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LEAGUE OF CHICAGO THEATRES ANNOUNCES MARCH AND APRIL LINE-UP OF THEATER THURSDAYS EVENTS

CHICAGO (March 10, 2008) – The League of Chicago Theatres is pleased to announce the March and April line-up of *Theater Thursdays* events. *Theater Thursdays* events combine a new show every week, with a pre or post show reception including food and drinks, and exclusive access to artists from each production, all for one special ticket price by mentioning “*Theater Thursdays*” when making a reservation at each box office.

This spring, patrons of *Theater Thursdays* can take part in a variety of exciting events. Enjoy a special dinner/theater package with Gruppo di Amici and the side project in Jarvis Square, or partake in a pre-show pint with fish and chips at John Barleycorn prior to the performance of *Brontë* by Remy Bumpo Theatre at the Victory Gardens Greenhouse. Audiences also get an in depth look into the world of *Dreamlandia* with a dessert reception provided by Starbucks and post show discussion with the artists of Teatro Vista. As the weather warms up, so do the *Theater Thursdays* events in March and April.

Launched in January of 2005, *Theater Thursdays* provides a great opportunity to venture out after work, entertain clients, socialize with friends or make new ones. Explore foreign cultures, sample bites from the city’s best restaurants and take in Chicago’s exceptional theater scene with a new show every week.

93.1 FM WXRT and the *Chicago Reader* are media partners for *Theater Thursdays*.

For a description and pricing of each show, please see the features listed below.

Thursday, March 6

Our Enemies: Lively Scenes of Love and Combat by Yussel El Guindi
Silk Road Theatre Project at the historic Chicago Temple Building
77 W. Washington St., Pierce Hall

Enjoy delicious appetizers, a "how we built the production" exhibit, the performance, and a post-show talk back with the director and cast! Join Silk Road Theatre Project, **Plymouth Restaurant** catering, and the Chicago theater community for this special *Theater Thursdays* event. A darkly humorous and sensual look at identity, media-representation, love and lust

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in the Arab American community. Fueled by frustration over the limited Arab voices in the U.S. media, a struggling writer engages in a prank campaign to shake up the system.

Event begins at 6 p.m.

Show begins at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$20

For reservations call 866-811-4111 and mention "Theater Thursdays."

Visit www.srtp.org for more information.

Show Press Contact: Malik Gillani, malik@srtp.org

Thursday, March 13

My Dinner with Amy by Tony Fiorentino

Theatre Building Chicago

1225 W. Belmont Ave

When a lonely bachelor tries online dating, he gets set up by a born-again Christian who's out to convert him. *My Dinner with Amy* is a satirical exploration of both internet romance and religious fanaticism. Before your dinner with Amy, be sure to have dinner with Joey at **Joey's Brickhouse**, right across the street from the theatre. You'll enjoy all-you-can eat pizza and draft beer. After the performance, the playwright will host a question and answer session with the audience and cast members.

Event begins with dinner from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Show begins at 8 p.m.

Tickets: \$28

For reservations call 773-327-5252 and mention "Theater Thursdays."

Visit www.diamanteproduction.com for more information.

Show Press Contact: Erica Levin, dinnerwithamy@hotmail.com

Thursday, March 20

Keely and Du by Jane Martin

Infamous Commonwealth Theatre on the West Stage of the Raven Theatre Complex

6157 N. Clark St. (FREE PARKING)

Keely awakes in a locked room with no memory of how she got there. Her caring and elderly captor, Du, explains that she's being held by a pro-life group intent on forcing her to have her baby instead of an abortion. This is a beautiful story about two women caught up in the ongoing abortion dispute. *Keely and Du* was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize and received the American Theatre Critics Association New Play Award in 1993. *Theater Thursdays* patrons are encouraged to stay for a post-show discussion regarding "Abortion and Righteousness in *Keely and Du*". Both pro-life and pro-choice perspectives will be represented by professionals during this engaging and intelligent discussion.

Show begins at 8:30 p.m. with snacks and drinks during intermission, and discussion to immediately follow the performance.

Show begins at 8:30 p.m.

Event begins immediately following the performance.

Tickets: \$20

For reservations call 312-458-9780.

Visit www.infamouscommonwealth.org for more information.

Show Press Contact: Craig Thompson, chicagoactor@comcast.net

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Thursday, March 27

Faster by Adam Rapp
the side project
1439 W. Jarvis, Chicago

Enjoy an evening in Jarvis Square with a 3 course meal at **Gruppo di Amici** (1508 W. Jarvis, call 773-508-5565 to reserve your seating), a Midwest premiere, and a post-show wine and cheese reception with members of the cast and crew. For dinner, start with a insalate mista; then choose from an array of pizzas and pastas; and finish with a gelato. Then head over to the theater for the Midwest premiere of *Faster*. In the heat of a scorching Joliet summer, three malnourished boys in a dilapidated basement make a very shady business transaction that will affect the world in more ways than they fathom.

