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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Monday, July 21, 2008

## LIVEWIRE CHICAGO THEATRE ANNOUNCES 2008-09 SEASON

CHICAGO – For its 2008-09 season, LiveWire Chicago Theatre announces an exciting line-up of original and established work, beginning with the company's first-ever *VisionFest*, a short play festival exposing new voices within our community. *VisionFest 2008* will take place Friday, Aug. 29 and Saturday, Aug. 30 at the Chemically Imbalanced Theater. In October, LiveWire proudly presents the Chicago premiere of *Red Angel*, a thought-provoking drama by Eric Bogosian running Thursday, Oct. 16 to Sunday, Nov. 9 at The Side Project Theatre. Closing out the season is the delightfully absurd *Wonder of the World* by recent recipient of the Pulitzer Prize David Lindsay-Abaire, running at The Side Project Theatre from Friday, Mar. 13 to Sunday, Apr. 5, 2009.

Tickets can be purchased through [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com) and [www.livewirechicago.com](http://www.livewirechicago.com). Reservations can be made by calling the Livewire box office at 312.533.4666.

### LiveWire Chicago Theatre's 2008-09 season as follows:

#### ***VisionFest 2008***

Presented by the LiveWire Chicago Theatre Collective  
Runs: Friday, Aug. 29 and Saturday, Aug. 30 at 8pm  
Chemically Imbalanced Theater, 1420 W. Irving Park, Chicago

LiveWire conceived *VisionFest*, a short play festival, to provide a forum for new voices in our community. Using the Internet to share the idea, 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 for consideration. Audiences are invited to relax, bring a beverage (BYOB, alcohol permitted) and share feedback on the ten best plays submitted. The Collective is currently in the evaluation process, and will announce the groundbreaking *VisionFest 2008* line-up to the public at the beginning of August. *VisionFest 2008* would not be possible without the support of The Pauls Foundation.

#### ***Red Angel***

Written by Eric Bogosian  
Directed by LiveWire Executive Director Joshua Aaron Weinstein  
Press Opening: Thursday, Oct. 16  
Runs: Thursday, Oct. 16 to Sunday, Nov. 9 (Thu-Sat at 8pm; Sun at 2pm)  
The Side Project Theatre, 1439 W. Jarvis Ave., Chicago  
Starring LiveWire Collective member Erin Barlow (Leena); Steve Wilson (David Blau); Melanie Renae (Agnes); and Joel Ewing (Phil).

*Red Angel* refocuses the age-old game of cat and mouse. When an arrogant novelist meets a pretty young student, the tables turn on his seduction and he gets caught in an unfamiliar struggle for power. Bogosian levels the playing field, and forges equality, in the battle of the sexes.

#### ***Wonder of the World***

Written by David Lindsay-Abaire  
Directed by Zachary Davis  
Press Opening: Friday, March 13  
Runs: Friday, March 13 to Sunday, April 5, 2008 (Thu-Sat at 8pm; Sun at 2pm)  
The Side Project Theatre, 1439 W. Jarvis Ave.

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Starring LiveWire Collective Members Madeline Long (Cass); Glenn Proud (Captain Mike); and Deborah Proud (Sextuplets); as well as Chris Blumer (Lois); Mickey Crocker (Karla); Patrick Burch (Glen); and Joel Ewing (Kip).

*Wonder of the World* is a twisted and kooky comedy of the best kind: one with heart. A meditation on relationships in all their many forms, Lindsay-Abaire takes one woman's life crisis, throws her and a cast of one-of-kind characters into a barrel and has them ride on the waterfall's edge of insanity and self discovery.

Tickets to LiveWire productions range from \$10-15. Tickets for the 2008-09 LiveWire season may be purchased through [Brownpapertickets.com](http://Brownpapertickets.com). Visit the Brown Paper Tickets website and type in LiveWire, or go directly to LiveWire's ticket site at [www.brownpapertickets.com/producer/7251](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/producer/7251), or click on the Brown Paper Tickets links at [www.livewirechicago.com](http://www.livewirechicago.com). Reservations can be made by calling the LiveWire box office at 312.533.4666.

**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. *Newcity 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](http://www.livewirechicago.com). General inquires can be sent to P.O. Box 11226, Chicago, Ill., 60611-0226 or email [info@livewirechicago.com](mailto:info@livewirechicago.com).

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