

# FORREST & ASSOCIATES

Pegge Forrest • Jay Irwin • Debbie Swanson • Lisa Bianconi  
818-760-0964 or 818-693-0964

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**February 9, 2007**



*Hang on for a wild ride with a witty Brit in the*  
**World Premiere of**  
**Natasha Wood's One-Woman Show**  
**directed by Cameron Watson**

***"Rolling With Laughter"***  
**April 2 – May 8, 2007**  
**at El Portal Theatre in North Hollywood**

**North Hollywood, CA** – The World Premiere of **Natasha Wood's one woman show *Rolling With Laughter*** opens at the historic El Portal Theatre in North Hollywood, CA, Monday, April 2, 2007. This tale of life from Wood's unique vantage point is written by Ms. Wood and Beverly Sanders, with Cameron Watson directing. Performances are in the El Portal's Forum Theatre at 8 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays through May 8. Tickets are \$20 previews (April 2, 3), \$25 for regular performances April 9-May 8. For tickets and information, call 818-508-4200, or visit [www.elportaltheatre.com](http://www.elportaltheatre.com).

People call Wood "the Luckiest Girl in the World." She's also bawdy, brazen and brave. She can move to a new country, make a TV network tow the line on a budget – but she can't lift a pint of milk. She can't walk, either. She has SMA (Spinal Muscular Atrophy). It may not seem like it, but Natasha has multiple gifts.

While the usual phrase is "confined to a wheelchair," there isn't anything that confines this witty Brit's spirit. As she quips, "What I lack in movement, I make up for vocally!" At 36, Wood is living her dream of living in America and performing. She had quite the jet-set life in England with a fairytale marriage, quirky parents, siblings, and a hot job as production manager for the BBC.

Now, she is writing a new chapter of stories that will keep you "rolling with laughter," sometimes through tears. Her story is an empowering, humorous, one-of-a-kind take on life, love and lingerie – with a little disability and love of firemen thrown in – that inspires others to live as large as Wood does on a daily basis. This girl won't be kept down – she's rolling on, and spreading the laughter with her. Hang on and enjoy the ride!

Following this World Premiere, ***Rolling with Laughter*** will continue on to London for the Fringe Festival press previews in July 2007, in preparation for the Edinburgh Fringe Festival August 5-27, New York in October, culminating in a one-night fund-raising event in London's West End for The Jennifer Trust (a Spinal Muscular Atrophy support organization) in the spring of 2008.

**Cameron Watson (Director)** began his extensive professional career in New York City, starring in the original production of Horton Foote's "The Widow Claire" at Circle in the Square, and three other Foote plays on the West coast. Watson participated in the first annual Horton Foote Playwright's Conference and recently directed the Ovation award-winning stage production of Foote's "The Habitation of Dragons" in Hollywood.

Watson's feature film writing and directing debut, "Our Very Own," starring Allison Janney, Jason Ritter, Cheryl Hines, Keith Carradine, Hilarie Burton, Faith Prince and Autumn Reeser, was just picked up by Miramax Films. At El Portal Theatre in North Hollywood, Watson directed the American stage premiere of Dodie Smith's "I Capture the Castle."

Watson has appeared in numerous plays in the U.S. including many L.A. productions. He has appeared in dozens of television programs including the recent Hallmark Hall of Fame movie adaptation of Anne Tyler's "Back When We Were Grownups" costarring with Blythe Danner, Jack Palance and Faye Dunaway.

**Beverly Sanders (Co-author)** is an actress who studied with Lee Strasberg has appeared in films, television and theater for many years. Eight years ago she wrote and performed her own award winning show, "Yes Sir, That's My Baby." After a successful run in Los Angeles, and Circle Rep Festival in New York, she was approached by the Dean of UCLA to teach a One Person Show class in their extension program. She now teaches Acting to Writers at USC and teaches her own private one person show class in which she helps the actors develop and direct their show. From this class five successful shows emerged, playing in Los Angeles, New York and Chicago. "Your Mother Should Know," "My Crown of Jewels," and "Girl, Your Hair's on Fire," are still playing in various theaters. Throughout her career Sanders has appeared in over 75 television shows and commercials including regular roles on both "Mary Tyler Moore" and "Rhoda" and for over a decade was Louise the spokeswoman for Arm and Hammer Baking Soda.

**Natasha Wood** is a British writer, performer, ex-BBC television production manager and free spirit. Developing her one-woman show is one of the most challenging projects of her career. Wood has a rare disorder called *spinal muscular atrophy* that has left her so weak she can't even lift a glass of milk, and as a result she has spent her entire life in a wheelchair. Yet she's led a huge life that she hopes will inspire others.

Born to working-class parents in the middle of England at Nottingham, she had a fun and unusual childhood at the center (literally) of her parents' bustling lingerie business. This unconventional upbringing, as well as physical challenges led her to seek out a career as a performer, ultimately landing an opportunity to tour with a national theatre company in London. Wood then met her future husband, and eventually transitioned from on-stage to behind-the-scenes work. Before long, she had become one of the BBC's most valued production managers, working on several of their most prestigious programs, and was busy year-round scheduling and production managing film shoots throughout the world. Yet after 14 years, her jet-set marriage came to a sad but amicable end. Wood was forced to reexamine her life, and re-learn how to do everything by herself. A deep wave of sadness followed, along with a serious health crisis, and the sudden death of her brother (also afflicted with SMA).

At a low point, Wood was given a new BBC assignment in New York—managing the hit show *What Not To Wear*, for TLC and took the plum assignment as a sign (and reminder) that she was not destined to give up. With a renewed sense of purpose, Wood successfully completed her New York duties for the BBC, packed up her notebook of stories and headed for LA—and in the process her one-woman show, ***Rolling with Laughter***, was born! To read her blog, log on to [www.rollingwithlaughter.com](http://www.rollingwithlaughter.com).

"...a sharp wit and a natural gift of the gab...She combines a brash Northern Brit's sensibility with an endearing vulnerability." -- ***You Magazine - UK Mail on Sunday***

**Note:**

**For interviews contact Pegge Forrest @ Forrest & Associates, 818-693-0964**

# FORREST & ASSOCIATES

Pegge Forrest • Debbi Swanson • Jay Irwin  
818-760-0964 or 818-693-0964

## Calendar

**What:** Natasha Wood's *Rolling With Laughter*

**Who:** Conceived and Performed by **Natasha Wood**  
Written by **Natasha Wood & Beverly Sanders**  
Directed by **Cameron Watson**

**When:** Previews at 8 p.m. April 2, 3, 2007  
Gala Opening 8 p.m. Monday, April 9  
Regular performances at 8 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays  
Closing at 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 8

**Where:** El Portal Theatre – Forum Theatre  
5269 Lankershim Blvd.  
North Hollywood, CA 91601

**Tickets:** \$20 Previews April 2, 3  
\$25 April 9 - May 8

For tickets or more information, call 818-508-4200 or visit  
[www.elportaltheatre.com](http://www.elportaltheatre.com).

Following this World Premiere, *Rolling with Laughter* will continue on to London for press previews, then the Edinburgh Fringe Festival August 5-27, New York in October, and culminating in a one-night fund-raising event in London's West End for The Jennifer Trust (a Spinal Muscular Atrophy support organization) in the spring of 2008. To read Natasha's blog, visit [www.rollingwithlaughter.com](http://www.rollingwithlaughter.com).