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**SOUTHERN REP'S WORLD PREMIERE of
PETE McELLIGOTT's WITH A BANG
SELECTED FOR
NATIONAL SHOWCASE OF NEW PLAYS:
PLAYS TO GET READINGS DECEMBER 4-6, 2009 IN ATLANTA**

WASHINGTON, DC - The NATIONAL NEW PLAY NETWORK (NNPN), the country's alliance of non-profit theaters that champions the development, production, and continued life of new plays, will produce six new plays in staged reading format at its National Showcase of New Plays, hosted December 4-6 in Atlanta by member theaters Actor's Express and Horizon. A committee of artistic, managing and literary leaders from across the country selected plays by Kathleen Cahill, Sam Hunter, Pete McElligott, Dominic Orlando, Andrew Rosendorf, and Tammy Ryan for the seventh annual showcase.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL SHOWCASE OF NEW PLAYS

Now in its seventh year, the National Showcase of New Plays (NSNP) is a rotating festival, or trade show, that showcases new plays, new playwrights and theaters from across the country in a staged reading format. NSNP creates a unique and invaluable opportunity for dozens of production-ready new plays to be viewed by NNPN artistic directors, literary managers, playwright agents, and invited industry guests from around the country. To date, 80 plays have been showcased, of which more than 40 have been subsequently produced professionally inside and outside NNPN. The artistic leaders of the vast majority of our 26 member theaters attend the weekend event.

The 2009 readings will be held at Horizon Theatre (December 4 and December 6) and Actor's Express Theatre (December 5) in Atlanta. Tickets for NSNP readings are \$5 for the General Public; please see below for specific schedule and box office procedures.

These readings are not open for review.

ABOUT THE SELECTED PLAYS

Atlasing Sodom by Sam Hunter (submitted by Phoenix Theatre Company) Ten years have passed since Brent and Andy confessed their secrets to one another. Brent drifts from one small town to the next playing reinventions of Beethoven's Pathétique while Andy, his high school crush, secretly follows him. The time signature in this play shifts from past to present, revealing how the boys' relationship caused Andy's father to fulfill his own obsession to get to the bottom of his son's apparent suicide.

Charm by Kathleen Cahill (submitted by Orlando Shakespeare Theatre) Margaret Fuller is a progressive, free-spirited writer, centuries ahead of her time. Unfortunately, she is not the most feminine or attractive woman of her day, either. As she challenges the powerful artists around her —Thoreau,

Emerson, and Hawthorne—both intellectually and romantically, these literary giants become confused boys, unsure of their own prowess and feelings. This comedy of manners asks the age old question, 'Who am I and why am I so confused?'

Danny Casolaro Died for You by Dominic Orlando (submitted by Kitchen Dog Theater) Danny Casolaro is a freelance political reporter. The story he uncovers goes deep into powerful government agency conspiracy and the Justice Department might be directly involved. As Danny peels the layers from this onion, he gets closer and closer to a center people in high places claim does not exist. Based on a true story, Danny Casolaro pursues the truth to an end he may not have foreseen.

Lost Boy Found in Whole Foods by Tammy Ryan (submitted by Playwrights Theatre of NJ) Christine and her 16-year old daughter, Alex, are on their own since Alex's father left. Her life has lost its meaning until she finds an unexpected friendship with Gabriel, a Sudanese "Lost Boy" and employee at her local Whole Foods. Their lives become entwined as Christine tries to help him recover pieces of his former life. When Gabriel gets involved with his friend Panther, an already complicated situation comes to a head.

So It Goes by Andrew Rosendorf (submitted by Florida Stage) Marshall is divorced, poor, and alone, and paying alimony to an unsympathetic ex-wife, Carol. His son Eli returns home asking for tuition for college and his unstable daughter, Sarah, is demanding money she believes she is owed. They both reveal things to Marshall he does not want to hear. On top of it all, Marshall is dying. A portrait of a dysfunctional family caught on film, So it Goes captures each moment of the last memories of a man's life.

