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San Francisco's JUMP! Theatre Announces a New Producing Artistic Director.

JUMP! Theatre, is proud to introduce Roberta D'Alois as its new Producing Artistic Director, replacing co-founders Rebecca Longworth, who has stepped down to focus on directing, and Nena St. Louis, who will perform in an administrative capacity for the theatre. Jump! most recently produced an original work, Cuckoo, based on company member Madison Clell's eponymous, autobiographical graphic novel. The production, Jump!'s sixth, earned a Critics' Choice mention from Theatre Bay Area and played to full audiences at the Phoenix Theatre.

In Ms. D'Alois' capable hands, JUMP! Theatre, founded in 2005 by Longworth and Nena St. Louis, will continue in its mission to develop and produce high-quality theatre based on authentic experiences of mental illness.

Ms. D'Alois is a San Francisco-based monologist, playwright and director. She has a B.A in Theatre from Brandeis University and an M.A. in Psychology from J. F. K. University in Orinda, CA. Her most recent play, "Rapture Makes Perfect" a fantasia on the 2008 Presidential election, was awarded a development grant from the International Centre for Woman Playwrights and received an honorable mention in the 2009 Bay Area Playwrights Showcase. She is a proud Member of Theatre Bay Area and the Dramatists' Guild. She directed "Saint" for Jump! in May 2008.

Ms. D'Alois will also guide the company's Springboard Projects, started in 2006. Springboard nurtures playwrights through its established dramaturgical process and serves to generate new plays, not only for Jump! Theatre's main stage, but also for outreach presentations to mental health consumers and educational groups.

Over the years, Jump! has developed several original plays, including “Peas Porridge” by Gaetana Caldwell-Smith (Best Play at Dominican University’s 2007 Marin Fringe Festival) and Paoli Lacy's “Angry Gods and Lost Marbles,” which had a staged reading at the Magic Theatre and went on to workshop productions in the Midwest.

In 2007, Jump! produced British playwright Sarah Kane's “4:48 Psychosis” at NOHspace; toured two new plays to local chapters of National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI); and hosted several post-show discussions with mental health clients and caregivers.

Future projects include a Springboard performance in Spring 2010 with new works developed through partnerships with several local playwrights and performers, and two potential co-productions of full-length works for 2010 and 2011.

JUMP! Theatre welcomes Roberta D’Alois as its new Producing Artistic Director. With her decades’ long involvement with Bay Area theatre, she will help bring the company to greater prominence and continue its excellent work.

To learn more about Jump! Theatre, please go to [www. Jumptheatre.org](http://www.Jumptheatre.org).