



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**The Nora Theatre Company Announces
The New England Premiere of
The Secret Love Life of Ophelia
By Steven Berkoff**

Cambridge, MA (August 24, 2007) – Artistic Director Mary C. Huntington announced today that The Nora Theatre Company’s first production of the 2007-2008 season will be the New England Premiere of *The Secret Love Life of Ophelia* by Steven Berkoff.

In his evocative conception of Ophelia’s private life, Berkoff adds imaginative and provocative dimensions to the relationship between two of Shakespeare’s best known young characters. Ophelia’s hidden desires and love for Hamlet unfold through the exchange of passionate and illicit letters. A fresh picture emerges of these thwarted sweethearts as their liaison is brought to a head.

Wesley Savick, who has previously worked with The Nora (*The Man Who*, 2006) and has directed at many Boston area theaters, is at the helm. Savick states that the challenge of directing such an intense play is “Berkoff intentionally uses language to capture and expose the yearning of these two young lovers. Yet, it is the use of words which isolates them and causes their love to reach a mythological and unobtainable level.”

The two characters in the play, Ophelia and Hamlet, are played by Stacy Fischer and Aaron Pitre respectively. Both actors are new to the Company; however, Savick previously directed Pitre in *The Blowin of Biale Gall* (Boston Playwrights’ Theatre) and Fischer in *Permanent Whole Life* (Boston Playwrights’ Theatre/NYC Fringe).

Ms. Fischer, who received a BFA from Emerson College and training from Shakespeare & Co., has played an array of Shakespeare’s young women—Juliet in *Romeo & Juliet* (North Shore Music Theatre), Olivia in *Twelfth Night* and Hermia in *A Midsummer Nights Dream* (The Publick Theatre), and Bianca in *The Taming of The Shrew* (The Theatre Cooperative). An IRNE Award nominee, Fischer has also worked with the Lyric Stage Company of Boston, Súgán Theatre Company, Stoneham Theatre, SpeakEasy Stage, Huntington Theatre Company, and CentaStage.

Mr. Pitre received a Kennedy Center/ACTF award for special achievement for his performance of ‘Iago’ in *Othello*. He has also acted in productions within and outside of the Greater Boston area including *Meet the Abolitionists* (Museum of African American History), *Six Degrees of Separation* (Salem State Theatre), *A Chorus Line* (Winthrop Playmakers), and *Black Nativity* (Seattle Repertory).



Another newcomer to The Nora is set designer Ryan McGettigan. McGettigan has done prop and set construction for Glimmerglass Opera, and his scenic designs include *More Than Wharf* (CentaStage), *Der Rosenkavalier* (Lowell House Opera), *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde* (Deconstructive Theatre Project), and several productions at Emerson College. Returning to The Nora are costume designer, Jacqueline Dalley, and lighting designer, Erin E. Moulton. Dalley has designed several shows for The Nora including Richard McElvain's contemporary adaptation of Sophocles' *Antigone*, *Van Gogh in Japan*, *The Man Who*, and *How I Got That Story*, among others. She is the faculty costume designer at Boston College. Moulton, who designed the lighting for The Nora's *Buried Child* last spring, has also designed for Emerson Dance Concert, Mobius, Mad Horse Theatre in Maine, and Greene Street Studios.

The Secret Love Life of Ophelia will run at Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 949 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston from September 13th through 30th. Tickets are \$32 and \$22 for students and seniors (65+), and are on sale at www.thenora.org or from TheaterMania at 866-811-4111. Seating is general admission. The performances are as follows:

Evenings

Wed	Sept. 19 th & 26 th	7:30pm
Thu	Sept. 13 th , 20 th , & 27 th	7:30pm
Fri	Sept. 14 th , 21 st , & 28 th	8:00pm
Sat	Sept. 15 th , 22 nd , & 29 th	8:00pm

Matinees

Sun	Sept. 16 th , 23 rd , & 30 th	3:00pm
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Wine Wednesdays: informal gatherings with the cast and crew following the performances on September 19th & 26th, 2007.

Talkback Thursdays: post-performance discussions with the cast and director on September 20th & 27th, 2007.

Sunday Soirée: reception following September 16th matinee. Join the company for refreshments after the Press Opening Performance and hear more news about Central Square Theater, future home to The Nora Theatre Company and Underground Railway Theater.

The **Press Opening Performance** will be held on **Sunday the 16th of September at 3:00 pm.**

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