

# TAKE FIVE

A Revealing Q & A  
with...

**Maev Beaty**



Maev Beaty was last seen at Tarragon in *Wide Awake Hearts*. In her 18-year professional career she has gathered 50 stage credits from across the country, ranging from new plays to the classics. She originated Bunny in her third of four recent seasons at the Stratford Festival. She is a Toronto Theatre Critics' Award winner, three-time Dora winner and nine-time nominee in both performance and writing. She's been a proud member of huge theatre ensemble endeavours such as Theatrefront's *The Mill* series, Volcano Theatre's *Another Africa* (LuminaTO/Canadian Stage) and Nightwood's *The Penelopiad*. Next fall she'll be playing "Hannah Moscovitch" in their play (also created with Ann-Marie Kerr) *Secret Life of a Mother* at the Theatre Centre.

### **1. When did you first think of yourself as an artist?**

I'm not sure I ever thought of myself as anything different, my parents in no way separated creating and consuming art of all kinds from "real life". But having ineffectually tried dance, several musical instruments, several visual art mediums and making jewelry out of de-soldered circuit boards, I think I'm really lucky that I went to a high school (KCVI in Kingston Ontario) that let me believe in myself as a theatre maker. It was a non-specialized secondary school that still made the arts essential in their curriculum.

### **2. Who helped you develop your voice as an artist?**

Quite honestly, dozens of generously honest colleagues and mentors. And listening to my audiences. At the centre, though, is my husband Alan Dilworth. We have been collaborating since 1999, his compassion and honesty have entirely shaped my priorities and process.

### **3. What's something that's inspired you this week?**

CBC's Sunday Edition story about Marguerite Andersen, brought to my attention by my director Sarah Garton Stanley. She wrote a book at the age of 90 that is now being used to teach high school students about similar themes explored in our play.

### **4. What's your favourite restaurant in the city to visit?**

It was a different answer five years ago before we had our daughter. Now I love a diner breakfast at the Grenadier in High Park. Though BorrelTO recently filled my whole family with crazy delicious fried Dutch things for my parents' 50th anniversary. It's worth this west-end girl traveling across town on the Bloor Line. Also so much yum at Mamakas on Ossington and Fat Pasha on Dupont.

### **5. What do you want to see more of on Toronto stages?**

Just MORE! I am deeply, deeply inspired by what I'm seeing on our stages now, in theatres of all sizes, I think the depth and breadth of what's being explored is thrilling, and with so much heart, humanity and humour. I just want more people to be able to see it and afford it! We are in an acutely profound moment of asking what it means to be human AND humane, politically and interpersonally, and I believe there is no better forum to engage in these questions than in the theatre.