

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 – 21, 2009

BUDDIES IN BAD TIMES THEATRE
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. Buddies’ new Artistic Director, Brendan Healy directs Arsenault as she draws battles lines, wrestles with the conventions of patriarchy, and comes to peace with her radical queer body.

The Silicone Diaries explores the perceived differences between ‘inner’ and ‘outer’ beauty, and challenges definitions of ‘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. *The Silicone Diaries* defies the cultural sound-byte of a “woman trapped in a man’s body” with intelligence and wit.

Dramaturg Judith Rudakoff and Director Brendan Healy (recipient of the 2006 Ken McDougall Award for Emerging Directors, and Buddies’ new Artistic Director) sculpt this outrageous, inspirational, and often hilarious one-woman play. Healy remarked about his collaboration, “Inside Nina is a really fascinating paradox: Someone who’s worked hard to transform herself into someone who she thinks she is authentically, but who she thinks she is, is very much a media creation.” Rounding out the creative team are Dora Award-winning designers Trevor Schwellnus (Set and Lighting) and Richard Feren (Sound).

Before it was a one-woman show, *The Silicone Diaries* was a widely-read column in *Fab Magazine*. The stage version previewed to sold-out crowds and standing ovations in Saint John, NB as part of the Theatre on the Edge Festival (2008), and is slated for

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presentation at the Nakai Theatre in Whitehorse, YT. The Silicone Diaries will be published in an anthology of queer plays by Borealis Press. Arsenault's other performance piece, I Was Barbie, played to sold out crowds at the We're Funny That Way Comedy Festival, Buddies' Pride Festival and Queer Acts (Halifax's premiere queer theatre festival). Selected television appearances include: The Jon Dore Show (Comedy Network), Kink (Showcase), Train 48 (Global) and Fashion Television. Nationwide Nina Arsenault is proving through her articles, appearances and performances that she is a Canadian household name in the making.

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

*****NINA ARSENAULT IS AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS, FOR ALL MEDIA. PLEASE MAKE ALLOWANCES FOR ANY REHEARSAL CONFLICTS OR PREPARATION TIME NEEDED FOR IN-PERSON APPEARANCES.*****

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Previews Sat, Nov 13 and Sun, Nov 14 at 8pm

Opens Tues, Nov 17 and runs Wed, Nov 18 - Sat, Nov 21, 8pm

Buddies In Bad Times Theatre

Canada's Home for Queer Culture

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