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**LIVEWIRE CHICAGO THEATRE ANNOUNCES 2ND ANNUAL
VISIONFEST 2009: SIX WORLDS ON ONE STREET CORNER
AUGUST 6 – 15**

LiveWire Presents a Festival of Chicago Premiere Short Plays
with the Shared Environment of a Street Corner

Chicago – Livewire Chicago Theatre announces the line-up for its second annual **VisionFest 2009**, a short play festival exposing new voices to the community with a strong emphasis on conversation and audience feedback. This year, LiveWire chose to use a shared environment in which all the different worlds would unfold. Through an online poll, the public voted for "Street Corner" and playwrights from across the country submitted their original work for consideration.

From Aug. 6 to Aug. 15, six versatile Chicago premiere short works will take place on the same street corner inside the Chemically Imbalanced Theater, 1420 W. Irving Park Rd. All shows begins at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10-15 and are currently on sale. To purchase tickets go to www.brownpapertickets.com, www.livewirechicago.com or by calling the Livewire box office at 312.533.4666.

Mixing the hilarious with the dramatic, the dynamic line-up for *VisionFest 2009* is...

"Fat Petey Gets it All Wrong"

Written by Ron Frankel (New Lebanon, N.Y.)
Directed by Glenn Proud, LiveWire Artistic Director

Larry has cheated on his wife. To spare her pain in discovering this, he decides to have her killed. Unfortunately, the hit man he chooses may not be the right person for the job.

"The Corner of Glamis and Cawdor"

Written by Michael W. Moon (Aurora, Ill.)
Directed by Amber Hilgenkamp, LiveWire Collective Member

In this retelling of the story of Macbeth, a street corner becomes Scotland and a witch, a shrouded figure, and an overacting Lady Macbeth help a young man learn the meaning of "something wicked this way comes."

"BE"

Written and Directed by Erin Barlow (Tulsa, Okla.), LiveWire Collective Member

A portrait of two young adults, Sarah and Dave, concluding their first date, both desperate to make a connection with another human being; however, their individual tactics are fundamentally divergent.

“Canceling Christmas”

Written by James Armstrong (New York, N.Y.)
Directed by Glenn Proud

Imagining what might have happened when citizens first heard the news that a puritanical British parliament had banned the celebration of Christmas. Based on the true story of the Canterbury Christmas riots of 1647.

“Recognition”

Written by Elizabeth Nell Dubus (Prairieville, La.)
Directed by Joshua Aaron Weinstein, LiveWire Executive Director

A man—a woman—an urban park at twilight. A romantic engagement? Chance encounter? Adulterous lovers meeting for the first time? The last time? Or two ships passing in the night—or—nothing at all.

“Waiting for Oprah”

Performance piece created by Madeline Long (Arlington, Va.),
LiveWire Collective Member

Strangers on a street corner somewhere outside Harpo Studios search for a reason why they wait for the-one-and-only... and why she’s going to make everything okay.

VisionFest 2009 runs Aug. 6 – 15; Thurs., Fri. and Sat. at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased through www.brownpapertickets.com, www.livewirechicago.com or by calling the Livewire box office at 312.533.4666. Industry/students/senior available for \$10. **Advance tickets available for \$10; offer ends Aug. 5.** For more info, visit www.livewirechicago.com.

About Livewire Chicago Theatre

Incorporated in 2006, LiveWire Chicago Theatre has produced three 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 Collective 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 took off with our **“thoroughly commanding”** (*Chicago Reader*) production of “The Collector” by Mark Healy, adapted from the novel by 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 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...”** Madeline Long received an After Dark Award for ‘Outstanding Performance in a Play’ for her portrayal of Toma Singerson in “Soldiers.”

LiveWire began its 2008-09 season with the launch of *VisionFest*, a short play festival emphasizing audience feedback and conversation by presenting original works based on a theme chosen through an online poll. “Control” won the public vote and we presented nine plays surrounding this theme during our **“forward-looking theater festival”** (*Newcity Chicago*) in August of 2008 at the Chemically Imbalanced Theater. LiveWire engaged the audience further during the run of the festival, giving them the opportunity to meet and talk with the playwrights and artists involved, by providing an open forum following the production. The programs were also created with space for notes on each play that were then sent on to the playwrights as they further develop their piece.

In the Fall, LiveWire’s *Jeff Recommended* production of “Red Angel” by Eric Bogosian received such rave reviews as **“a hell of a lot of fun to watch”** (*Time Out Chicago*), **“This LiveWire Chicago Theatre production has it nailed”** (*Chicago Tribune*), and **“Joshua Aaron Weinstein’s thoughtful and calibrated production in the tiny Side [Project] space (made to feel much more expansive by Anders Jacobson’s terrific book-lined set) teases out the tensions with wit and intelligence... [Steve] Wilson and [Erin] Barlow blow the doors off the more incendiary moments without ever losing their grip on the engrossing interplay of competition, passion, and power threaded throughout the narrative”** (*Chicago Reader*). Scenic Designer Anders Jacobson received a Jeff Nomination for his incredible “Angel” set. LiveWire concluded its 2008-09 season with another Jeff Recommended show, Pulitzer Prize-Winning Playwright David Lindsay-Abaire’s “Wonder of the World,” of which Venus Zarris of *Steadstyle Chicago* proclaimed, **“the entire cast is charming with some profoundly incredible acting that shines through by Madeline Long, Joel Ewing and Deborah Craft. LiveWire Chicago Theatre is an extremely gifted company on the verge of a real hit.”**

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.

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