

Media Contact: Shawn Hitchins, industry@artsexy.ca, 416-975-9130

buddies
IN BAD TIMES THEATRE

Buddies in Bad Times Theatre presents
The Silicone Diaries

Created and performed by **Nina Arsenault**
Directed by **Brendan Healy**
Dramaturgy by **Judith Rudakoff**
Stage Manager **Laura Baxter**
Set and Lighting Designer **Trevor Schwellnus**
Video Designer **Nicolas A. Greenland**
Sound Designer **Richard Feren**



NOV 14 – 22, 2009 | SHOW ADDED SUN, NOV 22, 8PM

BUDDIES IN BAD TIMES THEATRE | 12 ALEXANDER ST, TORONTO, ON
BOX OFFICE 416-975-8555 | ARTSEXY.CA

Transsexual Nina Arsenault may be perceived as “fake”, but the sixty cosmetic surgeries that transformed her from an awkward man into a 36D-26-40 bombshell are anything but. *The Silicone Diaries* is a full, frank and fierce exploration of the contradictions associated with the quest for beauty, balanced by an intimate and spiritual account of Arsenault’s adventures in plastic surgery.

According to Arsenault, “Beauty is something some women are lucky to be born with. Beauty is supposed to be natural, but if you weren’t lucky enough to be born with it then you’re called superficial for pursuing it.” This is the variable for her exploration, as she seeks to define the perceived difference between “inner and outer beauty, realness and fakeness.” Along the way, Arsenault proves an engaging raconteur chronicling everything from Playboy Bunny fantasies to black market injections, a Mexican castration, and a “Crying Game-style” collision with rocker Tommy Lee.

Nina Arsenault came to prominence as a columnist for Fab Magazine. Her widely read column *The Silicone Diaries* documented her transitioning and laid the foundation for her future performance work. The script for the upcoming production of *The Silicone Diaries* will be published in an anthology of queer plays by Borealis Press. In 2009, Arsenault sold out Canadian queer festivals, *We’re Funny That Way*, *Buddies’ Sexy Pride* and Halifax’s *Queer Acts Festival* with her hilarious solo, *I Was Barbie*. Arsenault’s television appearances have included *The Jon Dore Show* (Comedy Network), *Kink* (Showcase), *Train 48* (Global) and *Fashion Television*. Across Canada through her many appearance, articles and performances, Arsenault is garnering accolades and exposure as a unique Canadian artist. *The Silicone Diaries* will appear in January 2010 at Nakai Theatre’s *Pivot Festival* in the Yukon.

Dramaturg Judith Rudakoff and Director Brendan Healy (recipient of the Pauline McGibbon Award and *Buddies’* recently appointed Artistic Director) sculpt this outrageous, inspirational, and often hilarious piece. Rounding out the creative team are Dora Award-winning designers Trevor Schwellnus (Set and Lighting) and Richard Feren (Sound).

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The Silicone Diaries is a challenging piece produced in a remarkable season of work by women. Not only does Arsenault's show push past the cultural sound-byte of a "woman trapped in a man body," but also engages us in her story as if it were our own.

"a queer Venus...certainly Toronto's most exciting body modification project."
- Mitchel Raphael, Maclean's columnist, former Fab! Magazine editor

THE SILICONE DIARIES

SHOW ADDED SUN NOV 22 DUE TO DEMAND

Nov 14 – 22, 2009 | 8 SHOWS ONLY!

Industry Previews: Sat, Nov 14 and Sun, Nov 15 at 8pm

Opens Tues, Nov 17 and runs Wed, Nov 18 - Sun, Nov 22, 8pm

Buddies In Bad Times Theatre

12 Alexander Street, Toronto ON

Box Office 416-975-8555

www.artsexy.ca

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