

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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www.dcatheater.org/press

CHICAGO DCA THEATER ANNOUNCES SPRING 2009 SEASON

Emerging and developing theater companies selected For performances in downtown's Storefront and Studio Theaters

The Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs announces a 2009 season full of events at the Chicago DCA Theaters—the Storefront Theater, located at 66 E. Randolph Street and the Studio Theater in the Chicago Cultural Center, 77 E. Randolph Street.

Chicago DCA Theater offers downtown audiences an off-Loop theater experience with an exciting look at the vibrant emerging and developing theater companies that call Chicago home. An anchor of the downtown theater district, Chicago DCA Theater's Storefront Theater will present productions by six Chicago theater companies: TUTA Theatre Chicago, Theatre Mir, Chicago Dance Crash, ShawChicago, Luna Negra, and Theatre Oobleck.

Additionally, Chicago DCA Theater will host four young theater companies in the second season of its Studio Theater Incubator Program. The selected theater companies include Black Sheep Productions, The Vet Art Project, Rasaka Theatre, and Rubicon Theatre Project. Additionally, Chicago DCA Theater presents several special events in the 2009 season.

All tickets are available by calling 312.742.TIXS (8497), visiting www.dcatheater.org, or stopping by the box office, open Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 6 p.m.; Sundays, noon to 4 p.m.; and one hour prior to each performance.

Discounted parking is once again available at Wabash Randolph Self Park at 20 E. Randolph. Patrons can receive the \$14 rate by validating their ticket at the Storefront Theater box office.

Chicago DCA Theater Winter/Spring 2009 Season

Maria's Field – English translation premiere

TUTA Theatre Chicago

Media Opening: Friday, January 23, 2009

January 20 – February 22, 2009

Thursdays – Saturdays at 7:30 pm.; Sundays at 3 p.m.

Storefront Theater, 66 E. Randolph Street

Tickets: \$25 general admission; \$20 for students and seniors; \$20 for previews (1/20 and 1/21)

(312) 742-TIXS (8497) or www.dcatheater.org

TUTA Theatre looks back at a lost generation of Russian women in this English language translation of one of Russia's most exciting young playwrights, Oleg Bogaev. Through laughter and tears, three one-hundred year old maidens journey through their own lives and the enchanted forest of 20th-century Russian history. In fairytale-like adventures, they meet Hitler, Stalin, Marshal Zhukov, and even movie stars of their youth.

The Arab-Israeli Cookbook – Chicago premiere

Theatre Mir

Media Opening: Saturday, March 7, at 7:30 p.m.

March 5 – April 5

Thursdays – Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.; Sundays at 3 p.m.

Storefront Theater, 66 E. Randolph Street

Tickets: \$23 general admission; \$18 for seniors; \$15 for students

(312) 742-TIXS (8497) or www.dcatheater.org

Theater Mir brings Arab and Israeli voices together in the stories of ordinary people living in a rich yet divided world in Israel and the West Bank. Based on real-life interviews by playwright Robin Soans and directors Tim Roseman and Rima Brihi, this deeply human play weaves the stories and recipes of more than forty characters who reveal common culture and experiences amidst the daily conflict. In restaurants, shops, cafes, and homes, everyone has a story to tell and a recipe to cook.

Movement/Gentlemen – World premiere

Chicago Dance Crash

Media Opening: Friday, April 17, at 7:30 p.m.

April 17 – May 3, 2009

Fridays – Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.; Sundays at 3 p.m.

Storefront Theater, 66 E. Randolph Street

Tickets: \$22 at the door; \$19 in advance; \$17 for students and seniors

(312) 742-TIXS (8497) or www.dcatheater.org

Chicago Dance Crash returns to downtown with an explosive, all-male concert series celebrating the power and flair of men on the move. The novelty becomes the standard as an army of hard-hitting “danseurs” get together with some of Chicago’s most progressive choreographers to pull off a heist that’ll take the Loop by storm! Boasting an excitingly intimate in-the-round staging, the show will exhaust all physical options when contemporary dance, hip hop, ballet, and acrobatics are left to the gentlemen.

Ghosts

ShawChicago

Media Opening: Sunday, April 19, at 2 p.m.

April 18 – May 11, 2009

Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m.; Mondays at 7 p.m.

Studio Theater in the Chicago Cultural Center, 77 E. Randolph

Tickets: \$22 general admission, \$20 for seniors

(312) 742-TIXS (8497) or www.dcatheater.org

ShawChicago returns to the Studio Theater with a staged reading of Henrik Ibsen’s compelling drama. Mrs. Alving is trying to put a positive gloss on her late husband’s dissolute philandering life by creating an orphanage in his name. She is assisted in the project by Pastor Manders, who had persuaded her years earlier to remain tied to the sins of her husband for the sake of social approval. Her son Oswald’s return from abroad with a fatal disease, possibly the result of her unwise marital compromise, destroys her project and exposes a web of deceit, blackmail, possible incest, and death.

Mi Familia/My Dance

Luna Negra Dance Theater

Thursday, May 14, at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday, May 16, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Additional performances available for school groups

Storefront Theater, 66 E. Randolph Street

Tickets: May 14 = \$20 general admission; \$15 for students and seniors; May 16 = \$10 for all tickets

(312) 742-TIXS (8497) or www.dcatheater.org

Luna Negra Dance Theater creates a special dance concert program designed for the whole family. Featuring an engaging and interactive introduction to the arts, the show is a creative and fun way for kids age 8 and above to learn about dance and how it is created while enjoying a spectacular performance. The program will feature excerpts of Luna Negra Dance Theater’s most acclaimed works by Latino contemporary choreographers.

