

# BRETT SINGER & ASSOCIATES, LLC

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Madeline Walter in Association with The Strollers Presents

## **MARY BRIGIT POPPLETON IS WRITING A MEMOIR**

Written by Madeline Walter

The New York International Fringe Festival – FringeNYC

A Production of the Present Company

At The Connelly Theater, 220 East 4th Street (between Avenue A & B)

See Below for Complete Schedule

Tickets: \$15. For tickets visit [www.FringeNYC.org](http://www.FringeNYC.org) or call

In New York: (212) 279-4488 or Outside New York: 1-888-FringeNYC

### July 17, 2007

The New York International Fringe Festival, The Strollers, and Madeline Walter will present the New York premiere of Madeline Walter's *MARY BRIGIT POPPLETON IS WRITING A MEMOIR* from Friday, August 10<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup>.

What happens when a teenage girl from Ashtabula, Ohio decides to write a memoir? At the tender age of seventeen, nothing much has happened to her so far. But Mary Brigit Poppleton knows what to do. Not wanting to pull a James Frey and fictionalize her story, she decides to fictionalize her actual *life*. Her first move? Faking her own pregnancy. She attempts to convince her Catholic family that she is in fact pregnant, then runs away from home, landing on Long Island with the help of a misdirected, well-intentioned Catholic "Planned Parenthood" volunteer. On the Island, Mary Brigit learns a thing or two about truth, literature, and finding memoir-worthy stories in her own (real) life. A "Virgin Mary" story of imaginary conception, it may not be divine, but it will be hilarious. The play, with a cast of ten, will be directed by Heidi Handelsman. First performed at the Elizabeth Price Kenan Theatre in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, it received the 2006 Sam Selden Award, the highest honor for playwrighting at the University of North Carolina.

Originally from Maplewood, New Jersey, Madeline Walter recently graduated with highest distinction from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. One of 30 recipients of the Duke/UNC Robertson Scholarship, she also took classes behind enemy lines at Duke University. At UNC she was selected as one of 12 creative writing honors students, completing a book of short fiction for her senior honors thesis under the supervision of award-winning author Randall Kenan. An avid documentary filmmaker, Ms. Walter has done documentary film work in Kentucky, China, and South Africa. Her film about anti-coal mining activists, "Loud and Clear: Voices of Kentucky's Mountains" was featured in the 2004 Ms. Films Festival and the Documentary Happening Festival in Durham, North Carolina. In September, 2007, Madeline will return to Chapel Hill as the first-ever Robertson Fellow, a Robertson Scholar graduate position for program development. A Rhodes Scholar finalist for 2007, Madeline likes to believe she wasn't selected because she's destined for stardom instead—who needs Oxford when you've got Broadway?

The cast features Allison Altman, Daleelah Sada Johnson, Russell Johnson, Julie Marcus, Alyson Morgan, Doug Roland, Evan Silverman, Patrick Stewart, and Isaiah Tanenbaum. The director will be Heidi Handelsman, who most recently directed Courtney Lauria's *On The Surface* in the Samuel French Festival. The design team is Melissa Casciano, Heather Cohn, Jeffrey Collier, Matt Farabee, and Ben Greene.

*MARY BRIGIT POPPLETON IS WRITING A MEMOIR* will be performed as part of the New York International Fringe Festival, which will begin performances on August 10<sup>th</sup>. Tickets will be \$15.00 and may be purchased by calling 212.279.4488 or 1-888-FringeNYC. For more information, visit [www.fringenyc.org](http://www.fringenyc.org) or [www.marybrigit.com](http://www.marybrigit.com).

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At The Connelly Theater, 220 East 4th Street (between Avenue A & B)

Schedule: Sat 8/11 @ 1pm, Sun 8/12 @ 9:45pm, Mon 8/13 @ 9:45pm, Thur 8/16 @ 3pm, Fri 8/17 @ 9:45pm

TICKETS: \$15.00; Call 212.279.4488 or visit [www.fringenyc.org](http://www.fringenyc.org).

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