



Media Contact: Anne McMurrey
(415) 861-4914 x116 • mcmurrey@nctcsf.org
NCTC Box Office: (415) 861-8972
www.nctcsf.org

**THE NEW CONSERVATORY THEATRE CENTER
YouthAware Theatre-in-Education Program Presents**



New For Spring 2008

**Edited by Norma Bowles with Mark E. Rosenthal
Directed by Sara Staley**

Diversity and Tolerance Education

San Francisco, February 21, 2008— NCTC's YouthAware presents **Cootie Shots: Theatrical Inoculations Against Bigotry**, the latest addition to YouthAware's repertoire of educational performances in which youth are exposed to the informative and transformative potentials of art by using theatre as a medium to address critical health and wellness issues. The show will run in-house in NCTC's Theatre III. Performances run March 11 – 20, 2008 at 10:00 and 11:30am, with a free Community Performance on March 17th at 7pm.

About Cootie Shots

Cootie Shots is an imaginative assortment of plays, songs and poems designed for young audiences from kindergarten through sixth grade. Created by Fringe Benefits in collaboration with over five hundred educators, administrators, therapists, theatre artists, youth and parents, **Cootie Shots** provides a fun and constructive way to promote tolerance and celebrate diversity by presenting role models of many different races, nationalities, cultures, classes, genders, sexual orientations, abilities, religions, ages and appearances. All performances feature professional actors and staging, post-performance Q&A's with the cast, and handouts which are provided for teachers to continue discussion in the classroom.

About the YouthAware Educational Theatre Program

The **YouthAware Educational Theatre** program at NCTC has presented innovative plays examining topical issues important to today's youth including, diversity, hate crimes, HIV prevention and awareness, homophobia, and body image. Furthermore, **YouthAware** was the first program in the

country to address the AIDS epidemic through theatre, and continues in the same groundbreaking tradition today. With over twenty years of touring education, **YouthAware** programming has reached over 4.5 million youth and community members.

YouthAware Educational Theatre at NCTC is Supported in Part By: California Arts Council, CA Wellness Foundation, Google, Grants for the Arts, William & Flora Hewlett Foundation, MAC AIDS Fund, Academy of Friends, Macy's West (Passport), Morris Family Foundation, Richmond-Ermet AIDS Foundation, San Francisco Foundation, San Francisco Unified School District, San Francisco Foundation, Small Change Foundation, Sprint Foundation, St. Paul Travelers Foundation, Until There Is A Cure Foundation, Van Loben Sels/Rembe Rock Foundation, Wells Fargo Foundation, David B. Gold Foundation, Fleishhacker Foundation, Western Union Foundation, and the generous contributions of our individual donors.

For further press information, please contact:
Publicist, Anne McMurrey at mcmurrey@nctcsf.org or 415/861-4914 X116

For YouthAware Bookings and inquiries, please contact:
YouthAware Programs Director, Sara Staley at sara@nctcsf.org or 415/861-4914 X109