



## PLOWSHARES THEATRE COMPANY MEDIA RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 18, 2007

# 1 STAGE, 3 DAYS, 9 PLAYS

## 10-MEMBER COALITION STAGES 3<sup>RD</sup> MICHIGAN THEATRE FESTIVAL

Local Companies work together to promote Great Michigan Theatre

DETROIT, MI – As arts organizations across the state worry about the fate of funding, ten Michigan Theatre are joining forces for the third time to entertain audiences and tell the story of great artists, great theaters and great passion. For the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row the Michigan Theatre community is coming together for the Michigan Theatre Festival. The Festival is a weekend long series of staged readings of new and established plays. The MICHIGAN THEATRE FESTIVAL (MTF) will run from June 15 to June 17 in Downtown Detroit at the Boll Family YMCA Theatre. The Press Opening Night performance will be on Friday, June 15, at 6:00 PM.

The most collaborative single event in the history of Michigan theatre, the Festival is “a movable feast” as it is hosted each year in a different region of the state by participating theaters. Designed to promote greater audience awareness and patronage of our local professional and pre-professional theaters, the Festival premiered two years ago in Ann Arbor hosted by Performance Network and Blackbird Theatre at their performance spaces. Last year, MTF was hosted by Meadow Brook Theatre at their space on the campus of Oakland University in Rochester Hills.

Williamston Theatre and The BoarsHead Theatre, representing the youngest and the oldest generations of Michigan theater, respectively, will likely co-host the festival in 2008.

Over the course of a single weekend in June, the festival will celebrate the works of local playwrights and those from across the country. Each play will be presented as a staged readings and will involve the combined efforts of 9 different theaters and over 50 theatrical artists from across the state. The Festival gives local audiences a unique opportunity to gain a greater appreciation for the creative process and Michigan Theatre as a whole.

"It's a great opportunity for audiences to gain a real appreciation for the riches of the Michigan Theatre Community as a whole".

## **The Theatre and Their Plays**

The following theaters are participating in the Festival:

- **The Abreact Theatre – ON PARENTING by Kelly Rossi**  
"Have you ever thought about having children? They didn't." Have you ever thought about having children? They didn't." A hilarious and quirky look at starting a surprise family. "On Parenting" follows the life of a young professional woman as she travels the path of a parent from her daughter's conception during what was intended to be a one night stand through the early years of getting to know her daughter and the father to the rough teenage "I hate your guts" days leading to graduation.
- **Blackbird Theatre – SENATE INAPPROPRIATIONS by Barton Bund**  
It's "The Odd Couple" meets "The West Wing." Four Democratic Senators rent a Washington DC row-house to save money during the weekdays. Junior Senator Bill Evans is the newest member of the group, who quickly learns the seedy ins and outs of American politics. When his housemates pull a practical joke against their Republican neighbors, a scandal arises that could shake the foundation of the entire Democratic Party. Funny and sharp, this is a comedy for our times.
- **BoarsHead Theatre – NO PLAY OR DESCRIPTION**
- **Heartlande Theatre – Non-participating partner**
- **Jewish Ensemble Theatre – Saying Kaddish With My Sister by Alison Luterman**  
NO DESCRIPTION
- **Meadow Brook Theatre – AN EVENING WITH JACK KEROUAC by David A. McElroy & Steve A. Rowell**  
"I'm a good Catholic. I cannot kill myself so I'm going to drink myself to death." Kerouac states as he waits being interviewed on national television. Set in the green room of William F. Buckley's syndicated television program, Firing Line, Kerouac shares with the audience his deepest thoughts as only Kerouac can. Inspiring and edgy insight into one of America's most iconic figures.
- **Performance Network – FREEDOM HIGH by Adam Kraar**  
June 1964: black Civil Rights workers trained hundreds of white volunteers to register blacks to vote in Mississippi. Jessica, a young white volunteer, and Henry, a wounded African-American veteran of the Movement, experience the intense complexity of racism on a deeply personal level. When everyone learns of the disappearance of James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Mickey Schwerner -- three Civil Rights workers who'd been training the previous week -- the education of Jessica and the others becomes a terrifying test of faith.
- **Planet Ant Theater – DR. SEWARD'S DRACULA by Joseph Zettelmaier**  
A re-examination of the Dracula tale through the eyes of one of its supporting characters. The supernatural and the psychological collide to determine the real truth, as young Dr. Jack Seward must learn if the horrors await him in the outside world, or within the depths of his own mind.
- **Plowshares Theatre Company – THE HOMEGOING by Erick Q. Irvis**  
Its been three years since the Clay family have been compelled to get together. The reason then was death of their father. Needless to say, it didn't go well. Now, Sonya, John-Hugo and Juanita finds themselves together once again prompted by another

funeral, that of Sonya's baby. They will be dealing with all of their unresolved issues and secrets that have torn their family apart.

- **Williamston Theatre – THE NATURE OF FLIGHT, by Dennis E. North**  
Weaving through time and space, this play follows Joshua through years of his turbulent relationship with Jordan – they're seemingly "just right" for each other – until their dreams, fears and ambitions turn their worlds upside down. At the same time, we see Joshua through the eyes of 3 of his closest friends, and follow the parallels in their journeys as all 5 people struggle to take the lives they lead and reconcile them with the lives they want.

### **Ticket Information**

Tickets for each individual reading are \$5 suggested donation. Festival Pass: includes unlimited admission for one person to all the readings, wrap parties and any special events – \$50. Festival Sponsor Pass: Includes all benefits of Festival Pass, plus priority seating (reservation required) and a \$25 tax deductible contribution to: HEARTLANDE THEATRE COMPANY IN SUPPORT OF THE MICHIGAN FESTIVAL) – \$75.

Tickets may be purchased at the Plowshares box office. For further information, please contact Plowshares Theatre Company at (313) 872-0279. Box Office hours are between 11:00 am and 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. The YMCA Theatre is located at 1401 Broadway Ave., Detroit, Michigan 48201 in Downtown Detroit.

### **Special Events, and Performance Calendar**

**Wrap Parties** – Open to all festival participants, festival pass-holders and Sponsor pass-holders for free, and to others for a \$5 suggested donation. All Wrap Parties will take place at the Abreact Performance Space, at 442 E. Lafayette Avenue within walking distance of the Boll Family YMCA. With complimentary food, beer and wine, these informal gatherings will offer participants and patrons the opportunity to mingle, get better acquainted, and discuss the day's events.

For more details please see the schedule.

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