

- PRESS RELEASE -

SET TO SHOCK, SURPRISE AND ENCHANT A NEW AUDIENCE –
AFTER A 35 YEAR BREAK THE NOTORIOUS SISTERS ARE BACK IN GREENWICH*

NOMADS OF BAZAR PRESENT

THE MAIDS

BY JEAN GENET



Photographs by: Yasmine Braa. From l-r Emilija Ellen, Claire Spence & Irena Grgona | l-r Emilija Ellen as Solange & Irena Grgona as Claire

“... a truly contemporary take on Genet’s murderous play.”

Homovision

Following on from a successful week long run at the Etcetera Theatre, **Nomads of Bazar** are transferring Genet’s classic **The Maids** to The Greenwich Playhouse. It was last performed in Greenwich in 1974 and starred **Glenda Jackson, Susannah York and Vivien Merchant**, who all went on to star in the successful film of the same name.

In the secrecy of Madame’s boudoir, surrounded by a sweet scent of gladioli and mimosa, two sisters viciously plot revenge against their employer.

Loosely based on the infamous Papin sisters, who brutally murdered their employer and her daughter, **Nomads of Bazar’s** take on **The Maids** is staged as a truly modern tale of the beautiful and the damned.

Using pop culture and our obsession with the media in the 21st century, **The Maids** challenges the boundaries between love, sexuality and criminal intent.

The Maids stars **Emilija Ellen** (Blind Fate) as Solange, the eldest sister and driving force in the plot to kill Madame, their bolshie and extravagant employer, played by **Claire Spence** (Primeval, Doctors). Completing the line up is **Irena Grgona** (Bad Cake) who plays younger sister Claire, sensitive, slightly unhinged and easily led by her older sister, or so it seems. The cast is directed by **Gael Colin** (Dangerous Corner, Much Ado About Nothing) with gusto.

Irena Grgona comments, “Madame always means well and believes that her maids

* Last performed at the Greenwich Theatre by Glenda Jackson, Susannah York and Vivien Merchant in 1974

worship her. **Emilija Ellen** agrees and adds, "Madame's love for Monsieur is unwavering and sometimes blinds her judgments, so Madame isn't always aware of what her maids are doing to her."

Claire Spence concludes, "It's been a wonderful challenge to play the role of the feisty Madame and bring Genet's script to life for a new audience in the 21st Century. This is a play that will set your imagination on fire and leave you begging for more!"

Nomad of Bazar's The Maids is a production that will assault all your senses! Fast paced and as time pressured as the world we live in; it questions, unsettles and moves. Bittersweet and haunting, it stays with the audience long after the play has finished...

9th June - 5th July 2009

PRESS NIGHT: Thursday, 11th June @ 8pm

Tues-Sat @ 8pm | Sun @ 4pm

Tickets: £12; £10 (Conc.)

Box office **020 8858 9256** | boxoffice@galleontheatre.co.uk

For interview requests, images or further information please contact Claire or Jane on **+44 (0)7956 433 757** or by email: nomadsofbazar@yahoo.co.uk

Notes to Editors

Nomads of Bazar was founded by **Emilija Ellen** and **Irena Grgona** who both trained in the Meisner technique of Acting in London with Tom Radcliffe and in New York City with William Esper. **Claire Spence**, who also trained with Tom Radcliffe, and at The Poor School, London played Madame in the first production of *The Maids* and joins them as the third producer. Inspired by their teachers and Robert Rodrigues' 'Rebel without a crew' approach, they decided to do it for themselves. The troupe was formed with an unwavering belief and conviction in theatre, as a very powerful and a much-needed art form in today's world.

www.nomadsofbazar.com

www.twitter.com/NomadsTheMaids

Nomads arrive...unfurl their carpets and tents...perform...and leave...

Jean Genet (19th December, 1910 – 15th April, 1986) the son of a prostitute was born and died in Paris, France. Genet spent time in prison before becoming a controversial playwright, this, and his homosexuality, often informed his work. **The Maids** was written in 1946 and depicts a disturbing struggle of the underprivileged and their oppressors. Two maids driven to the brink of sanity, contemplate the impossible in order to free themselves of Madame's overbearing control.

GREENWICH PLAYHOUSE

Greenwich Station Forecourt, 189 Greenwich High Road, London SE10 8JA

www.galleontheatre.co.uk