

**'Red Hot Patriot: The Kick-Ass Wit of Molly Ivins'
makes its Texas premiere at ZACH Theatre January 29**

***Acclaimed Austin actress Barbara Chisholm stars as Molly
Ivins***

WHO: ZACH – Austin's Theatre and Texas' longest running theatre company presents:

WHAT: RED HOT PATRIOT: THE KICK ASS WIT OF MOLLY IVINS
Written by MARGARET ENGEL and ALLISON ENGEL • Directed by
DAVID ESBJORNSON

The unsinkable Molly Ivins, Austin's no-holds-barred newspaper columnist and best-selling author, is back to tell it like it is in a side-splittingly funny play. A true Texas original, Ivins was a sharp-tongued wit who skewered the "Lege" and the good ol' boys who ran it with her unforgettable humor and wisdom. Written by twin journalist sisters, Margaret and Allison Engel, and directed by Broadway's David Esbjornson (whose production of DRIVING MISS DAISY with Vanessa Redgrave and James Earl Jones is now on Broadway), the play celebrates Molly's courage and tenacity – even when a complacent America wasn't listening — in a play that is nothing short of kick-ass. Landing the role following a national search, Austin's extraordinarily talented Barbara Chisholm stars as Molly Ivins.

ZACH Theatre's Producing Artistic Director Dave Steakley notes: "ZACH is thrilled to connect Mr. Esbjornson, a nationally acclaimed director, with one of Austin's best and most loved actors, Barbara Chisholm, on a new play that captures the heart and vitality of a beloved Austin journalist whose life and career played out on the national political stage. It's so great to hear Molly's voice again in Austin through Barbara and courtesy of Margaret and Allison Engel's affectionate portrait. We are thrilled that the playwrights chose Austin and ZACH Theatre for the Texas premiere of their new play."

WHERE: ZACH Theatre's Kleberg Stage

1421 W. Riverside Dr. (Corner of Riverside Dr. and S. Lamar.)

WHEN: **Previews:** January 25-28 – Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, at 8 pm

Champagne Opening Night and Press Night: Saturday, January 29 at 8 pm

Performances continue through March 13, 2011

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

TICKETS: Tickets range from \$20 to \$57. \$15 tickets are available to students starting one hour prior to curtain time. Charge tickets by phone at 512-476-0541, ext. 1 or visit <http://www.zachtheatre.org>.

LINKS: [The Huffington Post review of RED HOT PATRIOT.](#)
[Listen to NPR's Saturday Edition on RED HOT PATRIOT.](#)

For real-time updates on ZACH Theatre news, events and happenings, visit <http://www.zachtheatre.org/blog/>, add ZACH Theatre as a friend on Facebook and follow ZACH on Twitter [@zachtheatre](#).

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About ZACH Theatre

Founded in 1933 and named for Austin-reared actor Zachary Scott, ZACH Theatre is celebrated for producing innovative, dramatic, musical and comedic entertainment of the highest quality. As Texas' longest running theatre company and Austin's leading professional theatre, ZACH Theatre features the best and brightest talent from Austin and nationwide. Under the leadership of Producing Artistic Director Dave Steakley and Managing Director Elisabeth Challener, ZACH's unique productions and intimate theatre experiences have been recognized by the National Endowment for the Arts, The Shubert Foundation, and *The New York Times* as well as with numerous theatrical awards. ZACH serves more than 170,000 Central Texas adults and youth each year at its two-theatre home in the heart of Austin. ZACH Theatre is also a leader in the Austin community, fostering artistic education, expression and development in children, teens and adults through a variety of outreach opportunities.

ZACH Theatre is sponsored, in part, by Applied Materials, *Austin American-Statesman*, Time Warner Cable, Austin News TV 36, The Dell Foundation, Hahn, Texas, SOL Marketing Concepts, The Shubert Foundation, The City of Austin - under the auspices of the Austin Arts Commission, The Texas Commission on the Arts, The National Endowment for the Arts, Strong Events, OnRamp, The Mitchell Group Consulting, Kirk

Tuck Photography and Holiday Inn, Lady Bird Lake. For more information, visit <http://www.zachtheatre.org>.