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**TICKETS NOW ON SALE FOR  
LIVEWIRE'S CHICAGO PREMIERE OF  
*THE 13<sup>TH</sup> OF PARIS***

Written by Naperville native Mat Smart  
at the Greenhouse Theater Center – March 12 through April 17

CHICAGO – Tickets went on sale today for **LiveWire Chicago Theatre's** spring production of ***The 13<sup>th</sup> of Paris***, a Chicago premiere written by Mat Smart. Smart receives his Steppenwolf debut this winter with the production of *Samuel J. and K* as part of the Steppenwolf for Young Adults repertoire. *Paris* will be directed by Steve Wilson, who is a company member of The Hypocrites and an Artistic Associate at A Red Orchid Theatre. Wilson also serves as Artistic Director of A Red Orchid Theatre's Youth Ensemble and recently received acclaim for his direction of *The Iliad* by Craig Wright.

LiveWire's production of *The 13<sup>th</sup> of Paris* will take place at the Greenhouse Theater Center, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave., in the Upstairs Mainstage, March 12 – April 17, 2011. Press opening is Saturday, March 12 at 8 p.m. \$10 advance tickets are available for any performance until March 11<sup>th</sup> with code 'ADVANCE'. General admission: \$20, Students and Seniors: \$15. Tickets are available at [www.greenhousetheater.com](http://www.greenhousetheater.com) or by calling 773.404.7336.

*The 13<sup>th</sup> of Paris* will feature **LiveWire Collective members Joel Ewing and Madeline Long**, alongside Laura Bess Ewing, Krista Krauss, Max Lesser and Rob McLean. The *Paris* production team will include **LiveWire Collective members Anders Jacobson and Judy Radovsky (Scenic Design Team) and Eric Branson (Lighting Designer)** with Stephen Ptacek (Sound Designer), Mary Ellen Rieck (Stage Manager), John Holt (Technical Director), Amanda Memoli (Assistant Director) and Elise Kauzlaric (Dialect Coach).

Anxious about the state of his relationship, Vincent impulsively stands up a date with his longtime girlfriend. He packs a suitcase full of his grandparents' love letters and hops on a plane from Chicago to Paris - the very city where his grandparents lived and fell in love, embarking on a journey to find out if the love he imagines is possible. LiveWire is proud to present the Chicago premiere of this charming and theatrical piece by Naperville native Mat Smart.

*The 13th of Paris* was originally commissioned and developed by South Coast Repertory with support from the Elizabeth George Foundation. The writing of *The 13th of Paris* was supported in part by the 2006 Conference of The New Harmony Project. The play received its world premiere at City Theatre in Pittsburgh, Pa. produced by Artistic Director Tracy Bridgen and Managing Director Greg Quinlan. It has since been produced at Seattle Public Theatre, Horizon Theatre in Atlanta, The Public Theatre of Maine and The Warehouse Theatre in Greenville, S.C. *The 13th of Paris* was the recipient of an Edgerton Foundation New American Play Award. It will soon be published by Dramatic Publishing.

**Mat Smart** is a current McKnight Advancement Grant recipient and a former two-time Jerome Fellow at The Playwrights' Center in Minneapolis. Plays include: *Samuel J. and K.* (Williamstown Theatre Festival and upcoming at Steppenwolf for Young Adults), *The Hopper Collection* (Magic Theatre and Huntington Theatre Company) and *The Bebop Heard in Okinawa* (O'Neill Playwrights' Conference). He is a co-founder of Slant Theatre Project in New York City and serves on the Board of Directors for The New Harmony Project. Undergraduate: University of Evansville. M.F.A.: UCSD.

### **Performance schedule and tickets**

Previews are March 10-11 at 8 p.m. Press night is Saturday, March 12 at 8 p.m. The performance schedule is Thursdays – Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 3 p.m. **(No performances March 17-20; Additional performance on Monday, March 21 at 8 p.m.)** Regular performance schedule resumes March 24. Tickets: \$20 general admission; \$15 for seniors, students and industry. Tickets are available at [www.greenhousetheater.com](http://www.greenhousetheater.com) or by calling 773.404.7336. For more information, visit [www.livewirechicago.com/paris](http://www.livewirechicago.com/paris).

### **About Livewire Chicago Theatre**

LiveWire's 5<sup>th</sup> season is the first the company is presenting under the new mission statement: ***LiveWire Chicago is a collective of artists who create theatre that reflects the current cultural landscape of our community through productions of original and contemporary works.***

LiveWire's kicked off this season with the critically acclaimed world premiere of Emily Dendinger's ***Hideous Progeny***, as part of the Chicago DCA Theater's 2010 fall season at the Storefront Theater. *Progeny* received **4 stars from Time Out Chicago's** Zac Thompson who praised the new work to be "a seamless blend of fact and fantasy, *Progeny* accomplishes for the Romantics what Tom Stoppard did for Elizabethans in *Shakespeare in Love*." Monica Westin of *Flavorpill* exclaimed that, "Dendinger's dialogue is inventive and Stoppard-esque in her vivid, updated reimagining. [Director, Jessica] Hutchinson's direction is equally fresh... while actors bring the energy and claws appropriate to the party."

The company produced its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual short play festival, ***VisionFest***, which emphasizes audience feedback and interaction, in November. This year, LiveWire asked submitting playwrights to incorporate a certain phrase into their work. The community was asked to propose phrase suggestions based on the theme of "Feast," and from those, LiveWire posted ten of the suggestions online. The company invited the public to vote for their preferred phrase. With 22% of the votes, the line, "*I can't remember the last time we were all together,*" was the community favorite. From more than 100 play submissions, each uniquely incorporating the theme and line, six original works were selected for ***Visionfest3: Feast***.

The festival was curated by LiveWire collective member Chris Zdenek and featured playwrights Erin Barlow, Bilal Dardai, **Mat Smart**, Brett Neveu, K. Alexa Mavromatis and included a performance from the novelty folk band *Gretchen & Regina*.

The *Chicago Reader* recommended the festival praising, "**Compelling original works...** the selections cohere tightly around the touching, sometimes juvenile rituals involved in sharing food. The roster of six pieces ranges from Hilary Williams and Emily Clairbourne's delightfully geeky song and sketch routine, *Gretchen & Regina*, to **Smart's diamond-hard *A Sudden Fluke of Physics***." *Flavorpill* raved, "Shockingly affecting...The two best surprises are by emerging playwrights: LiveWire company member Erin Barlow's *The Kink*, a sharply imagined tragicomic Thanksgiving dinner, and **Mat Smart's *A Sudden Fluke of Physics*, which packs more humanity into a ten-minute love story than we've seen in many full-length plays.**"

LiveWire is excited to continue its relationship with Smart on its spring production of his original piece *The 13<sup>th</sup> of Paris*.

### **LiveWire Collective Members**

Sebastian Aguirre, Erin Barlow, Suzanne Bracken, Eric Branson, Brian Cicirello, Cory Conrad, Joel Ewing (Managing Director), Erin Fast, Amber Hilgenkamp, Anders Jacobson, Becca Lasser, Madeline Long, Allison McNeela, Deborah Proud, Glenn Proud (Artistic Director), Judy Radovsky, Joshua Aaron Weinstein (Executive Director) and Chris Zdenek.