



Stop It Now!®

Together We Can Prevent the Sexual Abuse of Children

Press Release

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Musical Confronts Family Secrets

Stop It Now! to lead discussion

New York, NY: Theatergoers looking for a provocative and compelling performance need to see "**Love Jerry.**" In this intense family drama, the issue of child sexual abuse is sensitively portrayed in an honest depiction of a family in crisis.

NYMF and Works Productions will present the New York premiere of **LOVE JERRY** by **Megan Gogerty**, directed by **Hilary Adams**, at **The Barrow Group Theatre** (312 West 36th Street) beginning performances on **Thursday, September 18** thru **September 27th**, 2008 at The Barrow Group Theatre (312 West 36th Street). For more info, go to www.nymf.org or www.canyoulovejerry.com.

"Playwright, Megan Gogerty does not sensationalize the subject or manipulate the audience to take sides. Instead, Love Jerry opens a window for dialogue on the reality faced by families dealing with child sexual abuse," says Deborah Donovan Rice, Acting CEO of Stop It Now! and a panelist for the Talkback. "We hope that every adult who sees this play will take on the responsibility of talking to someone about it, which is first step to prevention."

Stop It Now!®, will lead a Talkback session **on September 20 after the 4:30 performance**. In addition to the Talkback session, Stop It Now! will provide guidebooks and information on prevention of child sexual abuse.

"Every day on our Stop It Now! Helpline, we hear from individuals like Kate, who know the child who has been harmed and the person who harmed them," notes Deborah Donovan Rice. "Statistics show that people who sexually abuse children are someone that the children and their families know and trust, most often someone within the family. At least one in three girls and one in seven boys will be sexually abused at some point in their childhood."

For information about how to stop or prevent the sexual abuse of children, please call the Stop It Now! Helpline at 1.888.PREVENT (1.888.773.8368) 9:00am-6:00pm, Monday through Friday or visit the Stop it Now! website at www.stopitnow.org

Stop It Now! helps adults protect children from sexual abuse. We provide the balanced information and practical guidance adults need to keep kids safe in their homes and communities. Through our website, www.stopitnow.org, national Helpline (1.888.PREVENT), materials and community programs, we help families and communities take action to stop child sexual abuse - *before there's another victim to heal and another offender to punish.*

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