



EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE 2005
James Seabright for Festival Highlights presents

Linda Marlowe

MORTAL LADIES POSSESSED

**FOURTH SOLO SHOW FROM THE FRINGE FAVOURITE
BRINGS TENNESSEE WILLIAMS SHORT STORIES TO VIVID LIFE**

Linda Marlowe returns to the Edinburgh fringe for the fourth time since her stunning 1999 solo debut with *Berkoff's Women*. Up-and-coming playwright **Matthew Hurt** has adapted a selection of wild and evocative tales from **Tennessee Williams'** collection of short stories. All the rage and passion that appears in his prose creations has been brought to life in this theatrical re-imagining.

"Marlowe is in the first division of British actresses" *New Yorker*

Gaining permission from the Williams estate for this adaptation is remarkable in itself; the bewitching power of Marlowe seamlessly shifting between characters makes this all the more compelling reminder of the sensual and lyrical plays which made Williams famous. His short stories bear all the trademark qualities of the plays, focussing on characters pushed to the edge.

"Watch her and learn – if not to act, then how to live" *New York Sun*

Ladies full of desire, full of life – sometimes powerful, always desperate. Marlowe brings her unique physical and comic style to bear on the material, and has recently been wowing New York audiences with the show as part of a three-week run in the Brits Off Broadway season, which she also played last year with both *Berkoff's Women* and *No Fear!*.

"Conjuring heroines, passionate and fragile... Ms. Marlowe, directed by Stuart Mullins, captures Williams's pathos and the women's fragility." *New York Times*

Hurt's adaptation creates a narrative for the eighty minute solo performance, with the device of landlady Widow Holly recalling lodgers that have passed through her Deep South boarding house over the decades. His original material blends seamlessly with Williams' own words, providing comic relief at times and always avoiding the sense of a disconnected series of yarns. Instead he builds a satisfying theatrical world around the mysterious lives of these mortal ladies possessed.

"Marlowe is a consummate actress; gorgeous to look at, slinky and sexy, sensual and impassioned, breathtakingly versatile. A veritable tour de force" *The Scotsman*

Linda Marlowe has worked extensively in the theatre, on television, and on film in a long and distinguished career that has included numerous memorable roles for the RSC, in the West End, and since 1999 as a solo performer with her shows *Berkoff's Women*, *Diatribes of Love*, *No Fear!* and now *Mortal Ladies Possessed*. Although not performing herself at last year's Edinburgh fringe, she directed the acclaimed solo play *Curry Tales*, which has gone on to tour.

LISTINGS

Linda Marlowe – Mortal Ladies Possessed

Adapted from the short stories of Tennessee Williams by Matthew Hurt

Performed by **Linda Marlowe** - Directed by **Stuart Mullins**

At **Assembly Rooms (Venue 3)** 54 George Street, Edinburgh (Sub-venue: Supper Room)

5-29 August 2005 (except 17 August) at **2.10pm** (1 hour 20 minutes) Tickets £5 - £11, Box Office: 0131 226 2428

**For further information please contact James Seabright
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