

LIVEWIRE CHICAGO THEATRE ANNOUNCES 07/08 SEASON

*****SEASON WILL FEATURE LIVEWIRE CHICAGO THEATRE'S 1ST ANNUAL NEW WORKS FESTIVAL*****

*****SEASON MARKS GROWTH OF LIVEWIRE CHICAGO WITH ADDITION OF COMPANY MEMBERS AND APPOINTMENT OF NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR*****

(Chicago, IL) LiveWire Chicago Theatre's Artistic Director Glenn Proud proudly announces the line-up for the 2007/2008 season, with plays that speak to the timely topics facing our society today. Launching LiveWire Chicago Theatre's season in-residence at THE SIDE PROJECT THEATRE is the US premiere of THE COLLECTOR, followed by the World Premiere of SOLDIERS: THE DESERT STAND. This season also marks the 1st Annual LiveWire Chicago Theatre New Works Festival, presented in association with the American Theatre Co-op Playwrighting Contest.

THE COLLECTOR, adapted from the novel of John Fowles by Mark Healy, will be directed by LiveWire Chicago Theatre's Associate Artistic Director, Christopher Dennis. A psychological thriller, THE COLLECTOR relates the story of a lower-class English fellow who captures a pretty art student and holds her captive in a basement, in the hope she will eventually grow to know and love him. "I feel this play is an excellent vehicle to exposing, truthfully, human interaction, on stage and with the audience" says Dennis. "As artists, it is our duty to provide a means for our audience to witness truth through art. THE COLLECTOR lets us examine what happens when someone realizes that they are terrifyingly free."

SOLDIERS: THE DESERT STAND, written by in-house playwright and Executive Director Joshua Aaron Weinstein and directed by Artistic Director Glenn Proud, takes an absurd look at the American Army recruiting system, which appears to accept whoever walks through its doors and ships them off to whatever war being fought at the time...time and time again. "It's smart and darkly humorous" Says Proud "The script exposes many hot button issues that are facing the United States and the world today. It's globally relevant in terms of how a nation trains and recruits it's Armed Services, as well as how far a country goes to protect itself and it's freedoms."

Joshua Aaron Weinstein, LiveWire Chicago Theatre's new Executive Director, said "Being a non-profit, we take very seriously the responsibility to no longer speak for ourselves alone, but for the larger social, political, economical and environmental good. The climate in America is ripe with conflict and controversy." Joshua went on to say, "This role and the new stage in LiveWire's continued development excites me. In taking on my duties, I have first and foremost helped invite other talented artists to join our collective; artists with the same drive and passion as our existing members; artists who challenge us; artists who have helped LiveWire and its members grow; and artists who share the same vision for theatre, Chicago and the world. We welcome Sebastian Aguirre, Erin Barlow, Madeline Long and Anders Jacobson to LiveWire Chicago Theatre and hope everyone will join us for our upcoming fifth season and beyond... You Have to Be There!"

LiveWire Chicago Theatre's inaugural New Works Festival features two plays that are winners of American Theatre Co-op's 2006 Playwrighting Contest.

ENDURANCE by Jennifer Fell Hayes tells the story of teenage Fithian, who has to undergo a painful, lengthy medical procedure twice a week to keep his older brother, Ray, alive. To survive this, he spends time going in his mind to the South Pole with Sir Ernest Shackleton, his hero. He feels trapped and resentful, and hostilities develop between the very different brothers, one, slight, artistic, and possibly gay, the other tall, athletic and heterosexual. Finally the treatment stops working, and Ray becomes sick. The brothers recognize their love for each other as Ray dies. Fithian is able to see Ray's courage and acceptance of death, and understand his brother is now part of him.

FUNNY VALENTINE by Pamela Turner takes us to 1973, when Americans are fighting in Vietnam, and "Dear Abby" has organized a Valentine card drive for all the troops away from home. Eddie wants to deliver all the mail by Valentines Day, but then there is a tragic accident. Through a series of connected monologues, four people tell their side of the story. This play is about the way war affects people wherever they are, and about how each one may be required to face a peculiar kind of enemy.

About LiveWire Chicago Theatre

Our mission is to expose honesty in the modern theatre of both new and established playwrights. Our goal is to work collectively on delivering art based on this mission to our culture at large. Our duty is to provide the LiveWire Chicago Theatre experience. We are all artists and individuals with the same passion and common drive to develop a theatre company unique and vital to the world we live in. It is no longer about just us. It is our duty not to pull any punches or hold anything back when providing the LiveWire Chicago Theatre experience. Whether we are provoking, shocking and/or inspiring our culture, the only way for us to achieve this is by first being honest with ourselves and each other. It is an ideal approach. It is LiveWire Chicago Theatre's approach... You have to be there!

For more information, visit livewirechicago.com

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