

PRESS RELEASE

May 24th

Ice and Fire Productions present

**ON THE RECORD**

By Christine Bacon and Noah Birksted-Breen

Directed by Michael Longhurst

At Studio 1, Arcola Theatre, Dalston, London.

20<sup>th</sup> July – 13<sup>th</sup> August

**Press night: Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July, [time?]**

*"It's not that one day I decided to be heroic. And actually I don't think that I'm heroic. It bothers me that people think I'm heroic. I just think it's my right to talk, to be free, to write. I'm not special, I just decided to do this"* (Lydia Cacho)

***On The Record*** is a searing new play from leading human rights theatre company **iceandfire**, giving an insight into the lives of campaigning journalists from around the world who put their lives on the line in the cause of truth. Part verbatim and part dramatised, it is personal testimony from real people with a vital role to play in safeguarding freedoms that we can all too often take for granted.

*On The Record* dramatises stories of six journalists: in Sri Lanka, the Wickrematunge brothers Lal and Lasantha start a newspaper to publish stories that the other papers won't touch, knowing the enormous risks they run in challenging the powers that be; Lydia Cacho uncovers a Mexican child pornography ring involving politicians and businessmen, becoming a national hero in the process which only just saves her life; Elena Kostyuchenko investigates mafia collusion with the police in Moscow for the paper Novaya Gazeta; American photojournalist Zoriah Miller documents the aftermath of a suicide bombing in Iraq which he feels is the only way to convey the real human cost of the war, but comes into conflict with the US military censors; Amira Hass is the only Jewish Israeli journalist ever to have lived and worked in the Occupied Palestinian territories as a correspondent for the Israeli daily Ha'aretz, and is an outspoken critic of the occupation. *On The Record* weaves together the stories of these disparate characters linked by their determination to challenge the official version of the truth in their countries, with in some cases, horrifying consequences.

*On The Record* is written by Ice and Fire's artistic director Christine Bacon and Noah **Birksted-Breen**. It is directed by acclaimed director Michael Longhurst whose recent work includes ***Stovepipe* (Bush/National Theatre); *Remembrance Day* (Royal Court).**

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

Ice and Fire Productions present

### **ON THE RECORD**

By Christine Bacon and Noah Birksted-Breen

Directed by Michael Longhurst

Designed by Chloe Lamford

Lighting design by Anna Watson

Sound design by David McSeveney

Video design by Ian Galloway

Cast: To be announced

At: Studio 1, Arcola Theatre, 24 Ashwin Street, Dalston, London E8 3DL

From 20<sup>th</sup> July – 13<sup>th</sup> August, [days and times]

**Press night: Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July, [time?]**

Ticket prices: £17, 11.

Box Office: 020 7503 1646 or at [www.arcolatheatre.com](http://www.arcolatheatre.com)

[www.iceandfire.co.uk](http://www.iceandfire.co.uk)

**Iceandfire** was founded in 2003 by playwright Sonja Linden, inspired by her seven years as writer-in-residence at the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture. Its stated mission is to create performance that makes relevant the impact of human rights on our everyday lives. Their three previous full scale productions were *I Have Before Me a Remarkable Document Given to me by a Young Lady From Rwanda* by Sonja Linden (Finborough Theatre, 2003) which has since been performed across Europe and the US; *Crocodile Seeking Refuge* (2005) by Sonja Linden and *Welcome to Ramallah* by Sonja Linden and Adah Kay (Arcola and Theatre Royal York, 2008). Iceandfire's outreach arm, Actors for Human Rights (formerly known as Actors for Refugees) was originally formed in Melbourne, Australia in 2001 with the aim of encouraging a humanitarian response toward refugees and asylum seekers. The UK actors' network was launched in June 2006 and now consists of over 500 professional actors and musicians who perform rehearsed readings of one of several documentary plays (with titles such as *Asylum Monologues*, *Asylum Dialogues*, *Rendition Monologues*, *Palestine Monologues*, *The Illegals* and *Broke*) across England on a rolling basis, reaching over 10,000 people annually. Juliet Stevenson, Sinéad Cusack, Simon Callow, Dan Stevens, Hayley Atwell and Shobu Kapoor are among the actors who have taken part in the project. Iceandfire also run 'Everyone Has the Right', a playwriting submission scheme with Amnesty International which encourages the development of scripts with human rights stories at their heart.