

Chain Reaction Theatre Project Presents

BODY & SOLD, Oct. 14 - Nov. 2

Documentary play tells stories of juvenile sex trafficking victims and inspires action

(Minneapolis, MN) June 21, 2017 — Chain Reaction Theatre Project announces **Body & Sold**, a powerful documentary play about juvenile sex trafficking. The compelling script, written by Deborah Lake Fortson (Tempest Productions, Inc.) and based on interviews with sex trafficking survivors in five major U.S. cities, gives voice to victims and inspires discussion and action.

The play's powerful, interwoven stories of nine sex trafficking survivors (the youngest victim being 8 years old) is a provoking eye-opener about what is happening to the youth in our communities. The true stories of these survivors, including those of Twin Cities' youth, will be performed by local actors in the round in several intimate venues throughout the Twin Cities Metro. Performances are scheduled before the Super Bowl arrives in Minneapolis — at which time sex trafficking is expected to increase by 50 percent — to help increase awareness of this issue.

Body & Sold will be performed by Ankita Ashrit, Stalyon Blackmon, Justin Cervantes, Delaney Quinn, Kayla Dvorak, Kendall Kent, Joann Oudekerk, Valencia Proctor, Madeline Pukite and Daniel Sakamoto-Wengel.

Director Shelley Smith says, "This play is a perfect segue to our most recent production, **Invisible**, about homeless suburban youth, as they can be approached by a pimp three times within the first 36-48 hours being on the street, with age 13 being the average age of victims. The FBI ranks Minnesota 13th in the U.S. for sex trafficking. With this play our goal is to create awareness about this issue and inspire audiences to be part of the solution."

Pimps lure victims wherever our youth hang out — the internet, malls, libraries, fast food restaurants, schools, and even hospitals. They do it for easy money. Supplies of drugs and guns run out, but girls never do. The pimps do it because the demand, which comes from all walks of life, never ceases.

By partnering with local organizations, Chain Reaction Theatre Project will be part of the national and local movement to tackle juvenile sex trafficking, with a goal of creating awareness of this horrific issue and inspiring audiences to take action.

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

About Chain Reaction Theatre Project

Chain Reaction Theatre Project ignites the human spirit by creating compelling, entertaining and socially conscious theatre, inspiring audiences, artists and communities to be more socially conscious world citizens. Our vision is to use the powerful and entertaining art form of theatre, to create entertaining and thought-provoking works that focus on social justice issues, ranging in scope from local to global, in order to increase awareness and to inspire and encourage audiences and communities to take action. For each production, we partner with other nonprofits whose work relates to the show's theme. We provide resource materials at the performances as well as through social media. We also have talkback discussions after our

performances. We produce a wide range of theatre including classic and contemporary texts, dramas, comedies, adaptations of existing texts as well as new works, while using a variety of performing arts mediums. Learn more at chainreactiontp.com.

Performance Dates and Locations

October 14, 7pm

St. David's Episcopal Church, 13000 St. David's Rd., Minnetonka

October 15, 3pm*

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 2742 15th Ave So., Minneapolis

October 20, 7pm**

Transfiguration Lutheran Church, 11000 France Ave. So., Bloomington

October 21, 7pm

Cornerstone Advocacy, 1000 E. 80th St., Bloomington (Advance Reservations required)

October 26, 7pm

Eden Prairie City Center, 8080 Mitchell Rd # 2, Eden Prairie

October 27, 7pm

Trinity Presbyterian Church, 2125 Tower Dr., Woodbury

October 28, 7pm

ARTS-Us, 1221 Marshall Ave., St. Paul (in partnership with Breaking Free)

November 2, 7pm

Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church, 3611 Shepherds Path NW, Prior Lake

Recommended for ages 13 and above, due to strong subject matter and some mild profanity. Reservations or pre-purchase strongly recommended.

Tickets

\$15 for tickets purchased online; pay-what-you-can tickets are available at the door.

Available at chainreactiontp.com.

Accessibility

**Audio Described performance

*ASL Interpreted Performance

All performances are wheel chair accessible. Contact 612-405-2598 for further information.

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