

Two Women Productions Presents:

A Book of Spells

A Storytelling Concert in Two Voices

A collision of life and literature

A tale of two women's lives changed

For Immediate Release

December 4, 2008. Toronto, Ontario... Two Women Productions is delighted to announce that their show ***A Book of Spells*** will be playing in Toronto at the Gladstone Hotel during their Southern Ontario tour. Starring acclaimed storytellers **Jan Andrews** and **Jennifer Cayley**, the show will run for one night only on Tuesday, February 24, 2009.

A Book of Spells interweaves poetry, literary stories of magic realism and stories of personal experience. The poetry is taken from *Gardens of Eden* by Michelene Wandor; the stories of magic realism from a collection of short stories by author Sara Maitland (a collection which also provides the title for T.W.P. show). The tone is fierce, the content edgy and disturbing, lush, soothing, and finally, filled with delight.

The show is a story of many, many stories. Listeners find themselves confronted with the witch in Hansel and Gretel - still living in the forest; still, through all the ages (surprisingly) tending to young women's needs. Then there's the mother who gains the power (quite literally) to soar through the nighttime; the two old women, tending their garden - and their broomsticks - in their cottage at the end of the road.

Above all, there are the two tellers, struggling to build a life together, seeing themselves reflected in what they are reading, desperate to put their demons to rest and find peace.

Launched at the **National Storytelling Network Fringe Festival**, St. Louis, 2007, and heading for the **Gwanwyn Festival** in Wales in May, ***A Book of Spells*** is a new venture both in terms of the world of storytelling and of its creators.

"Here we are," says Jan, "Two nice little old ladies! One of us rejoicing in the monthly arrival of her OAS check and the other not so very far behind; neither of us expecting to be taking to the road in quite this manner at this stage in our careers."

"It's a huge leap," adds Jennifer. "What we're trying to do is to make a very particular contribution to the contemporary storytelling revival. When it comes to both material and venues, we're breaking new ground."

Not that either of them are unfamiliar with performance. Jan has traveled to festivals and concerts across Canada, in the United Kingdom, Australia and the U.S. Jennifer has appeared nationwide and also in Hawaii. Both have told from such great epics as *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*. Both love the dark mysteries of the folk tales. Both have been involved as presenters and administrators, ensuring that other storytellers have opportunities to develop their work. Jan is also the writer of books for young People. Her work has been shortlisted for a number of major awards, including the Governor General's Literary Award.

"***A Book of Spells*** is a brilliant marriage of literary story and personal narrative. The sum is greater than the parts," Elizabeth Ellis award winning storyteller.

Show information for ***A Book of Spells***

Venue: The Gladstone Hotel. 1214 Queen Street West

Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2009

Time: 7:30 PM

Tickets: \$20

Tickets are available in advance online at <http://spells.theatreadmin.com> or at the door. Additional information is available by calling 416-703-2773 x202

Website: www.gladstonehotel.com or <http://spells.theatreadmin.com>