



United Nations Development Programme

MEDIA ADVISORY



Montenegro

World Human Rights Day is approaching

What: Press conference on the premiere of DEATH AND THE MAIDEN, a theatre performance which is a joint project of the City Theater of Podgorica, the Center for Civic Education and the Office for Gender Equality of the Government of Montenegro, financially supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Montenegro.

When: Thursday, November 30th, 2006, at 11am

Where: DODEST Hall, Podgorica, Montenegro

The press conference will be held by the representatives from institutions engaged in the project as well as by the authors and protagonists of the show.

Death and the Maiden, according to City Theatre Art Director Nikola Vukčević, will be premiered on Friday, December 1st at 8pm, at the DODEST Hall, on the DEUS opening day. Based on a play written by Chilean writer **Ariel Dorfman** (for which he received the Pulitzer's Prize), it was directed by **Goran Vukelić**, starring **Maja Šarenac Maraš** and **Branko Ilić** from the City Theatre, as well as **Zoran Vujović** from the People's Theatre of Montenegro.

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«Death and the Maiden» is a world famous political thriller performed over three thousand times on stages all over the world, starring some of the best contemporary world actresses: Glenn Klose, Sigourney Weaver, Jeanne Moreau. A central figure is a woman, Paulina, who finds herself in the position to revenge upon a man whom she believes to have been her torturer 15 years earlier. Paulina portrays people who were victimized under the dictatorship and whose rights were «raped» through permanent kidnapping and tortures, whilst the play's title is taken from a piece of music by Franz Schubert which was played repeatedly by Paulina's tormentor during her torture sessions. World critics found this show both dramatically engaging as well as historically timely, given the number of societies around the world facing painful legacies of repressive regimes and violations of the rights of women, children and men. Famous Chilean writer Ariel Dorfman began writing this play in the mid-1980s when he was in exile, a country under the rule of the military dictator General Augusto Pinochet, and it was not until Chile's return to democracy in 1990 that Dorfman finished it. Given that the international campaign «**The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence**», carried out in Montenegro by the Government Office for Gender Equality, UNDP and other partners under the slogan «**Visible in Constitution, Protected by Law, Institutionally Respected, Equal Status within the Family, Free to Walk Streets**», ends on December 10th, on the United Nations Human Rights Day, the second showing will be on December 10th.

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