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03/17/08

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hell in a Handbag Productions presents

the Chicago premiere of

DIE! MOMMIE, DIE!

By Charles Busch

Directed by Cheryl Snodgrass

Where: The Bailiwick Repertory – Studio Space, 1229 W. Belmont Ave.

When: Previews April, 17, 18, 19, Special Opening Night **Monday, April 21 at 8pm**

Runs Thurs., 8pm, Fri. 10pm, Sat. 7pm and Sun. 3:30pm

Special Mothers Day Show: Sunday, May 11, 6pm

Closes: June 1

Admission: Previews \$10, Opening Night \$25, Thursdays \$15, Fri-Sun. \$25

For reservations call the Bailiwick Repertory at (773)883-1090

Chicago, IL – Hell in a Handbag Productions is proud to present the Chicago premiere of ***Die! Mommie, Die!***, Charles Busch's homage to thriller films of the 60's starring "women of a certain age." This production not only marks the Chicago premiere of ***Die! Mommie, Die!*** but also the Midwest premiere of the piece since it was rewritten for it's Off Broadway run in 2007-2008.

Die! Mommie, Die! tells the tale of Angela Arden; a washed-up singer trapped in a loveless marriage, with a daughter that despises her and a mentally unstable son until she finds happiness in the arms of Tony Parker, a very "gifted" gigolo. Or does she?

You won't want to miss the long overdue pairing of Hell in a Handbag Productions, "The Gold Standard of camp in Chicago (*Chicago Reader*)" and Charles Busch, who is considered by many to be the *Grand Dame* of camp. Hell in a Handbag generally features the works of Artistic Director David Cerda, but the chance to tackle a Charles Busch piece proved much too tempting for all involved.

"Charles Busch has been a big inspiration for me, and to be able to present the Chicago premiere of ***Die! Mommie, Die!*** is very exciting and a bit daunting," says Cerda.

Cerda will be taking on the role of Angela Arden, the glamorous, washed-up pop singer trapped in a loveless marriage, modeled after the grande guignol roles popularized in the 60's by aging stars like Joan Crawford, Lana Turner and Bette Davis. Cerda is also collaborating with award winning composer/playwright Jon Steinhagen (***The Teapot Scandals***) on "This Time It's for Me", an original song for the Chicago premiere of ***Die! Mommie, Die!***.

Handbag favorite Ed Jones* will take on the *male* role of film producer Sol Sussman, Angela's uncaring husband. Jones was last seen in Hell in a Handbag's critically acclaimed, ***The Birds*** as Cathy Brenner. The leap from 11 year old girl to a gruff 50 year old, out of a man is a challenge Jones is looking forward to. "It's always fun to play a role in drag but for me, it's refreshing to play a character that allows the audience to recognize me afterwards. Merrie Greenfield* (***The Birds, SCARRIE-The Musical***) plays Bootsie Carp, the bible-quoting, flask- carrying Sussman maid, who's devotion to Mr. Sussman knows no boundaries.

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Rounding off the cast are Veronica Sheaffer, (Steppenwolf, Profiles) as the father-loving, mother-hating, beautiful and oh-so mod daughter. Sheaffer was last seen in Hell in a Handbag's ***The Twilight Gallery*** and ***SCARRIE-The Musical***.

Handbag newcomers include Zack Geoffroy (Bailiwick, Bruised Orange) as the mentally unstable teenage son and Jeffrey Patrick Olson (Easy Street Players) as Tony Parker, Angela's secret lover. He's a failed TV actor/gigolo with a secret of his own...

Taking on the task of director is Cheryl Snodgrass. Snodgrass is looking forward to the challenge. "I have long been a fan of Hell in a Handbag Productions. Their sense of humor and theatrical sensibilities are perfectly balanced with a true love of the craft and a deep respect for their subject matter. As an actress, I got to see their process first hand and was eager to work with them as a director" says Snodgrass.

Cheryl Snodgrass has been focusing on the production of new works for the last 15 years. She has worked extensively with playwright, Jeff Goode, as a director, actor, and producer. She directed the premier productions of ***Poona the Fuckdog and other plays for children*** and ***The Eight: Reindeer Monologues*** among others. She's directed and/or produced works by Rebecca Gilman, Brett Nevue and Todd Ristau. Cheryl has been a guest artist at Lawrence University and hosted a new works reading series. She's a founding member of No Shame Theater, The Unusual Cabaret, Les Enfants du Mais, and C'est Destine. Cheryl has worked with The SPOT, Bailiwick, Trap Door, ARFTCo, I.O., Zebra Crossing, Mill Mountain (Roanoke, VA) and most recently could be seen performing in Hell in a Handbag's ***The Birds*** and ***Caged Dames***.

About Hell in a Handbag Productions- Hell In A Handbag Productions was formed in March 2002. HIAH's debut production was ***POSEIDON! An Upside-Down Musical***, which had successful consecutive runs at Theatre Building Chicago and Bailiwick Repertory before being produced at the 2003 New York International Fringe Festival where it received a Outstanding Ensemble award. HIAH has also produced ***Rudolph, the Red-Hosed Reindeer***, ***How 'What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?' Happened***, ***Judy's Scary Little Christmas***, ***SCARRIE-The Musical***, ***The Twilight Gallery***, ***Caged Dames***, ***The Birds*** and ***Summer Camp***, featuring ***Reefer Madness-The Musical***, the first of an annual series of staged cabaret readings at Mary's Attic in Andersonville.

Hi-res press photos available at www.handbagproductions.org

* Indicates Hell in a Handbag ensemble member

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