

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DOORWAY ARTS ENSEMBLE ANNOUNCES 5TH SEASON

CONTEMPORARY VOICES CHALLENGE THE STATUS-QUO WITH PROVOCATIVE STORIES IN SECOND COLLABORATION WITH ARTS ALIVE THEATRE SERIES OF MONTGOMERY COLLEGE

(Bethesda, MD) The **Doorway Arts Ensemble** (DAE) is thrilled to announce its 2011-2012 programming, joining forces for the second year to co-produce the **Arts Alive Theatre Series** in the Cultural Arts Center at Silver Spring with Artistic Director, **Perry T. Schwartz**. The season includes two new works by award-winning playwrights: an east coast premiere of the comedy **SEX AND EDUCATION** by the critically-acclaimed **Lissa Levin** and directed by Perry T. Schwartz as well as a memory play based on historical fact in **HERCULES IN RUSSIA** by local award-winning playwright **Allyson Currin**, directed by **Jessica Lefkow** (*Honey Brown Eyes*, recipient of the 2009 Charles MacArthur Award for Best New Play) who returns for a second season (*Tether* by Julie Taiwo Oni). The Season includes several community engagement events that both make ground-breaking theatre accessible to diverse communities and create opportunities to showcase the best emerging talent.

Prominent community leaders join us following a special performance of **HERCULES IN RUSSIA** for a paneled discussion moderated by dramaturg **Laura Esti Miller**. This free community panel forum following the February 19 performance explores class divides in an era of cultural and political oppression and begs the question, "How did America fail to meet the needs of freed slaves?" Join us again following the February 11 matinee for a Q&A discussion with the playwright, director and cast of **HERCULES**.

The Doorway Arts Ensemble continues its commitment to new play development with a national playwrighting competition, **Extraordinary Battlegrounds**, challenging writers to create works that weave riveting and compelling stories that unfold on a "battleground". Free staged readings of the selected new works will be professionally directed and developed. The community is invited to attend the free post-production discussions which include the playwright, director, and cast moderated by our dramaturg.

THE 2011-2012 PERFORMANCE SEASON

SEX AND EDUCATION

EAST COAST PREMIERE!

by Lissa Levin

directed by Perry T. Schwartz

October 28, 2011 – November 20, 2011

Special Performance: November 17, 2012

"Levin's hilariously irreverent dialogue spins along briskly, bringing many laughs along the way while introducing characters who prove endearing despite their outrageous behavior" - Los Angeles Times

Sex and syntax converge in this duel of wits comedy between a graduating high school basketball star and his retiring English teacher with a little help from his cheerleader girlfriend. This scintillating romp is a hilarious lesson for all in life, sex, sports and grammar.

- MORE -

HERCULES IN RUSSIA

WORLD PREMIERE!

by Allyson Currin

directed by Jessica Lefkow

February 10, 2012 – March 4, 2012

Community Panel Forum: February 19, 2012

Special Performance: February 20, 2012

Discussion Performance: February 11, 2012

“No man ever changed a country hollering alone from a street corner.” - Jim Hercules, *Hercules in Russia*

In this memory play based on historical fact, former Alabama slave Jim Hercules finds himself an Imperial guard to Tsar Nicholas II and the royal family. As the Russian Revolution looms, Jim faces the demons of a tortured past and weighs his loyalty to his adopted country.

EXTRAORDINARY BATTLEGROUND

NATIONAL PLAYWRIGHTING COMPETITION

Staged Readings - Free to the public

November 7, 2011 and February 27, 2012

Discussion sessions following each performance

Presented on Monday nights throughout the season are free staged reading performances of two winning original plays from Doorway Arts Ensemble's National play writing competition. We seek plays or creative works incorporating movement, dance, and music that weave riveting and compelling stories which unfold on a "battleground". Each selected plays will receive five developmental rehearsals with a director, our season dramaturg Laura Esti Miller, and a cast of professional actors prior to a staged reading performance.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Tickets: \$20 General Admission; \$10 for Seniors; \$5 for Montgomery College Students, Faculty and Staff. Opening Weekend and Special Performances are Pay-What-You-Can.

Location: Theatre 2, Cultural Art Center at Silver Spring, Montgomery College 7995 Georgia Avenue Silver Spring, MD 20910

Free Parking: Lot and Parking Garage behind Cultural Arts Center off Georgia Ave at King Street

Metro: Red Line to Silver Spring, S2 Bus towards Silver Spring

CONTACT INFORMATION

Tickets (240) 567-5775 or www.tickets.com

Admin DAE (301) 530-4349 or www.doorwayarts.org

ABOUT DOORWAY ARTS ENSEMBLE

Under the leadership of founding Producing Artistic Director, Claire Myles, Doorway Arts Ensemble (DAE) provides an artistic entrance and platform for exceptional talent. DAE works to develop and support a theater company that champions the production of new plays written by the best of promising playwrights and spotlighting new theater talent throughout the Washington, DC metro area. We offer the community opportunities to experience socially relevant new works at affordable prices or as free events.

Questions about Arts Alive Theatre and Montgomery College may be directed to Artistic Director Perry T. Schwartz by email perry.schwartz@montgomerycollege.edu or phone (240) 567-1387.

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