



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**“It’s like Romeo and Juliet in Berwyn...”
The Ascension of Carlotta premieres April 4**

BERWYN, IL FEBRUARY 25, 2008 16th Street Theater premieres Will Dunne’s *The Ascension of Carlotta* directed by Artistic Director Ann Filmer at the Berwyn Cultural Center **April 4 – May 4, 2008** with a press opening of **Thursday, April 10 at 7:30 PM.**

Alice Kowalski works at a 7-11. Romeo Brown’s dream is to rob a 7-11. Drunk on love during the last springtime of the 20th century, they travel the land of Berwyn seeing if two people from two different planets can be both armed and engaged.

Will Dunne is an award-winning playwright whose works have been staged internationally in three languages. He is a Resident Playwright at Chicago Dramatists and one of only five playwrights to be selected three consecutive times for the U.S. National Playwrights Conference under the Artistic Direction of Lloyd Richards. Dunne is a 2008 16th Street Theater playwright-in-residence along with Arlene Malinowski and Tanya Saracho.

The Ascension of Carlotta is only the second play to perform in the Berwyn Cultural Center, following Teatro Luna’s highly recommended hit MACHOS which sold out its entire run in just a few weeks.

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Janna Sobel from San Francisco makes her Chicago debut in the title role Carlotta (aka Alice Kowalski). Sobel was a part of the play's development in the Bay Area. **Desmin Borges** plays Romeo, with **Anna Kurtz** as Alice's friend Tammy and **Galen Murphy-Hoffman** as Joey. The design team includes Ian Zywica (scenic design), Mac Vaughey (lighting), Tom Haigh (sound) and Gintare Jaloveckaite (costumes). Stage manager is Jennifer Aparacio. The play is directed by **Ann Filmer**. Full bios and photos available at www.16thstreettheater.org

WHAT:

THE ASCENSION OF CARLOTTA, Presented by 16th Street Theater Berwyn's first professional equity theater.

WHERE:

Berwyn Cultural Center, 6420 16th Street, Berwyn

WHEN:

April 4 – May 4, 2008

Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays at 7:30 PM, Sundays at 2:30 PM

Previews: April 4 & 5 at 7:30 PM (no show Sunday April 6)

Press Opening: Thursday, April 10 at 7:30 PM

WHO:

WRITTEN BY: Will Dunne

DIRECTED BY: Ann Filmer

PERFORMED BY: Desmin Borges, Anna Kurtz, Galen Murphy-Hoffman, Janna Sobel

HOW MUCH?

GENERAL: \$16 GROUPS OF 8+: \$12

TO PURCHASE TICKETS:

Tickets now on sale.

Online at <http://www.16thstreettheater.org>

By Phone 24 hours thru Brown Paper Tickets at 1-800-838-3006

In Person at North Berwyn Park District, 1619 Wesley Ave, Berwyn, IL 60402

For More Information, call (708) 795-6704

Please visit www.16thstreettheater.org

16th STREET THEATER is Berwyn's first professional equity theater under the artistic direction of Ann Filmer. 2008 marks its first season.

The BERWYN CULTURAL CENTER, a North Berwyn Park District managed facility, is dedicated to providing the highest quality and range of cultural arts programs, classes, workshops, events, and exhibitions providing opportunities for Berwyn residents and area artists. The center will provide year-round programs engaging participants of all ages in visual, performing, literary, martial and media arts and 16th Street Theater's professional productions. The BCC also will serve as an incubator for emerging artists, artisans, writers, performers and musicians to develop and present new works. The center is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life and sustainability of our local communities by advancing appreciation for the beauty of cultural diversity.

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