



PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
27th SEPTEMBER 2011

Announcing the World Premiere of Afghan Monologues:
Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall, Southbank Centre, Tuesday 4 October
2011 @ 7.45pm

“Every Afghan is searching for some meaning. When you lose a sense of meaning in your life, then you’re basically like a drowning man, clutching to anything that can stop you from drowning.” - Aziz Hakimi

On the tenth anniversary of the invasion of Afghanistan, acclaimed theatre company **iceandfire** launches the world premiere of *Afghan Monologues*, a unique documentary play written by Christine Bacon and directed by Michael Longhurst.

Once launched, this script will be available to be performed as a rehearsed reading upon request, through **iceandfire**'s national outreach project Actors for Human Rights*.

Ten years. Billions of pounds per year. 140,000 serving foreign troops. Over 11,000 military casualties. 9,000 civilians dead. 7.5 million refugees. For millions of citizens and returning refugees, Afghanistan remains home. *Afghan Monologues* takes us into their lives and brings to the stage the real words of an Afghan doctor; a former advisor to Hamid Karzai; a British woman who worked in Afghanistan for seven years; a young Afghan woman whose life has been profoundly affected by the many decades of conflict; and a British photojournalist who travels through the country and documents the stories of Afghan civilians.

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 mission is to explore human rights stories through performance.

NOTES TO EDITORS: Interview opportunities are available with:

- **Guy Smallman, the British photojournalist** whose testimony is included in the script. Guy was the only Western reporter to visit the village of Granai which was devastated by a US air attack in 2009.
- **Christine Bacon**, who wrote *Afghan Monologues* and is Artistic Director of **iceandfire**. Christine also co-wrote the recent critically-acclaimed play *On the Record* which played at the Arcola Theatre this summer.



For interview requests and press tickets please contact Alex Grace at
pr@iceandfire.co.uk / 07779 614 054

Listings Information

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| Venue: | The Purcell Room Queen Elizabeth Hall |
| Address: | Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road, London SE1 8XX |
| Date: | Tuesday 4 October 2011 |
| Time: | 7.45pm |
| Price: | £10/£5 (Concessions –limited availability) |
| Tickets: | http://ticketing.southbankcentre.co.uk/find/literature-spoken-word/tickets/afghan-monologues-60840 +44 (0)20 7960 4200 (Switchboard) +44 (0)844 875 0073 (Ticket Office) |

***iceandfire's** outreach arm, *Actors for Human Rights*, was launched in June 2006 and now consists of over 550 professional actors and musicians who perform rehearsed readings of several documentary plays (including *Asylum Monologues*, *The Illegals* and *Broke*) across England on a rolling basis, reaching over 10,000 people annually. Juliet Stevenson, Simon Callow, Louise Jameson and Shobu Kapoor are among the actors who have taken part in the project.

iceandfire's four previous full scale productions are: *I Have Before Me a Remarkable Document Given to me by a Young Lady From Rwanda* by Sonja Linden (2003/2004) which has since been performed across Europe and the US; *Crocodile Seeking Refuge* (2005/2006) by Sonja Linden; *Welcome to Ramallah* by Sonja Linden and Adah Kay (2008); and *On the Record* by Christine Bacon and Noah Birksted-Breen (2011).

iceandfire also runs *Everyone Has the Right*, a playwriting submission scheme. This joint initiative with Amnesty International UK encourages the development of scripts with human rights stories at their heart.

More information: www.iceandfire.co.uk