



MEDIA RELEASE

Suzanne Bracken

312.533.4666

Suzanne@livewirechicago.com

LiveWire Plays Dark Comedy 'Soldiers: The Desert Stand'

Wednesday, February 12, 2008 – LiveWire Chicago Theatre plays their first dark comedy with world premiere of ***Soldiers: The Desert Stand*** written by Executive Director/Resident Playwright **Joshua Aaron Weinstein** and directed by Artistic Director **Glenn Proud**. ***Soldiers: TDS*** will feature company members **Madeline Long** and **Erin Barlow**; set designed by **Anders Jacobson**. The production runs April 10 through May 4, 2008 in the Side Project Theatre, 1439 West Jarvis. **Press opening is Thursday, April 10, 2008 at 8:00 p.m.**

Soldiers: TDS highlights the absurdity of our Administration and their approach to ultra-patriotism, war and propaganda. Twelve-year-old, Toma Singerson (Long), completes the last level of a combat video game and is instructed to head down to her local recruiting office. The overzealous Sergeant Bill, quickly signs her up, along with destitute Martha Dixon and disobedient Harold Johnson. They all ship off to the desert. In the sand, Toma battles at every level leading up to a final showdown between herself and the leader of the Foolish Soldiers, Sally (Barlow), who awaits her arrival.

Joshua Aaron Weinstein wrote *Soldiers: TDS*, which has been developed from a shorter piece he wrote which premiered in Fayetteville, Arkansas four years ago to the day of opening. An excerpt from the full piece was performed in December 2007 as part of Mordine & Company's *800lb. Gorilla in the Room*. Other produced shows with LiveWire include: a short full-length *A/other Lover* (4 Stars, Time Out Chicago), an adaptation of Strindberg's *Miss Julie* titled *Night of Innocent Games*, and a one-act on love *The Bout* (presented at the Abbie Hoffman Festival in 2006). LiveWire has also spent time developing an adaptation of the History of Faustus, titled *F*. Weinstein is also a filmmaker and has produced several short films here in Chicago with his independent film production company, w.c.Productions, along with an original comedy series. Watch at www.wetcityproductions.com.

Glenn Proud is a founding member of LiveWire Chicago Theatre. Directing credits with LiveWire included: *Soldiers: Recruitment* and *The Love of the Nightingale*. His performance credits with LiveWire include: *No One Ever Dies in Montana*, *Macbeth*, *Hedda Gabler*, *Uncle Vanya*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Life is a Dream*, *Three Sisters*, *Night of Innocent Games* and *A/other Lover*. He has also been seen in productions with: Borealis Theatre, Corn Productions, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, and Piccolo Theatre where he is also an Artistic Associate, and has been mentored by John Szostek to perform as the "Dame" in Piccolo Theatre's Traditional Victorian Style Holiday Pantomimes. Glenn is a recognized Actor/Combatant by the Society of American Fight Director. His Violence Choreographer credits include: *JellyBelly* (Overflow Theater Ensemble), *Life is a Dream* (LiveWire), *Midsummer's Night Dream* and *Slaughter City* (GroundUp Theater), *Katzelmacher* (the side project theatre) and *Boy* (Circle Theatre). Glenn is a Chicago native, and grew up in the South Suburbs of Country Club Hills, Olympia Fields, and Park Forest.

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Along with company member, **Anders Jacobson's** Set Design, *Soldiers: TDS* will feature designs by **Erin Fast** (costumes), **Eric Branson** (lights) and **Maya Kuper** (sound). **Tresa Makosky** is the stage manager. **Amber Hilgenkamp** is the production manager.

Rounding out the cast is **Cory Conrad** (Sergeant Bill), **Allison McNeela** (Marta Dixon), **Chris Zdenek** (Harold Johnson), **Becca Coren** and **Danielle O'Farrell** (Foolish Soldiers I & 2).

Erin Barlow by the Foolish Soldier, Sally. Erin appeared last season with LiveWire playing Procne in *The Love of the Nightingale*. She made her Chicago debut with LiveWire's world premiere production of *Another Lover* as Cherry. She is an Oklahoma native and graduate of the University of Arkansas where she appeared on the main stage in over a dozen productions.