Strauss at Midnight – World premiere

Theater Oobleck

Media Opening: Thursday, June 11, at 7:30 p.m.

June 11 – July 19, 2009

Thursdays – Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.; Sundays at 3 p.m.

Storefront Theater, 66 E. Randolph Street

Tickets: Pay-what-you-can, \$15 suggested donation
(312) 742-TIXS (8497) or www.dcatheater.org

Recognizing “The Odd Couple” as a magical place to explore the relationship between liberty and tyranny, Theater Oobleck returns to Oscar Madison’s apartment. When a time-traveling tourist on a prehistoric safari accidentally kills a butterfly, the Odd Couple’s poker table becomes the battleground for human civilization. The new play by Jeff Dorchen takes Neil Simon’s most famous play into Tom Stoppard territory in this examination of free will in a society where the super-privileged can redesign the fabric of time and space.

Chicago DCA’s Studio Theater Incubator Winter/Spring 2009 Season

The Studio Theater Incubator Series is designed to support the creation of new work by emerging Chicago theater companies. Utilizing Chicago DCA Theater resources and rehearsal space in the Chicago Cultural Center, participants explore new projects, develop and refine styles, and share their process with the public during a special showcase event.

The Monday evening showcase events each offer a glimpse into the companies’ projects through readings, performances, or works-in-process. The events are free, but reservations are encouraged by calling 312.742.TIXS (8497) or by visiting www.dcatheater.org.

Black Sheep Productions

Showcase Event for *Camp Freedom*

Monday, January 26, at 7:30 p.m.

Studio Theater in the Chicago Cultural Center, 77 E. Randolph Street

Black Sheep Productions produces provocative and entertaining theater that explores modern social issues while maintaining an accessible aesthetic in the hopes of reaching a diverse audience.

The Vet Art Project

Showcase Event for *The Vet Art Project*

Monday, February 23, at 7:30 p.m.

Studio Theater in the Chicago Cultural Center, 77 E. Randolph Street

The Vet Art Project creates opportunities for veterans to work in collaboration with artists from all disciplines to create new art about war for public performance and viewing.

Rasaka Theatre

Showcase Event for *Page to Stage*

Monday, March 30, at 7:30 p.m.

Studio Theater in the Chicago Cultural Center, 77 E. Randolph Street

Rasaka Theatre Company, the Midwest’s first South Asian American ensemble, works to increase diversity among artists and audience by engaging and illuminating the South Asian American experience.

Rubicon Theatre Project

Showcase Event for *Becoming Ingrid*

Monday, June 1, at 7:30 p.m.

Studio Theatre in the Chicago Cultural Center, 77 E. Randolph Street

Rubicon Theatre Project intends to shed light upon norms that may be in need of reevaluation, maintenance, or outright elimination, inspiring an audience to reject or reaffirm their own beliefs.

Chicago DCA Theater Special Events Winter/Spring 2009

The Lady Eve

AFTRA/SAG Senior Radio Players

Wednesday, February 11, at 7 p.m.

Claudia Cassidy Theater in the Chicago Cultural Center, 77 E. Randolph Street

Audiences are invited to witness the performance of classic radio scripts by voice actors, sound effects artists employing as many manual devices as possible and, often, a real, live keyboard player. The AFTRA/SAG Players stay faithful to the original model by having to get it right the first time--no retakes permitted.

Staging Conflict: Theatrical Narratives of the Holy Land

Silk Road Theatre Project and Theater Mir

Monday, March 16, at 7 p.m.

Claudia Cassidy Theater in the Chicago Cultural Center, 77 E. Randolph Street

Silk Road Theatre Project and Theatre Mir present scenes from their productions of Motti Lerner's *Pangs of the Messiah* and Robin Soans' *The Arab-Israeli Cookbook*, two plays portraying unique perspectives on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Bernard Shaw: Plays Unpleasant

ShawChicago and Chicago Sister Cities

Thursday, May 7, at 6 p.m.

Claudia Cassidy Theater in the Chicago Cultural Center, 77 E. Randolph Street

Performing scenes from George Bernard Shaw's *Widowers' Houses*, ShawChicago looks at how Shaw fashioned a new kind of theater out of the conventions of Victorian melodrama. Following the scenes, Joel Kaplan will speak about Shaw as a socially-conscious playwright.

Laura

AFTRA/SAG Senior Radio Players

Tuesday, May 19, at 7 p.m.

Claudia Cassidy Theater in the Chicago Cultural Center, 77 E. Randolph Street

Audiences are invited to witness the performance of classic radio scripts by voice actors, sound effects artists employing as many manual devices as possible and, often, a real, live keyboard player. The AFTRA/SAG Players stay faithful to the original model by having to get it right the first time--no retakes permitted.

The Energy Show

H. Peter Steeves

Friday, June 5, at 7 p.m.

Claudia Cassidy Theater in the Chicago Cultural Center, 77 E. Randolph Street

H. Peter Steeves brings a multimedia presentation that will include live music and dance combined with a demonstration of contemporary and historical high-energy electrical equipment. Professor Steeves transcends the senses in which energy and life are necessarily linked – on the smallest and largest scales, from birth to death, in practice and in theory, beyond the factual to the fictional and that which lies between. This program is in conjunction with Science Chicago.

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