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THEATRE UNBOUND SHAKES UP SHAKESPEARE

***Julius Caesar* Features All-Female Cast**

(**Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota**) **Theatre Unbound** presents William Shakespeare's classic story of political intrigue, *Julius Caesar*. What will be different about this production? Theatre Unbound's version of the Bard's tale will be presented by a cast comprised entirely of women. "In Shakespeare's day, all the characters were played by men," says **Stacey Poirier**, Theatre Unbound Artistic Director. "We're returning the favor."

The non-traditional cast will wear traditional Roman garb, according to director **Carin Bratlie**. "There is something fascinating about the multi-layering of gender," she says. "Just as Shakespeare did with his mistaken-identity characters (having boys playing girls playing boys) there is something tantalizing about women playing men wearing historically masculine but modernly feminine clothing," with drapery and long skirts.

"The issues in this play are universal," Poirier adds, "'genderless', if such a thing exists – and we want the production design to make people experience the characters not as masculine or feminine but as human beings pursuing power, faced with choices between personal loyalty and public good."

To add further depth to the production, Theatre Unbound will host a pre-show discussion with local women theatre scholars on April 28 and a post-show discussion with local women political leaders on April 29.

Theatre Unbound produced an all-female *Tempest* in 2005 that sent audiences away with plenty to think and talk about. *Julius Caesar* was recently staged by The Acting Company in association with the Guthrie Theater. In his review on howwastheshow.com, **John Olive** remarked, "Note that in April Theatre Unbound will produce an all-female production of *Julius Caesar*. It will be interesting to compare that production with this one. Certainly this play will stand up to multiple viewings."

About the Director

Carin Bratlie is the founding Artistic Director of Theatre Pro Rata, and is a freelance director, fight choreographer, and acting instructor. She has directed for Park Square, The History Theater, Chameleon Theater Circle and others. Bratlie also directed Theatre Unbound's 2005 all-female *Tempest*.

About the Actors

Theatre Unbound core company member **Noë Tallen** leads the cast as the noble, yet tragic Brutus. She is joined by **Kirby Bennett** (Girl Friday Productions) as Caesar, **Katherine Kupiecki** (SunsetGun Productions) as Mark Antony, and **Katie Willer** (Tedious Brief Productions) as Cassius. Rounding out the ensemble cast are **Anissa Siobhan Brazill**, **Laura Delventhal**, **Abby DeSanto**, **Rachel Finch**, **Brigid Kelley**, **Ariel Leaf**, **Carin Leonard-Gorrill**, **Julie Ann Nevill**, **Stacey Poirier**, **Victoria Pyan**, and **Roneet Aliza Rahamim**.

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FACTS SHEET

Theatre Unbound Presents

Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare

Directed by Carin Bratlie

Starring:

Noë Tallen

Kirby Bennett

Katherine Kupiecki

Katie Willer

Shakespeare's classic tale of political intrigue presented by an all-female cast.

Location

The Lowry Lab Theater, 350 St. Peter Street in downtown St. Paul

Dates

April 21 – May 6, 2012

Tickets

General admission ticket prices: \$15-\$25

Reservations

612-721-1186

Order Online

www.theatreunbound.com

Performance Calendar

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			April 21 7:30 PM All Tickets \$25 Post-show Reception	April 22 2:00 PM
April 25 7:30 PM	April 26 7:30 PM Pay-What-You-Can	April 27 7:30 PM	April 28 7:30 PM 6:30 Pre-show Discussion w/ Local Women Theatre Scholars	April 29 2:00 PM Post-show Discussion w/ Local Women Legislators
May 2 7:30 PM	May 3 7:30 PM Pay-What-You-Can	May 4 7:30 PM	May 5 7:30 PM	May 6 2:00 PM

About Theatre Unbound

Theatre Unbound is one of a dozen or so women's theatre companies across the nation working to shrink the gender gap on America's stages. Others include Airmid Theatre in Long Island, NY; The Women's Theatre Project in Ft. Lauderdale, FL; Echo Theatre in Dallas, TX; Looking for Lilith Theatre Company in Louisville, KY; and The Women's Project in New York, NY.

Theatre Unbound delivers thought-provoking live theatre conceived and created by women, providing audiences with engaging, rarely-seen perspectives on issues that are relevant and universal.