

[Inside] the Ford NEWS RELEASE

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Press Contact: Lucy Pollak

lucy@lucypr.com (818) 887-1499 (for media only)

2010-11 SEASON AT [Inside] the Ford: Three new plays from Rogue Artists Ensemble, Neo Ensemble Theatre, and Vs. Theatre Company

LOS ANGELES, CA - September 8, 2010 - Three of Los Angeles' most daring small theater companies will bring three premieres to [Inside] the Ford in 2010-11.

Three L.A. County-based theater companies without permanent facilities have again been selected through a competitive process to present at [Inside] the Ford. The 2010-11 season opens on October 30 with the **world premiere** of ***HYPERBOLE: origins***, created by L.A.'s designer-based **Rogue Artists Ensemble** (*Gogol Project, The Comical Tragedy of Mr. Punch*). On January 22, the **Neo Ensemble Theatre** (*The White House Murder Case, Fortinbras*), a company dedicated to the celebration of humor within the human condition, will present the **Los Angeles premiere** of the whimsically quirky ***Free*** by **Barbara Lindsay**. Closing out the season, **Vs. Theatre Company** (*On an Average Day, Blackbird*) will present the **Los Angeles premiere** of Tony-nominated **Neil LaBute's** shocking and darkly funny two character drama, ***The Mercy Seat***.

The play series at [Inside] the Ford have been resounding critical and popular successes. "A big plus for the decade came from the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, whose funding of various companies at [Inside] the Ford has given us some of the richest programming of the seasons," wrote Steven Leigh Morris in his *LA Weekly* "The Best of L.A. Theater in the '00s" column last December.

"The Arts Commission is proud to make possible exciting theater in a gorgeous space that both theater companies and patrons can afford," says Arts Commission executive director **Laura Zucker**.

With ***HYPERBOLE: origins***, the award-winning Rogue Artists Ensemble creates a celebratory theatrical event that examines ancient and modern stories of origin. In this **world premiere Hyper-theatrical** show, myths and science collide with masks, puppets, music and cutting-edge technology to create an exhilarating experience. SEE the amazing Origin Machine© and experience the fantastic Origin-torium©! Witness a performance drawing from myth, science, humanity, and faith and set to an eclectic soundtrack from around the world, including contributions from **Josiah Wolf, The Very Best, Deerhoof, Oh No Ono, Max Tundra, The Ditty Bops** and more. It's the birth of the universe - live on stage. (**Rogue Artists Ensemble, October 30-December 12**)

Barbara Lindsay's Free is full of humor, wonder, and a sense of extended possibility. Without the aid of mechanical devices, we can't defy gravity; we can only slip the bonds of earth in our imaginations. But no one seems to have told this to Marshall "Free" Gunther. Free is a floater. He has to work at keeping himself tethered to the ground. When Free decides he would rather be an apprentice motel maid than defy gravity for indifferent audiences, he finds that the gift he doesn't want has touched more lives than he realized. (**Neo Ensemble Theatre, Los Angeles premiere, January 22-February 27**)

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Neil LaBute's *The Mercy Seat* is a scathing, trenchant, and caustically funny examination of opportunism and betrayal in the face of national tragedy. On September 12, 2001, Ben Harcourt finds himself in the downtown apartment of his boss and lover. His endlessly ringing cell phone haunts their conversation as Ben and Abby explore the choices now available to them that did not exist just a day ago. Will Ben let his family know he's alive? (**Vs. Theatre Company, Los Angeles premiere, March 19-April 24**)

The ITF 2010-11 play series is supported by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission and the Ford Theatre Foundation, with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.

[Inside] the Ford is located in the Ford Theatres complex at 2580 Cahuenga Blvd. East, Hollywood, CA 90068, just off the 101 Hollywood Freeway across from the Hollywood Bowl and south of Universal Studios. On-site, non-stacked parking is free. A season subscription for all three plays is \$45. Single tickets to *HYPERBOLE:origins*, *FREE*, and *The Mercy Seat* are priced at \$20 with a special price of \$12 for full-time students with ID and senior citizens. For information and to purchase tickets go to the Ford Theatres Web site at www.FordTheatres.org or call **323.461.3673**. The Ford is also on Facebook, YouTube and Twitter @FordTheatres.

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About [Inside] the Ford:

Embedded within a 1929 historic structure, [Inside] the Ford is an 87-seat indoor theater space at the Ford Theatres complex that boasts 21st century lights and sound, comfortable seats, and a decades-long history of nurturing new theater. For decades it was rented by numerous groups, most notably the Mark Taper Forum which made it the home of its second stage Taper, Too from 1972 to 1997. In 1998 the space was extensively renovated and renamed [Inside] the Ford, following which a season of three productions was presented under the Los Angeles County Art Commission's subsidized rental program designed to help theater companies without permanent facilities. From 2000-01 through 2003-04, [Inside] the Ford hosted "Hot Properties," seasons of new plays and musicals produced by County-based theater companies and supported by A.S.K. Theater Projects and the James Irvine Foundation. From 2005-06 to 2007-08, [Inside] the Ford was the home of the Ensemble Theatre Collective, known as ETC@ITF, a collaboration of five L.A.-based theater companies that was supported in part by the Flintridge Foundation.

About the Los Angeles County Arts Commission:

The Los Angeles County Arts Commission, Laura Zucker, Executive Director, provides leadership in cultural services of all disciplines for the largest county in the United States, encompassing 88 municipalities. In addition to programming the John Anson Ford Theatres, the Arts Commission provides leadership and staffing to support the regional blueprint for arts education, *Arts for All*; administers a grants program that funds more than 300 nonprofit arts organizations annually; oversees the County's Civic Art Program for capital projects, funds the largest arts internship program in the country in conjunction with the Getty Foundation, and supports the Los Angeles County Cultural Calendar on ExperienceLA.com. The Arts Commission also produces free community programs, including the L.A. Holiday Celebration broadcast nationally, and a year-round music program that funds free concerts each year in public sites. The 2010-11 President of the Arts Commission is Ronald D. Rosen. For more information please consult the Arts Commission online press kit: <http://lacountyarts.org/page/pubnewspress>.