



Antioch University Los Angeles

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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V-DAY ANTIOCH UNIVERSITY LOS ANGELES JOINS GLOBAL EFFORT TO STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

V-Day Antioch University Los Angeles 2009 A V-Day Benefit Production of THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES

WITH

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Change The Story Of Women!

Join Us as We Raise Funds and Awareness to End Violence Against Women and Girls

January 22, 2009 – Culver City, CA - On February 5 - 7, 2009, at 7pm V-Day Antioch University Los Angeles will present a three-night only benefit reading of Eve Ensler's award winning play *The Vagina Monologues* at the AULA campus located at 400 Corporate Pointe in Culver City.

Last year over 4000 V-Day benefits took place around the world raising funds and awareness towards ending violence against women. Since 1998, V-Day and these highly successful events have raised over \$60 million for local beneficiaries working to end violence against women and girls. Hot on the heels of their success, Antioch University Los Angeles has joined this global movement as part of the V-Day 2009 College Campaign.

For the second year in a row Antioch University Los Angeles will present a benefit production of *The Vagina Monologues* at the AULA campus located at 400 Corporate Pointe in Culver City on February 5th, 6th, and 7th at 7:00pm on behalf of the V-Day 2009 Campaign. This benefit production is a student-run program sponsored by the B.A. program at Antioch University Los Angeles and the Student Action Network (SAN).

What is V-Day?

V-Day is a global movement to stop violence against women and girls. V-Day is a catalyst that promotes creative events to increase awareness, raise money and revitalize the spirit of existing anti-violence organizations. V-Day generates broader attention for the fight to stop violence against women and girls, including rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation (FGM) and sexual slavery.

Through V-Day campaigns, local volunteers and college students produce annual benefit performances of *The Vagina Monologues A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant and A Prayer*, and screenings of V-Day's documentary *Until The Violence Stops* to raise awareness and funds for anti-violence groups within their own communities. 2009 V-Day events have the option to

introduce a new V-Day theatrical event, *Any One Of Us: Words From Prison*, which reveals the connection between women in prison and the violence that often brings them there. This new event will bring forth raw voices of fierceness and honesty written by women from prisons across the nation and performed by local women. In 2008, over 4000 V-Day benefit events took place produced by volunteer activists in the U.S. and around the world, educating millions of people about the reality of violence against women and girls.

Performance is just the beginning. V-Day stages large-scale benefits and produces innovative gatherings, films and campaigns to educate and change social attitudes towards violence against women including the documentary *Until the Violence Stops*; community briefings on the missing and murdered women of Juárez, Mexico; the December 2003 V-Day delegation trip to Israel, Palestine, Egypt and Jordan; the Afghan Women's Summit; the March 2004 delegation to India; the Stop Rape Contest, the Indian Country Project, Love Your Tree, the June 2006 two-week festival of theater, spoken word, performance and community events called *UNTIL THE VIOLENCE STOPS: NYC* which welcomed 2,000 runners in Prospect Park running to demand an end to violence, witnessed 50 actresses and over 100 writers contributing their genius, time and talent to sold out events, and reached millions through media and a citywide subway and bus campaign. In 2008, V-Day celebrated its 10-year anniversary at V TO THE TENTH at the New Orleans Arena and Louisiana Superdome. V TO THE TENTH featured two days of speakers, art, performance for all and makeovers, massage, medical testing and healing circles, and yoga for the women of the Gulf South Region. The event was attended by over 30,000 women and men and reached millions of people all over the world, raising over \$700,000 for local efforts in New Orleans to end violence against women and girls.

In Africa, the Middle East, and Asia, V-Day commits ongoing support to build movements and anti-violence networks. Working with local organizations, V-Day provided hard-won funding that helped open the first shelters for women in Egypt and Iraq, sponsored annual workshops and three national campaigns in Afghanistan, convened the "Confronting Violence" conference of South Asian women leaders, and donated satellite-phones to Afghan women to keep lines of communication open and action plans moving forward. Through the Karama program based out of Cairo, V-Day works in-depth to build networks ending violence against women and girls in Egypt, Sudan, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon.

The V-Day movement is growing at a rapid pace throughout the world, in 120 countries from Europe to Asia, Africa and the Caribbean, and all of North America. V-Day, a non-profit corporation, distributes funds to grassroots, national and international organizations and programs that work to stop violence against women and girls. In 2001, V-Day was named one of *Worth Magazine's* "100 Best Charities" and in 2006 one of *Marie Claire Magazine's* Top Ten Charities. In ten years, the V-Day movement has raised over \$60 million.

To learn more about **V-Day Antioch University Los Angeles** e-mail the organization at Lesley.Alexander@AntiochLA.edu. To learn more about V-Day and its campaigns visit www.vday.org.

What is a V-Day Campaign?

A V-Day Campaign is a catalyst for mobilizing women and men to heighten awareness about violence against women and girls. By creating this global community, V-Day strives to empower women to find their collective voices and demand an end to the violence that affects one in three women in the U.S and around the world.

V-Day Antioch University Los Angeles is a local effort within the worldwide context of the 2009 V-Day Campaign.

What are *The Vagina Monologues*

Hailed by *The New York Times* as "funny" and "poignant" and by the *Daily News* as "intelligent" and "courageous," *The Vagina Monologues*, which was first performed off-Broadway by Ms. Ensler, dives into the mystery, humor, pain, power, wisdom, outrage and excitement buried in women's experiences. Ms. Ensler has performed the play to great acclaim throughout the world - from Zagreb to Santa Barbara, from London to Seattle, from Jerusalem to Oklahoma City. Villard Books/Random House first published *The Vagina Monologues*, which includes a foreword by Gloria Steinem, in February 1998. A special V-Day edition of the play was released in February 2001 and V-Day's ten year anniversary edition of *The Vagina Monologues* was released in hard cover and paperback in February of 2008.

The Vagina Monologues will be performed at the AULA campus located at 400 Corporate Pointe in Culver City on February 5-7, 2009 beginning at 7:00pm. Tickets are \$20 pre-sale or \$25 at the door. Pre-sale tickets can be purchased (or reserved) online at www.AntiochLA.edu/VDay or by phoning 1-800-838-3006. Proceeds from this event benefit A Window Between Worlds, Children of the Night and the Downtown Women's Center.