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**UMO Ensemble and ACTLab Present *VIC: A Look at the Life and Times of Victoria Woodhull*,  
April 24–May 10**

**Immediate Release—February 26—ACTLab** favorite UMO Ensemble returns with a genre-blending look at a little-known piece of American history. Victoria Woodhull became the first woman to run for President of the United States in the 1872 election. An equally famous and notorious public figure, Victoria’s radical beliefs aided her contemporaries in completely erasing her from history.

In 1872, the United States was in turmoil. The Civil War had shattered notions of what it meant to be ‘American.’ Slavery was eradicated, but reconstruction and racism were coiling around what it meant to be ‘free.’ Robber barons were building railroads and running banks, creating the seeds of what Mark Twain coined the Gilded Age. Suffragists were calling for women’s right to vote and Victoria Woodhull was making history. Victoria and her sister Tennessee were co-owners of the first woman-run stock brokerage in the US. They were also newspaper publishers and fierce proponents of free speech, spiritualism, and free love.

Playwright Maria Glanz says, “I wanted to bring the inspiring story of these women to life as only UMO can, blending theatre, music, movement, spectacle and storytelling. With the 2020 election upon us and the 100-year anniversary of a woman’s right to vote, *VIC* shines a light on the deeply rooted beliefs and attitudes that continue to plague and challenge us as a nation. Politics, sex, racism, religion, capitalistic greed versus socialist ideals—all play out in this heady, moving, powerful swirl of a production. It’s going to be a wild, séance-inspired ride through an unforgettable American story.”

*VIC* brings together a company of 20 artists with backgrounds in theatre, dance, circus, music and more. The cast, directed by Ensemble member Elizabeth Klob and featuring Maria Glanz, also includes musicians Jason Webley and Gretta Harley, choreographer Lynelle Sjoberg, and a troupe of 12 performers.

*VIC* runs April 24–May 10, 2020 in the Bullitt Cabaret at ACT Theatre, 700 Union Street in downtown Seattle. Tickets are \$25 (Industry, Student, and Senior discount available). Tickets may be purchased at [acttheatre.org/VIC](http://acttheatre.org/VIC), by phone at 206.292.7676, or at the ACT Ticket Office at 700 Union Street.

**About UMO Ensemble**

UMO is committed to an ensemble of performers who create and compose their own productions. UMO’s creative process is rooted in physical theatre and current UMO Ensemble members are Elizabeth Klob, Executive Artist, Maria Glanz, Lyam White, Janet McAlpin and David Godsey. Previously with ACTLab, UMO has presented *Falling Awake*, *FAIL BETTER: Beckett Moves UMO*, *Red Tiger Tales*, and *El Dorado*.

UMO began their creative collaboration in 1989. Since then, UMO has become known as one of the most innovative, compelling and critically acclaimed performance companies based in the Pacific Northwest. The Ensemble has performed throughout the Northwest, the United States, Canada and Europe and is considered one of the premier ensembles to coin the phrase “physical theatre”. UMO has created over 30 new works of theatre, expanded to include a rich family of multidisciplinary associate artists, and inspired the next generation of artists through The UMO School of Physical Arts.

**About ACTLab**

Launched in 2007, ACTLab serves as a creative partner in art and community. Working with local, national, and international theatre-makers, ACTLab strives to amplify diverse voices and contribute to the growth of both emerging and seasoned artists and companies by providing space for experimentation and collaboration.

Photos available upon request.

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