

THE SURRENDER

The stage adaptation of TONI BENTLEY'S erotic memoir receives N.Y.C. premiere in January



TONI BENTLEY



LAURA CAMPBELL

New York, New York, December 4, 2013—The Carol Tambor Theatrical Foundation is thrilled to announce the U.S. premiere of the stage adaptation of **Toni Bentley's** acclaimed erotic memoir ***THE SURRENDER***, directed by **Zishan Ugurlu** and starring **Laura Campbell**. ***THE SURRENDER*** will have its U.S. debut following critically acclaimed productions by the Spanish National Theatre (Centro Dramático Nacional) in Madrid and the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2013.

Performances begin on **Wednesday, January 8** for a limited engagement through **Sunday, February 2** at **The Clurman Theatre** on Theatre Row (410 West 42nd Street, between 9th and 10th Avenues). **Opening is Wednesday, January 15 at 8 PM**. The performance schedule is **Tuesday –Thursday at 7 PM, Friday at 8 PM; Saturday at 2 PM and 8 PM; Sunday at 3 PM**. Tickets are **\$45 (\$31.50** for preview performances from January 8-January 14), call **Telecharge** at **212-239-6200**.

www.telecharge.com

For more information visit www.thesurrendertheplay.com

Long before *Fifty Shades of Grey*, former Balanchine dancer Toni Bentley offered readers a sensual glimpse into a taboo erotic experience with her daring memoir ***THE SURRENDER***. After premiering in a production by the Spanish National Theatre in Madrid to great acclaim and a sold-out run and then causing a sensation at the

Edinburgh Festival Fringe, **THE SURRENDER** is stripped bare for the New York City stage.

The story of a woman's sexual obsession, **THE SURRENDER** tells of a classical ballerina who is seduced into the ultimate act of sexual submission by a sexy stranger. She is overcome and changed forever by his arousing alternative to convention.

Based on Toni Bentley's explicit and controversial erotic memoir, **THE SURRENDER** is "an extraordinary confession by a woman with an axe, and an ass, to grind" wrote Barry Humphries (aka Dame Edna.) An "eye-wateringly sexy show" (The Stage), **THE SURRENDER** is the witty, profound, and true story of one woman's experience of erotic transcendence.

Joyce McMillan in *The Scotsman* praised **THE SURRENDER** as "A remarkable sustained piece of writing that belongs to the time-honoured tradition of French intellectual erotica, reaching back to De Sade." Writing in *On Stage*, Michael Coveney enthused, "A serious play about sex is a rarity, and Kenneth Tynan would surely have applauded this beguiling and seductive adaptation of New York ballerina Toni Bentley's book."

Praise for **THE SURRENDER**

"Toni Bentley is an absolutely elegant writer and 'The Surrender' -- so sexy and witty -- exemplifies her unique voice and fearless candor."

-- Gay Talese

"BDSM ballet with humour and depth....a sensual ritual."

-- *The List*

"The shock content is high...the language and ideas are powerful and intelligent, with a lot to say about our human search for paradise."

-- Ros MacKenzie

"A small masterpiece of erotic writing."

-- Leon Wieseltier

"Genuinely daring in its self-exposure....Surely the greatest hymn to the transcendent powers of sodomy since the Marquis de Sade."

-- Village Voice

"A firecracker of a show."

-- The Herald

"Toni Bentley has done nearly the unimaginable: she has written about a profane act in a sacred manner, which is the hallmark of any great writer."

-- Bruce Wagner

TONI BENTLEY was born in Australia, and grew up in England before entering the School of American Ballet at age 10. She was invited to join Balanchine's New York City Ballet at age 17, and published her first book, "Winter Season," at age 22. She is the author of five books and numerous articles and essays for such publications as The New

York Times, The New York Review of Books, Vanity Fair, and Playboy. "The Surrender, An Erotic Memoir" was named one of the Best 100 Books of the Year by the New York Times and has been published in 18 languages. She is a Guggenheim Fellow.
www.tonibentley.com @thetonibentley

ZISHAN UGURLU is a native of Istanbul and came to New York in 1995 at the invitation of Ellen Stewart, founder of La MaMa Theater, where she is now a resident actress and director. She has worked extensively both in New York and abroad. Her directing credits include the solo performances "Oysters, Orgasms, Obituaries" by R. von Waldenburg (Nominated for New York Innovative Theater Award for Outstanding Solo Performance) and "Request Program" by F. X. Kroetz. She recently directed "The Judith of Shimoda" by Brecht, and is currently creating a devised theatre piece with inmates at a maximum security prison in upstate New York based on reentry issues. She is a graduate of Columbia University.

LAURA CAMPBELL was born in Northern Ireland and moved to the United States at age ten. She attended Tulane University in New Orleans where she received her degree in Theatre Studies and International Relations followed by a Masters in Acting from Columbia University where she studied with Kristin Linklater, Andrei Serban, and Anne Bogart. Since graduating she has worked locally and regionally in theaters across the country including productions of "Dinner," "Dust," "Taming of the Shrew," and "The Lion in Winter." Her latest film release is "Doomsdays" directed by Eddie Mullins. She has done numerous guest star appearances on television including "Law & Order" and "Blue Bloods." www.lauraecampbell.com

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