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BOOKS WITH FEET KICKS OFF SEASON IV WITH
BERNICE BOBS HER HAIR BY F. SCOTT FITZGERALD

Los Angeles, February 2010– *Books with Feet*, a non-profit 501(c)(3) theatrical organization launches its fourth season with a classic 1920's version of Mean Girls - "Bernice Bobs Her Hair". *Books with Feet*, dedicated to stirring the senses and imagination by performing classic literature, is featuring F. Scott Fitzgerald as part of the National Endowment of the Arts Big Read Grant program hosted by the City of West Hollywood. *Books with Feet* will kick off the month of Fitzgerald programming at **Fiesta Hall in Plummer Park, West Hollywood on Tuesday, March 2, 2010 at 7 p.m. and is a free event.**

In addition to the kick off performance, *Books with Feet* will lend their talents to the **Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 Fourth Street, Santa Monica** as part of a benefit series for its 50th Anniversary. Performances will be **Friday, March 5 at 8:00 p.m., Saturday, March 6 at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, March 7 at 6:00 p.m.** Tickets are \$20 and all proceeds go to raise money for the Playhouse. For reservations call **310-394-9779.**

Books with Feet transforms "Bernice Bobs Her Hair" from the page to the stage, performing every word of F. Scott Fitzgerald's story of eighteen-year old Bernice who is visiting her snobbish and superficially, popular cousin, Marjorie. The story chronicles a new generation of American youth whose excesses astound their elders, and Fitzgerald's delightful, bold, and infuriating characters provide a template for the modern socialite, and the cruel pressures which demand that individuals conform to the standards of a social set. Bernice is considered boring and dull by Marjorie and her friends because she can't make witty conversation and doesn't dress fashionably. Bernice finally agrees to let Marjorie teach her how to be popular. For conversational purposes, Marjorie suggests that Bernice use the topic of bobbing her hair. In 1920 when the story was first published in a collection entitled "Flappers and Philosophers", short hair was a daring new fashion, adopted by only the most adventurous women, and it had the power to shock the average person. All of Fitzgerald's stories faithfully and entertainingly depict the changing face of youth in his time; the women are envisioned as forward-thinking, revolutionary "flappers" (slang for the

kind of new, fast-talking, Charleston-dancing, jazz-listening, leg-baring gal that emerged at this time), while the men, who either narrowly missed or survived the horrors of World War I, are labeled "philosophers." The young characters we encounter in "Bernice" are on a different schedule than their parents; instead of planning for the future, they're all about living in the moment.

"Bernice Bobs Her Hair" stars Laura Boccaletti as Mrs. Harvey, Kyle Burgess as a dancer, Emily DeRenzis as Bernice, Mathias Dill as Charley Paulson and Barber 2 (Friday, March 5 performance), Adam Hunter Howard as G. Reece Stoddard, Sarah Kelly as Roberta Dillon, Derek Kokinda as Otis Ormonde, Jenna Mate as Marjorie Harvey, Scott Mikels as Warren McIntyre, Greg Nystrom as Barber 1 and Mr. Harvey, Tara Redfield as Genevieve Ormonde, Elliot Schiff as Charley Paulson and Barber 2, and Emanuel Ward as the Limo Driver story teller.

"Bernice Bobs Her Hair" is directed by *Books with Feet's* Executive Producer and Artistic Director, Genevieve Morrill. Genevieve made her directing debut to rave reviews in 1990 with *White Dwarf* at the Playwright's Center in Chicago. She has directed and produced numerous productions in New York, Chicago and Seattle, but chose to take a hiatus that turned into an 18-year corporate career. Genevieve was Vice President of the Pacific Design Center for the past 9 years and recently resigned her position in order to form her own corporation *Persona Studios*, and *Books with Feet*, a non-profit organization.

Rebecca Herrick is producer of "Bernice Bobs Her Hair". Her credits include Seasons I, II and III of *Books with Feet* as well as numerous short films that can be seen on YouTube and Atom.com. She wrote her most recent short film, *Decode-A-Mate*, and continues to perform long-form improv at *The Second City Hollywood*.

Books with Feet, a non-profit corporation, transforms classic fictional short stories and novellas into staged performances. The featured literary giants are the true stars as the actors honor the author by allowing the literature to speak for itself and tell its story. Performed minimalist and with simplicity, *Books with Feet* targets school groups and other community organizations. The written word comes alive as the authors' intended language is converted from the page to the stage, putting the text "on its feet". It is estimated that 860 million adults worldwide (nearly two-thirds of whom are women) do not know how to read or write, and that more than 100 million children lack access to education. Watch and listen as *Books with Feet* honors the written word, and inspires youth and adults alike to do the same.

For more information about Books with Feet please call (310) 890-1246.

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