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under the patronage of the EMBASSY OF NIGERIA

the
vienna theatre project

presents

the Continental European premiere in English of



THE CUTTING

by Maureen O'Brien

"A gem of inner discovery ... gripping theatre ...
uncompromisingly intelligent and unsentimentally moving"
(Mark Douet, *London Theatre Record*)

PRODUCTION DATA AT A GLANCE

Location: Ensembletheater
Petersplatz 1, 1010 Vienna

Dates: January 12-24, 2004 (Monday thru Saturday)
Premiere: Monday, January 12, 2004
Teachers' Preview: Sunday, January 11, 2004
Open Dress Rehearsal: Saturday, January 10, 2004

Time: 7:30 p.m.

With: Khafila Abiola
Danny Scott

Tickets: 16€ regular
11€ students/seniors
group discounts available (for groups of 10 or more)

Reservations: +43 1 535 32 00 or OR +43 1 920 2583 or
www.ensembletheater.at www.viennatheatreproject.at

Directed and designed by vtp artistic director **Martin Buxbaum**

Performances in English

SPECIAL EVENT – Tuesday, January 13

Playwright Maureen O'Brien will attend the performance on Tuesday, January 13, and will answer questions from the audience afterwards in the theatre bar.

About *The Cutting*

Judith is in prison, on remand, accused of killing her mother. From the moment the police came to question her she has not spoken. Alex, a child psychiatrist with experience of mutism, is called in as a last resort to make a psychiatric assessment. He battles against her silence until at last he breaks the dam. This woman speaks directly to another human being for perhaps the first time in her life. A relationship is forged, and an extraordinary story is revealed.

The Cutting (Bush Theatre, 1992) was nominated Best Play (London Fringe Awards) and Best Newcomer (Evening Standard Drama Awards).

About *Maureen O'Brien*

Maureen O'Brien is an actress and writer. She was born in Liverpool, trained at the Central School of Speech and Drama in London, and was a founder member of the Liverpool Everyman Theatre. She continues enjoying a thriving career as an actor on prestigious stages and on screen.

Maureen O'Brien is the author of six crime novels, *Close-up on Death*, *Deadly Reflection*, which she has also adapted to a screenplay, *Mask of Betrayal*, *Dead Innocent*, *Revenge*, and *Unauthorised Departure*, all featuring Detective Inspector John Bright.

In the theatre, Maureen is the author of *The Cutting*, first performed at the Bush Theatre in London in 1992, starring Sian Thomas and Paul Freeman and subsequently performed several times around Europe.

About vtp

The *vienna theatre project* was founded in spring 2002 with the purpose of facilitating high-quality English-language theatre productions at different venues in and around Vienna. Drawing from a pool of Vienna-based professional actors whose native language is English, vtp attempts to offer a wide range of contemporary plays originally written in English and to make the tremendous scope of English-language plays from all over the world more accessible to Vienna audiences. After *The Guys* at Theater Drachengasse last September, and the successful run of *Fully Committed* at the Tribüne in November, *The Cutting* is the *vienna theatre project*'s third production this season.

To find out more about the *vienna theatre project*, please contact its artistic director Martin Buxbaum at office@viennatheatreproject.at or +43 1 920 25 83, or visit its website at www.viennatheatreproject.at.
