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**(M)OTHER:  
THEATRE FOR EMPOWERMENT ARRIVES IN TORONTO**

April 15, 2008 – Mothers Acting Up announced today that Beth Osnes, cofounder of MAU, will be performing her one-woman show entitled **(M)other** at the Palmerston Library Theatre (560 Palmerston Avenue, between Bathurst and Bloor) on Saturday, April 26 at 7:00pm in Toronto. This performance of (M)other is co-sponsored by the [Association for Research on Mothering](#), Mother Outlaws, [Mothers Acting Up](#) and [Philanthropiece](#).

Incorporating both heart and humor, this one-hour performance jump starts the conversation about mothers taking on a more public role in advocating for children everywhere. **(M)other** explores what it might take for the mothers of one country to authentically care about the mothers and children of another country. **The show's opening describes a fictional program, called "Baby Swapping," created by the United Nations to generate care for the world's children. In this small, limited pilot program, seven mothers from seven nations from around the world are required by their governments to swap their six month old babies with another mother from another nation for one month. What follows is an intimate look at one of these mother's experience and her eventual realization of her interconnectedness with these other mothers, their children, and their nations.**

This performance is part of **The Mother Tour** which will travel to cities across North America and parts of Asia and Africa from May 2008-2010. Footage will be gathered at every location, including Toronto, and a movie will be created that explores the diversity and variety of voices, actions, and solutions of this global community of mothers acting up on behalf of the world's children.

**(M)other**, a program of Mothers Acting Up (MAU) and Philanthropiece, combines art with social empowerment and is an inspiring opening act to reclaim **the activist roots of Mother's Day**. Beth Osnes states, "This show is the best way I could think to condense this last five years with Mothers Acting Up into a good night out. It maps out one path towards personal transformation from concern to action on behalf of the world's children. It holds within it the wild hope that others, upon recognizing themselves along this journey, will feel inspired and fortified from this offering to chart their own audacious path towards the future."

*"Rich, clever and empowering."  
Daily Camera*

*"Stunningly beautiful."  
Dance Magazine*

*"An intimate look at the maternal experience across international boundaries."  
Nashville Scene*

*"The terrain of this drama is rich with intrigue, realizations and abundant hope."  
Women's Magazine*

*"(M)other explores parenthood as a global concern."  
The Tennessean*

*"Beth is a really dynamic personality."  
Oklahoma Gazette*

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**Background:**

Mothers Acting Up (MAU) inspires and mobilizes mothers\* to **advocate on behalf of the world's children**. MAU inspires, educates and engages mothers (a gigantic force to be reckoned with) to prioritize children in our corporate and public policies through **monthly Web actions, annual Mother's Day events**, field trips to elected officials, Girlcotts, and daily inspiration and tools found in a weekly calendar. MAU brings a new breed of activism to the political landscape; one that is positive, accessible and supports mothers in making informed personal choices, inspiring collective action and influencing decision-makers. MAU, founded in 2002, is based in Boulder, CO. MAU believes that when mothers lead, **generations** of global citizens will follow.

**Beth Osnes**, Co-founder of Mothers Acting Up, holds a Ph.D. in Theatre and teaches at the University of Colorado, Boulder. As a Fulbright scholar in Malaysia she conducted field research on the traditional

shadow puppet theatre. She is author of *Acting: An International Encyclopedia* (ABC-Clio, 2001) and *Twice Alive: a Spiritual Guide to Mothering Through Pregnancy and the Child's First Year* (Woven Word Press, 2005), as well as many articles in both scholarly and popular periodicals. Her next book – an edited collection of essays entitled *The Theatrical Portrayal of Mothers* – will be published soon by Mellen Press. Beth is currently touring her one-woman show, **(M)other**, around North America using theatre as a tool **for empowering mothers to be effective advocates for the world's children.**

\* mothers and others, on stilts or off, who exercise protective care over someone smaller.