

molly smith
artistic director

stephen richard
executive director

zelda fichandler
founding director



MEDIA RELEASE

Contact: Kirstin Lunke/Elisabeth Golhke
press@arenastage.org; (202) 554-9066 ext. 715

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 26, 2006

ARENA STAGE ANNOUNCES DATES FOR 2006/07 downstairs NEW PLAY READING SERIES

**Works include commissioned plays from Nilo Cruz, Tazewell Thompson,
Karen Zacarias, Eric Overmyer and two MFA students**

(Washington D.C.) Arena Stage Senior Dramaturg Mark Bly continues to lead the Arena Stage **downstairs** New Play Reading Series to further the theater's long commitment to new play development. The 2006/07 series will include works from Arena Stage commissioned writers Nilo Cruz, Tazewell Thompson, Karen Zacarias and Eric Overmyer, as well as introduce plays by two of the most gifted M.F.A. playwrights in the country: Lila Rose Kaplan and Amy Herzog. **Each reading will take place at Arena's 14th & T downtown theater space.**

"The playwrights who continue to haunt us write plays that struggle with huge, often unanswerable questions," said Bly. "The playwrights we have gathered together for our 2006/07 **downstairs** New Play Reading Series are fearless writers filled with curiosity about the human condition."

2006/07 downstairs New Play Reading Series

November 6, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

***Bolero*, a commission by Nilo Cruz, Molly Smith directs**

This commissioned work is set in Cuba, 1959. A wealthy American man hires a woman to interpret his fantasies. As this happens we enter a world of obsessive, love and politics in a country on the brink of change.

December 11, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

***The Biography of a Constellation* by Lila Rose Kaplan, Gregg Henry directs**

A second year M.F.A. student at University of California at San Diego, Kaplan's piece unites a mythical princess, an archival librarian and a planetarium announcer. Their stories align magically as each woman escapes the confines of her reality through a deep love of the stars.

February 12, 2007 at 7:00 pm.

***Willing* by Amy Herzog**

Herzog is an M.F.A. student at the Yale School of Drama. Her play looks at a headstrong young academic who uncovers a mystery surrounding a dead conceptual artist who created eerie, prophetic "death certificates," forcing the scholar to choose between idolizing the artist or revealing his darker artistic secrets.

1101 Sixth Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024
T: 202 554 9066
F: 202 488 4056
www.arenastage.org

– continued –

Arena Stage announces 2006/07 downstairs New Play Reading Series
Page 2

March 12, 2007 at 7:00 pm.

***Mary T. & Lizzie K.*, a commission by Tazewell Thompson, Rebecca Taichman directs**

Mary T. & Lizzie K. re-imagines the untold relationship between Mary Todd Lincoln and her most trusted confidant, the African-American seamstress Elizabeth Keckley.

April 16, 2007 at 7:00 pm

***Santa Ana*, a commission by Eric Overmyer, Howard Shalwitz directs**

By the producer/writer of "Homicide," "Law & Order" and HBO's "The Wire," Overmyer has created a murder mystery set in 21st century Hollywood for his gripping film-noir narrative.

May 14, 2007 at 7:00 pm.

***Emilie and Voltaire... Were Here*, a commission by Karen Zacarias, Molly Smith directs**

Based on a true story, the French scientist Emilie du Châtelet is pregnant with Voltaire's child and is assured that she will die after child birth. As her body expands and her life shortens, Emilie grapples with the essence of time and space and discovers the basis for what will come to be known over a century later as Einstein's famous equation $E=MC^2$. Zacarias is a local D.C. playwright.

Tickets to the **downstairs** New Play Reading Series are \$10, and may be purchased online at www.arenastage.org or by calling the Arena Stage Sales Office at (202) 488-3300.

###