Amber Hilgenkamp is currently the Production Company Manager at the Goodman Theatre, where she has also worked in the scene shop. She was the Assistant Stage Manager for Writers' Theatre for two seasons (*Seagull*, *To the Green Fields Beyond*, *Arms and the Man*, *The Uneasy Chair*, *Bus Stop* and *The Duchess of Malfi*). Stage management credits include: *We Won't Pay*, *Scapin*, *The Artful Widow*, *Mr. Punch* and *Jack and the Wild Goose Chase* (Piccolo Theatre), *Macbeth*, *Hedda Gabler* and *Much Ado About Nothing* (LiveWire), and *How to Act Around Cops* (Open Cage Ensemble). She designed the sets for LiveWire's productions' of *Life is a Dream*, *Three Sisters* and *Night of Innocent Games*.

Anders Jacobson's set design credits include: *No Exit*, *The Love of the Nightingale* and the Jeff Recommended production of *The Collector* (LiveWire), *A View from the Bridge* (The Actors Workshop), *Les Miserables* and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (Evanston Township High School, where he works with students on how to build and paint sets), and *Perfect* (the side project theatre). He has a BFA from S.U.N.Y. Purchase College.

Madeline Long plays Toma Singerson. Other credits include: *Skin of Our Teeth* (BackStage Theatre Company), *The Love of the Nightingale* and *The Bout* (LiveWire), *Raised* and the currently running *Perfect* (the side project theatre). Originally from Arlington Virginia, Madeline's early training came from the Arlington Center for Dance, Bethesda Academy of Performing Arts, National Cathedral School and Levine School of Music. She studied Choreography, Directing and Acting (including Meisner Technique) at Boston College where she started After Hours Theatre. She continued training at the British American Drama Academy (BADA).

Soldiers: TDS runs April 10 through May 4, 2008 in the Side Project Theatre, 1439 West Jarvis. **Press opening is Thursday, April 10, 2008 at 8:00 p.m.** The run schedule will be Thursdays through Saturdays at 8:00 p.m. and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. NOTE: There will be two additional Saturday performances at 5:00 p.m. on April 26 and May 3, 2008. Tickets are \$15 on Thursdays through Saturdays. Sunday and Saturday matinee tickets are \$10. Students and Seniors are \$10. Industry tickets are \$10 on Thursdays, Sundays and additional Saturday matinees. **Tickets will be on sale March 1, 2008.** Tickets can be purchased online at www.livewirechicago.com or reserved at 312.533.4666. The Side Project Theatre is accessible by the CTA Red Line train (Jarvis).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Submissions for LiveWire Chicago Theatre's 2008 Vision Fest will be open February 17, 2008. Additional information on Vision Fest along with submission guidelines can be found at www.livewirechicago.com/vision.

Soldiers: The Desert Stand

IN BRIEF

- WHAT:** LiveWire Chicago Theatre presents world premiere, *Soldiers: The Desert Stand*
- WHERE:** The Side Project Theatre, 1439 West Jarvis, Chicago
- DATES/TIMES:** **Thursday, April 10 – Sunday, May 4, 2008**
PRESS OPENING: Thursday, April 10 at 8:00 p.m.
Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8:00 p.m.
Sundays at 2:00pm
Saturdays (April 26 and May 3) at 5:00 p.m..
- SYNOPSIS:** *Soldiers: The Desert Stand* is a dark comedy playing on America's war department absurdities. Twelve-year-old, Toma Singerson, completes the last level of a combat video game and is instructed to head down to her local recruiting office. The overzealous Sergeant Bill, quickly signs her up, along with destitute Martha Dixon and disobedient Harold Johnson. They all ship off to the desert. In the sand, Toma battles at every level leading up to a final showdown between herself and the leader of the Foolish Soldiers, Sally, who awaits her arrival.
- WHO:** written by Joshua Aaron Weinstein
Directed by Glenn Proud
Cast: Madeline Long (Toma Singerson), Cory Conrad (Sergeant Bill), Allison McNeela (Martha Dixon), Chris Zdenek (Harold Johnson), Erin Barlow, Becca Coren and Danielle O'Farrell (Foolish Soldiers)
Production: Anders Jacobson (set), Erin Fast (costumes), Eric Branson (lights), Maya Kuper (sound), Liz Larsen-Silva (dramaturg/props), Tresa Makosky (stage manager) and Amber Hilgenkamp (production manager)
- TICKETS:** Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays: \$15
Sundays and additional Saturday matinees: \$10
Students and Seniors: \$10
Industry Shows are Thursdays, Sundays and Saturday matinees: \$10
- RESERVATIONS/INFORMATION: 312.533.4666
or online at www.livewirechicago.com
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- CONTACT:** **Suzanne Bracken**
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