

# HOOKED

**Synopsis:** is comprised of seven dramatic monologue poems by Canadian poet Carolyn Smart. The monologues of seven women who lived passionate and often destructive lives in the beginning half of the twentieth Century they form a chorus of obsession, self-destruction, and longing. *Myra Hindley* and *Unity Mitford* both fall under the influence of charismatic, evil men; *Zelda Fitzgerald*, *Elizabeth Smart*, and *Carrington* labour for the love of men who are ultimately inaccessible to them; *Jane Bowles* and *Carson McCullers* self-medicate with alcohol and pills to escape their crippling pain and anxiety ..... **All are hooked.**

**History:** The book of poems was first developed into a one-woman performance directed by Layne Coleman and performed by Nicky Guadagni entitled “Hooked-in-House to be performed in people’s homes”. All over their homes; their rec room, their kitchen, a bedroom, the dining room. The evening was intertwined with sumptuous food and drink pertinent to each of the women characters. The food and the theatre are layered throughout the evening.

It is “Theatre as dinner party”. The audience has been powerfully moved by the portrayals women in particular have identified with these women in history. Conversations abound. Debates ensue. *It’s rich.....Too rich for most audiences to see.*

**HOOKED** was re-worked as a stage production and an abbreviated four monologue version were performed at the **SummerWorks Festival**. It was a huge success with audience members wanting more. In 2013 *Hooked* made its European debut at the **Edinburgh Fringe Festival** to rave reviews from the Times and The List to name a few.

**Now:** The Play has moved from static story telling into narrative and physical theatre; actor Nicky Guadagni shape-shifts between characters with nothing but the pure alchemy of acting while capturing the emotional, physical and mental idiosyncrasies and exposing difficult complex figures of these seven infamous women in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The characters morph effortlessly into flawless incantations of each woman: *Myra Hindley*, *Unity Mitford*, *Zelda Fitzgerald*, *Dora Carrington*, *Elizabeth Smart*, *Carson McCullers* and *Jane Bowles*. You may not like them but you cannot look away.

Guadagni bring to life each of the women as they look back on their obsessions, their twisted families, and their demon angels. This is a production devastatingly articulate about rich creative women hobbled by history, powerful men and strong liquor. This is unforgettable theatre of compulsion, addiction and love. They will shock and break your heart. A production rich in language and history to be savoured for its humour, skill and intimacy