Seating at Gruppo di Amici begins at 5:30 p.m.

Show begins at 8:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$35

For reservations call 773-973-2150 and mention "Theater Thursdays."

Visit www.thesideproject.net for tickets or more information.

Show Press Contact: Adam Webster, adam@thesideproject.net

Thursday, April 3

Brontë by Polly Teale

Remy Bumppo Theatre at the Victory Gardens Greenhouse
2257 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago

Start off your evening with a pint and fish and chips at **John Barleycorn** (658 W. Belden) prior to the performance of Polly Teale's *Brontë*. Don't miss the American premiere of this inventive drama which examines the lives of three of the most studied and discussed writers of all time. Spurred by their brother's tumultuous personal life, Charlotte, Emily and Anne Brontë write from their remote home on the Yorkshire moors. The real and the imagined collide as the characters the sisters have created come to life. *Brontë* explores the question of how a trio of Victorian spinsters could have produced some of the most passionate literature ever written. Parking is available at the Children's Memorial Hospital parking lot for \$6.

Event begins at 6:30 p.m.

Show begins at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$30

For show reservations call 773-871-3000 and mention "Theater Thursdays".

Visit www.remybumppo.org for more information.

Show Press Contact: Stephanie Kulke, skulke@remybumppo.org

Thursday, April 10

Dreamlandia by Octavio Solis

Teatro Vista at the Victory Gardens Greenhouse Theater
2257 N. Lincoln Ave. Chicago

Theater Thursdays patrons will enjoy a pre-show reception with dessert and coffee provided by **Starbucks** and are invited to stay after the show for a discussion with the cast and crew. *Dreamlandia* is where dreams and reality collide for a family living on the US/Mexico border as they deal with NAFTA, narcotics and illegal immigration. This vibrant play is witness to a clear and potent political voice.

Event begins at 7:15 p.m.

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Show begins at 8 p.m.

Tickets: \$25

For reservations call 773-871-3000 and mention "Theater Thursdays."

Visit www.teatrovista.org for more information.

Show Press Contact: Laura Wurz, lwurz@teatrovista.org, 312-666-4659

Thursday, April 17

Los Desaparecidos by Barbara Lhota

Babes With Blades at the Raven Theatre West Stage

6157 N. Clark St., Chicago

Join the playwright and Babes With Blades ensemble members at **Champions** (6156 N. Clark) for a Spanish wine sampling prior to the performance. Set in sixteenth century Spain, *Los Desaparecidos* explores the impact of family ties, societal pressures and unexpected love in the lives of two sisters. Expect clandestine trysts, plots and counterplots, blackmail, and dazzling swordplay! The show is performed in English.

Event begins at 7 p.m.

Show begins at 8:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$25

For reservations call 773-880-0016 and mention "Theater Thursdays."

Visit www.babeswithblades.org for more information.

Show Press Contact: Amy E. Harmon, business@babeswithblades.org, 630-362-7008

Thursday, April 24

A Passage to India by E.M. Forster

Adapted by Martin Sherman

Vitalist Theatre and Premiere Theatre and Performance

At Theatre Building Chicago, 1225 W. Belmont

Elizabeth Carlin-Metz directs the American Midwest premiere of E.M. Forster's saga of imperialism, passion and prejudice set in the time of the Raj in India. A well meaning but naïve young English woman seeking to experience "the *real* India" sets destructive forces in motion when she breaks colonial taboos by associating with a Muslim doctor. Before the show, come experience the flavors of India in Chicago with dinner at **Radhuni Indian Kitchen**, at Clark and Belmont, just blocks from the theatre. During your meal, there will be performance and discussion of the traditional Indian poetry and dance found in the play. Come explore the Indian culture and gain insight into the world of the story before strolling over to the Theatre Building Chicago for the performance of *A Passage to India*.

Event begins with dinner from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Show begins at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$25

For reservations call 773-327-5252 and mention "Theater Thursdays."

Visit www.vitalisttheatre.org for more information.

Show Press Contact: Helen Drysdale, hdrysdale@gmail.com

THE LEAGUE OF CHICAGO THEATRES

Theater Thursdays are organized by The League of Chicago Theatres. Founded in 1979, the League is an alliance of theaters that leverages its collective strength to promote, support and advocate for Chicago's theater industry locally, nationally and internationally. Currently, the League serves a diverse membership of more than 190 theaters and theater

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companies, ranging from small storefront, non-union companies to major cultural centers with multi-million dollar facilities and productions.

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