**For Immediate Release**

**Berni Stapleton’s *THE HAUNTING OF MARGARET DULEY* shines a light on Newfoundland’s first novelist**

(Thursday September 19, 2019 – St. John’s, NL)  **Margaret Duley** (1894-1968) was Newfoundland and Labrador's first novelist of significance – of either sex.

Her bold portrayal of the female perspective in her four novels led to global acclaim in the late 30’s, 40’s and 50s.

Yet Duley received limited attention in the land she loved, and her name is sparsely acknowledged to this day, with all but one of her novels out of print.

Under their vision of community enlightenment based on the core beliefs of feminism, PerSIStence Theatre hopes to shine a light on her place in our province’s history.

In Berni Stapleton’s new play, ***The Haunting of Margaret Duley***, audiences will meet Margaret as an emerging and daring author, as an unconventional spiritual traveler, and as a human being ultimately undone by a relentless illness.

This premiere production opens at the LSPU Hall on Wednesday September 25 2019 – the 125th anniversary of Margaret Duley’s birth in 1894.

A trio of Newfoundland theatre powerhouses, Donna Butt, Amy House and Ruth Lawrence, come together as the stars of *The Haunting of Margaret Duley*.

Directed by PerSIStence Theatre’s producing artistic director Jenn Deon, the production also features Torquil Colbo, Edward Daranyi, Christopher Dunn, Mallory Fisher, Darryl Hopkins and Marie Jones.

The design team features Holly Meyer-Dymny (set & lighting), Kelly Bruton (costumes), and Kathryn Burke (sound).

*The Haunting of Margaret Duley* plays at the LSPU Hall September 25-28 at 8pm, closing with a 2pm matinee on Sunday September 29.

A talk-back with director Jenn Deon, playwright Berni Stapleton, actor Ruth Lawrence and Margaret Duley’s niece Dr. Margot Duley will take place after the performance on Friday September 27.

For tickets or more information, visit [persistencetheatre.com](http://persistencetheatre.com).

This production is supported by the Government of Canada’s Department of Canadian Heritage, Arts NL, the City of St. John’s, Budden & Associates, and the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW).

**About PerSIStence Theatre**

Founded in the wake of the 2017 Women's March Movement, PerSIStence Theatre Company Inc. is a professional, non-profit organization that responds to the persistent and universal need for promoting, understanding and embracing the core beliefs of feminism.

They are an affiliate member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres (PACT) and an executive member of the Association of Professional Theatres of Newfoundland and Labrador (APTNL).

*"Through professional theatre and related initiatives, we work to change hearts and minds."*

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Photos and more info available at <https://www.persistencetheatre.com/the-haunting-of-margaret-duley.html>