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**LIVEWIRE CHICAGO THEATRE PRESENTS FIRST ANNUAL
VISIONFEST 2008**

LiveWire Presents First Annual Short Play Festival Aug. 29 and Aug. 30

CHICAGO – Livewire Chicago Theatre announces the line-up for the first-ever *VisionFest 2008*, a short play festival exposing new voices within our community. *VisionFest 2008* will take place Friday, Aug. 29 and Saturday, Aug. 30 at 7:30 p.m. at the Chemically Imbalanced Theater, 1420 W. Irving Park Rd. Tickets are currently on sale and can be purchased through brownpapertickets.com, www.livewirechicago.com or by calling the Livewire box office at 312.533.4666.

LiveWire conceived *VisionFest* to provide a new forum for emerging playwrights to share their voice, as well as gain valuable feedback. When conceiving the idea for *VisionFest*, LiveWire conducted an online poll asking for a central theme the public felt was relevant to today. The majority decided on 'Control' and more than 100 local, national and international playwrights submitted their original work with the for consideration under the theme of 'Control.' Presented in a staged reading format, audiences are invited to relax, bring a beverage (BYOB, alcohol permitted), enjoy new plays and live music interludes and share feedback on the nine plays. Below is the exciting line-up for LiveWire's *VisionFest 2008*.

VisionFest 2008

The Greening of Bridget Kelly by Peter Snoad (Jamaica Plain, MA)

Sixteen-year-old climate change activist with a dark secret and revenge on her mind confesses to her priest more than he wants to hear. Especially when it comes to his homegrown organic tomatoes.

Why Does Bush Hate Flags by Kent Forsberg (Middleton, WI)

Two teen boys, one gay and the other straight, try to make sense of the world and themselves according to their religious and political beliefs.

Muse by Walter Thinnes (New York, NY)

In Ken's sparsely furnished studio apartment, where he committed suicide four months earlier, his mother and girlfriend struggle for control over the young man's inspiration, memory and art.

Their Master's Voice by Larry Pontius (Sunnyside, NY)

Barry and Sally enter a white room with a table and chairs, and in the corner mounted on the ceiling is a speaker from which a booming voice describes the action. That is, until we experience technical difficulties.

The Delivery by Jami Brandli (Los Angeles, CA)

In the delivery room, a husband and wife must come to terms with their different outlook on things when even the most planned procedure leads to the unexpected.

Flux by Dale Perreault (Long Island City, NY)

An interview on improving efficiency in the workplace. One woman's thoughts are in the future while another is thinking back. Can either know what will happen, or just happened, respectively?

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Green by Sebastian Aguirre (El Paso, TX)

At a remote desolate bus stop, Phil's promise to his sister has brought him on a futile journey with brother-in-law, Miles, who is searching for fertile soil to grow a rare breed of flower. When the two meet Emma, the truth beneath their journey is uncovered.

Happy Hour by Scott Glander (Glenview, IL)

A man finds a way to tell his buddies, two ostriches, that he may not be coming around that often to their hangout, the local watering hole.

Perfectly Human by Dan Morra (Middletown, PA)

When a top secret project is about to lose its funding, a group of scientists (and their experiment) try to convince a hard-driving General to reconsider. Far too often we seek control where it is not necessary or possible.

VisionFest 2008 would not be possible without the support of The Pauls Foundation.

Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased through brownpapertickets.com, www.livewirechicago.com or by calling the Livewire box office at 312.533.4666. For more info, visit www.livewirechicago.com.

About Livewire Chicago Theatre

Incorporated in 2006, Livewire Chicago Theatre has produced two seasons of new and established work scaling all genres. The 2006-07 season presented Jean-Paul Sartre's mind-bending *No Exit* described by *Time Out Chicago* as "appropriately dark and chilling," and received a four-star rating. Resident Playwright Joshua Aaron Weinstein's mysterious new love story *A/other Lover* premiered in February 2007. A time-shifting drama on plagiarism, love and murder, the production showcased the Livewire ensemble and garnered positive reviews. *Time Out Chicago* hailed, "there's much to admire about director-writer Weinstein," and described the play as a "real joy." The season concluded with the epic tragedy *Love of the Nightingale* by Timberlake Wertenbaker. The production was praised by the *Chicago Reader* as "highly recommended....neither rigidly classical nor self-consciously modern, placing the story in a thoughtful approximate antiquity," and *Windy City Times* declared the production to be "...filled with plenty of standout performances."

Livewire's 2007-08 season proved just as powerful featuring the "thoroughly commanding" *The Collector* by Mark Healy, adapted from the novel of John Fowles, which gained Matt Kelly his first Jeff nomination for Outstanding Actor in a Principal Role. In the Spring, the company presented the premiere of *Soldiers: The Desert Stand*, an original absurdist dark comedy also by Weinstein. Aptly described by the *Chicago Reader* as a "nihilist lampoon," *Soldiers* proved that Livewire was not afraid to take risks. *New City Chicago* shared, "the play's comic sensibility is impressive and in perfect balance with the chilling moments that result from the appropriation of cartoon violence, exploration of the play between reality and fantasy of war games and mediation on the media coverage of war," and *Gay Chicago Magazine* exclaimed, "Livewire Chicago Theatre is yet another example of the talent that brims from every nook and cranny of this city--proof that a tiny show can look, sound, feel and play great..."

Livewire Chicago Theatre is a collective company of artists with a common drive to develop theatre that is unique and vital to the world we live in. Our mission is to expose honesty in the modern theatre of both new and established playwrights. We aim to provoke, shock and enlighten. Learn more at www.livewirechicago.com. General inquires can be sent to P.O. Box 11226, Chicago, Ill., 60611-0226 or email info@livewirechicago.com.