

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Brock University**

October 26, 2010  
Immediate Release

#### **Theatre@Brock presents: BLOOD RELATIONS – The Lizzie Borden Story**

*Blood Relations* by renowned Canadian playwright Sharon Pollock will be presented on stage at the Sean O'Sullivan Theatre from November 11 through 13, 2010.

Winner of the Governor General's Award, *Blood Relations* is a metatheatrical – or “play within a play” – approach to the story of Lizzie Borden, who was accused and acquitted of her parents' murder in Massachusetts, 1892. The play begins ten years after the murders, when Lizzie's friend, referred to only as "the Actress" (based on Lizzie's real life actress lover, Nance O'Neil), insistently asks Lizzie to tell her the truth about the murders. Lizzie invents “a game” in which the Actress plays the role of Lizzie, while the real Lizzie “paints the background” of her home and family life, filling the actress's mind with images that guide her performance at the subconscious level.

*Blood Relations* showcases the talents of students in Brock University's Department of Dramatic Arts undergraduate program: Tanisha Minson, Jacqueline Costa, Aaron Berger, John McCartney, Karen McDonald, Rebekka Gondosch, Jennifer Moore, Mike Jansen and Trevor Ketcheson and with Assistant Direction by Eric Frank.

The play is directed by Danielle Wilson, designed by Kelly Wolf, and the original music, specially composed for this production by Brock Music graduate Max Holten Andersen, provides a “Hitchcockian” suspense/thriller feel to the production.

Director Danielle Wilson states, “I was drawn to Pollock's tautly woven play within a play structure because it creates the opportunity for heightened realism where anything can happen, much like in a dream. To underline this state, the show has been provocatively scored, invoking specific atmospheres and moods; exploiting the suspense and horror of the situation. Also, an additional character has been added who will perform her role entirely on aerial circus silks, as a means to explore the dream like nature of the play.”

Experience this psychological thriller by Sharon Pollock. Performances: Thurs., Nov. 11, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.; Fri., Nov. 12, 2010 at 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; and Sat., Nov. 13 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 adults; \$12 seniors & students; \$10 groups, \$5 eyeGo, and are available at the Centre for the Arts Box Office, 905-688-5550, ext. 3257, or e-mail [boxoffice@brocku.ca](mailto:boxoffice@brocku.ca).

Such programs from the Department of Dramatic Arts are a key part of the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts' mandate in building connections between the community and the breadth of talent and creativity at Brock University.

**Media Day: Wednesday, November 3, 2010 from 6 p.m. – 7 p.m. held at the Sean O'Sullivan Theatre, Brock University.**

For more information or to set up interviews contact:

Marie Balsom, Communications

Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts

T: 905-688-5550, ext. 4765 | E: [mbalsom@brocku.ca](mailto:mbalsom@brocku.ca) |

W: [www.brocku.ca/humanities/departments-and-centres/fine-and-performing-arts](http://www.brocku.ca/humanities/departments-and-centres/fine-and-performing-arts)