

V-DAY BERMUDA JOINS ONE BILLION RISING FOR JUSTICE CAMPAIGN

**Presenting A Benefit Reading of
“A MEMORY, A MONOLOGUE, A RANT AND A PRAYER:
Writings To Stop Violence Against Women and Girls.”**

**with
Class Afloat Students and Crew of the Norwegian tall ship, SS Sørlandet**

Join us as we RISE to Demand Justice for Women and Girl Survivors of Violence

HAMILTON, Bermuda – March 19, 2014: On Friday, March 21, 2014, from 12 – 1pm, V-Day Bermuda and Class Afloat – West Island College International will present a lunch hour benefit reading of V-Day’s *A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant and a Prayer* at City Hall on Church Street.

Last year, over 5,800 V-Day benefits were held around the world raising awareness and funds for ending violence against women. These highly successful events raised over \$5 million through performances, readings, film screenings and a documentary. Thanks to Class Afloat students visiting Hamilton, Bermuda has joined this global movement as part of the V-Day 2014 Campaign.

Class Afloat first discussed getting involved when they visited Goree Island in Dakar, Senegal, which was the final staging ground before slaves were shipped to the Americas and Caribbean. A Class Afloat staff member was standing with a female student reading about how the captive women of the slave trade would abort their own babies as a form of rebellion against their captors. The teacher and student wondered together how the African women would do this, and what atrocities they put themselves through. The student then mentioned she was interested in learning more about women’s issues. Because her teacher had been involved in the V-Day campaign several times in her community in Alberta, Canada, she suggested the initiative to the group, who decided to pursue their own campaign.

“The topic interested me. Usually stories are romanticized, but these aren’t. These stories are raw,” explains Grade 12 Class Afloat student Romane. Fellow Grade 11 student Nicole, agreed: “It’s a good cause. I got involved to help raise awareness about violence against women.”

This special benefit performance is presented this year as part of V-Day’s campaign ONE BILLION RISING FOR JUSTICE, a global call for women survivors of violence and those who love them to gather safely in places where they are entitled to justice and release their stories through art, dance, ritual, song, spoken word, and heart-felt testimonies.

The general public is invited to attend the event in support of the global and local movement. Any generous donations are welcome and very much appreciated, with 100% of the funds raised going towards the cause, 90% staying in Bermuda with SCARS and/or the Centre Against Abuse and 10% sent to the global V-Day Spotlight campaign, who provide resources worldwide to host such events.

About A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant and A Prayer: Writings To Stop Violence Against Women and Girls,

This publication is a groundbreaking collection of monologues by world-renowned authors and playwrights, edited by Eve Ensler and Mollie Doyle and commissioned for the first V-Day: UNTIL THE VIOLENCE STOPS festival, which took place June 2006 in New York City. Proceeds from the book benefit V-Day.

These diverse voices rise up in a collective roar to break open, expose, and examine the insidiousness of violence at all levels: brutality, neglect, a punch, even a put-down. The volume features such authors and topics as: Edward Albee on S&M; Maya Angelou on women's work; Michael Cunningham on self-mutilation; Dave Eggers on a Sudanese abduction; Edwidge Danticat on a border crossing; Carol Gilligan on a daughter witnessing her mother being hit; Susan Miller on raising a son as a single mother; Sharon Olds on a bra; Patricia Bosworth on her own physically abusive relationship; Jane Fonda on reclaiming our Mojo; and many more.

These writings are inspired, funny, angry, heartfelt, tragic, and beautiful. But above all, together they create a true and profound portrait of how violence against women affects every one of us. The book includes information on how to organize V-Day events and readings of the book. The performance is a call to the world to demand an end to violence against women.

About One Billion Rising

One Billion Rising was the biggest mass action in human history. The campaign began as a call to action based on the staggering UN statistic that 1 in 3 women on the planet will be beaten or raped during her lifetime. With the world population at 7 billion, this adds up to more than ONE BILLION WOMEN AND GIRLS. On 14 February 2013, people across the world came together to strike, dance, and RISE in defiance of the injustices women suffer, demanding an end at last to violence against women. Over 10,000 events took place on the ground and the campaign took over media and social media worldwide for 48 hours, trending in 7 countries – 4x in the US alone. The wildly successful grassroots campaign was covered widely by media in all corners of world including [The New York Times](#), [The Guardian](#), [NPR](#), and many more. www.onebillionrising.org.

About V-Day

V-Day is a global activist movement to end violence against women and girls that raises funds and awareness through benefit productions of Playwright/Founder Eve Ensler's award winning play *The Vagina Monologues* and other artistic works. The V-Day movement has raised over \$100 million; educated millions about the issue of violence against women and the efforts to end it; crafted international educational, media and PSA campaigns; reopened shelters; and funded over 13,000 community-based anti-violence programs and safe houses in Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, Kenya, South Dakota, Egypt, and Iraq. V-Day has received numerous acknowledgements and awards and is, one of the Top-Rated organizations on both Charity Navigator and Guidestar. V-Day's most recent global campaign, ONE BILLION RISING, galvanized over one billion women and men on a global day of action towards ending violence against women and girls.

What is a V-Day Campaign?

A V-Day Campaign is a catalyst for mobilizing women and men to heighten awareness about violence against women and girls. By creating this global community, V-Day strives to empower women to find their collective voices and demand an end to the violence that affects one in

three women in the U.S and around the world. **V-Day Bermuda** is a local effort within the worldwide context of the 2014 V-Day Campaign.

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For more information about:

Class Afloat: www.classafloat.com

V-Day: www.v-day.org

SCARS: www.scarsbermuda.com

Centre Against Abuse: www.centreagainstabuse.bm

The Sørlandet: www.sorlandet.org

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