With a Bang by Pete McElligott (submitted by Southern Rep) The end is coming. The book says so. Chaplin, who was writing the book, is now dead. His daughter Margaret is being tapped by an array of unwilling angels to take up the task and finish the book to save the world. As the end draws nigh in a torrent of blood and magic, the world comes closer to conclusion. But how will the book end?

SCHEDULE AND TICKETS

The readings play either at Horizon Theatre Company or Actor's Express Theatre in Atlanta as follows. Tickets for all readings are \$5.00, and can be either purchased at the door or via the appropriate box offices.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4 AT HORIZON THEATRE COMPANY

8:00 p.m. **Lost Boy Found at Whole Foods** by Tammy Ryan, directed by Lisa Adler (Co-Artistic Director, Horizon Theatre Company of Atlanta)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5 AT ACTOR'S EXPRESS

10:00 a.m. **Danny Casolaro Died For You** by Dominic Orlando, directed by Dan Day (Founding

Artistic Director, Kitchen Dog Theater of Dallas)

1:00 p.m. **Atlasing Sodom** by Sam Hunter, directed by Bryan Fonseca (Artistic Director, Phoenix

Theatre of Indianapolis)

4:00 p.m. **So It Goes** by Andrew Rosendorf, directed by Freddie Ashley (Artistic Director,

Actor's Express of Atlanta)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6 AT HORIZON THEATRE COMPANY

10:00 a.m. **Charm** by Kathleen Cahill, directed by Patrick Flick (Director of New Play

Development,
Orlando Shakespeare Theatre of Orlando, FL)

2:00 p.m. With a Bang by Pete McElligott, directed by Aimee Hayes (Artistic Director of Southern Rep of New Orleans)

For tickets to Horizon Theatre Company (Lost Boy Found at Whole Foods, Charm, With a Bang): 404-584-7450, or online at www.horizontheatre.com. Horizon Theatre Company is located at Euclid and Austin Avenues in Little Five Points; visit www.horizontheatre.com for more information and directions.

For tickets to Actor's Express Theatre (Danny Casolaro..., Atlasing Sodom, So It Goes): 404-607-SHOW, or online at www.actors-express.com. Actor's Express Theatre is located at the King Plow Arts Center in West Midtown, 955 W Marietta Street NW; visit www.actors-express.com for more information and directions.

ABOUT NNPN

The National New Play Network (NNPN) is the country's alliance of non-profit professional theaters that champions the development, production, and continued life of new plays. Since its founding in 1998, NNPN has commissioned over a dozen playwrights, provided seven MFA graduates with paid residencies, and supported nearly 50 productions nationwide through its innovative Continued Life of New Plays Fund, which creates "rolling world premieres" of new plays. Through these activities and others, NNPN has granted nearly a half million dollars to theaters and artists in the past ten years. Hundreds of artists have gained employment through these efforts in the 24 regions of the country where NNPN member theaters are located. NNPN receives substantial support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Shubert Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

NNPN's 26 member theaters are: Actor's Express Theatre (Atlanta), Actor's Theatre of Charlotte (Charlotte, NC), Borderlands Theater (Tucson), Curious Theatre Company (Denver), Florida Stage (Manalapan), Florida Studio Theatre (Sarasota), Fountain Theatre (LA), Horizon Theatre Company (Atlanta), InterAct Theatre Company (Philadelphia), Kitchen Dog Theater (Dallas), Magic Theatre (San Francisco), Marin Theatre Company (Mill Valley, CA), Mixed Blood Theatre Company (Minneapolis), New Jersey Repertory Company (Long Branch), New Repertory Theatre (Watertown, MA), New Theatre (Coral Gables, FL), Orlando Shakespeare Theater (Orlando), Performance Network Theatre (Ann Arbor, MI), Phoenix Theatre (Indianapolis), Playwright's Theatre of New Jersey (Madison), Prop Thtr Group (Chicago), Salt Lake Acting Company (Salt Lake City), Southern Rep (New Orleans), Unicorn Theatre (Kansas City, MO), Victory Gardens (Chicago), and Woolly Mammoth Theater Company (Washington, DC).

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