students/Seniors (requested donation)

Praise for *The Maternal Instinct*

“Monica Bauer’s new play is that rare theatrical piece that takes an audience on a journey of questioning with the destination being significantly different from the expected. The people of her play are peppery with subtle senses of humor and deeply caring motives. Ms. Bauer has created in *The Maternal Instinct* an insightful glimpse into the American psyche as being defined by the 21st century”.

Kenneth Robbins
Playwright and novelist, Director, School of the Performing Arts, Louisiana Tech University

About the Producers

The Maternal Instinct is an Actors' Equity Association Members' Project Code Presentation produced in collaboration with Out of the Blue Theater Company, Pulse Media, and Boston Playwrights' Theatre.

An **AEA Members Project Code Presentation** is a special Equity showcase contract. The actors produce it as a means for theater producers and reviewers to see their work. Budget and purchased advertising is contractually limited by the theater union. *The Maternal Instinct* features a talented cast of professional working actors that have decided to make the Boston area their home.

Out of the Blue Theater Company (www.ootbtc.com), was founded in 1992 by Melissa J. Wentworth and Karen Woodward Massey. Past *Out of the Blue* world premieres have included *Womb Song* and *The Loved One* by Dorothy Tan, and *Aesop's Fables* by Brian Wolfe-Leonard and Bob Nicoll, which was part of the Boston Center for the Arts residency program. In 2005 they scored a success with *Blinders* by Boston playwright Patrick Gabridge.

Pulse Media (Pulse-Media.com) is a full service production house located in Watertown, MA. *Pulse* works with local, national and global leaders in television, advertising, corporate events, health care, high-tech, and new media, as well as independent producers who are intent on delivering state-of-the-art video production to their clients.

Boston Playwrights' Theatre (www.bu.edu/bpt) is an award-winning theater dedicated to the writing and production of new works. *BPT* actively promotes the production of new plays through donating rental of their theatre spaces to other companies. This free venue can be crucial in the decision to produce a new work, as it allows theatre companies to take a chance with a piece that has artistic merit, but is unknown to the public.

About the Playwright

Monica Bauer is an award-winning playwright and composer. A graduate of Brown, Yale, and Boston University, she was the Teaching Fellow in the Graduate Playwriting Program at BU in 2004-05, where she studied with Kate Snodgrass and Richard Schotter. She has also studied with Craig Lucas as part of the Pataphysics seminars at The Flea Theater in New York City. Her work has been produced in Denver, Providence, Atlanta, San Diego, and off-off Broadway. Her plays have been published by Brooklyn Publishers and JAC Publications. Several of her plays have received awards, including *My Trip to the State Pen*, which was voted an Audience Award in the Atlantis Playmakers Short Attention Span PlayFest in Billerica, MA, in June of 2005.

The Maternal Instinct Director

Melissa J. Wentworth (Director, Producer) received her MFA in Directing from Brooklyn College before founding Out of the Blue Theater Company (OOTB) with Karen Woodward Massey in 1992. Melissa most recently directed the winning play, *Partners*, for Another Country Productions November SlamBoston, Diverse Voices in Theater. After years of directing classics, Melissa is currently focused on new works and collaborating with playwrights. Past premieres include *The Loved One* by Dorothy Tan, *Blinders* by Patrick Gabridge and *Antigone* (original music score by Bob Nicoll). Her directorial work has appeared for the past four years at the Boston Theater Marathon: *Insomnia* by Patrick Gabridge, *P'Town Christmas '99* by Carl A. Rossi, *Dream of Jeannie By-The-Door* by David Valdes Greenword, *Den of Iniquity* by Gabridge and *Flight* by Gabridge. Melissa's work with children and young adults was seen in *The Secret Garden*, a musical adaptation by Miriam Raiken-Kolb, and *Alice in Wonderland*, with original music by Raiken-Kolb.

