

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW FROM TCG BOOKS:

SPIDER SPECULATIONS

JO CARSON'S PERSONAL JOURNEY

THROUGH MAKING ART AND HEALING THE BODY

“Sometimes the best story I’ve got is my own, so I’m using it.” – Author Jo Carson

“Jo Carson has distilled some decades of community-conscious story collecting and playmaking into a pungent blend of narrative psychology, neuroscience, and spirit. Her work should be essential reading for socially responsible artists of every kind.”

– Joseph Sobol, PhD; Storyteller and Director of the Storytelling Graduate Program at East Tennessee State University

“I think this is profound, engaging and funny book is the very best that has been written on the topic of generating theater in communities. I use it in all my classes. My students love it.”

– Steve Kent, Director of Theatre at University of La Verne; Founder, The Institute of Conscious Acting

NEW YORK, June 2008—**Theatre Communications Group (TCG) is pleased to announce the publication of *Spider Speculations: A Physics and Biophysics of Storytelling* by Jo Carson, the East Tennessee-based writer, theater artist, and storyteller.** In this unique, groundbreaking book, Carson draws a web of connections after the life-altering experience of a brown recluse spider bite. Applying cutting-edge mind-body science, quantum physics and ancient shamanistic techniques, she describes how stories work in our bodies and our lives. Carson, who has an

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extraordinary ability to capture the spoken word in her community-based work, sets down this story in her own distinctive voice, interspersing her personal journey with examples of her performance work.

“Jo Carson understands the transformative power of storytelling on both a molecular and a community level,” says Lisa Mount, director of Artistic Logistics, “Her genius is to be able to link the micro and the macro, and you’ll be astonished at how those links get made. If this book doesn’t change how you think about your own stories and the stories you want to put onstage, then, to borrow from Atticus Finch, ‘You’ve got another think coming.’”

Jo Carson lives and reads and writes in East Tennessee. She has published award-winning plays, short stories, children’s books, essays, poems and other work, and was an occasional commentator on NPR’s All Things Considered. Her play *Whispering to Horses* and solo show *If God Came Down...* premiered at Seven Stages in Atlanta. Her book of monologues and dialogues, *Stories I Ain’t Told Nobody Yet*, made Editor’s Choice on Booklist and ALA’s recommended list, and is also available from TCG Books. Another book about her community work, a collection of favorite pieces from the story plays she has written: *Liars, Thieves and Other Sinners on the Bench*, is forthcoming from TCG in 2008.

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Theatre Communications Group is the national organization for the American theatre, encompassing a membership of 17,000 individuals as well as more than 460 theatre companies located throughout the United States, which present performances to an annual attendance of more than 17 million. Founded in 1961, TCG provides a variety of artistic, administrative and informational services to theatres and independent theatre artists, and acts as a forum for the profession and a resource for the media, funding agencies and the public. TCG is the publisher of *American Theatre* magazine, ARTSEARCH, and a line of performing arts books. Please visit our website and online bookstore at www.tcg.org.

Spider Speculations
by Jo Carson
Paperback 240pp
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Also available from TCG Books:

Stories I Ain’t Told Nobody Yet
by Jo Carson
Paperback \$13.95
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