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THE SECOND INSTALLMENT OF *REP LAB* TO BE PERFORMED AT MILWAUKEE REPERTORY THEATER

December 29, 2011 – [Milwaukee] – For the second consecutive season, The Rep’s Intern Ensemble – working in collaboration with members of the Artistic Staff – takes over the Stiemke Studio for one week to present a one-of-a-kind short-play festival. You won’t want to miss this close-up look at the next generation of regional theater professionals performing an adventurous, edgy slate of hilarious comedies and moving dramas, capped off with an exciting world-premiere piece created by the Intern Ensemble! **Rep Lab will run in The Rep’s Stiemke Studio from January 13 – 17.**

“The Rep is proud to provide the strongest internship program for emerging professional actors and directors in American regional theater,” says Artistic Director Mark Clements. “*Rep Lab* is an opportunity for the interns to show what they’ve learned during their time here in Milwaukee. We are pleased to provide this forum, giving Rep audiences the chance to see these talented, emerging artists in fresh, exciting new ways.”

Rep Lab showcases the work of The Rep’s internationally-renowned professional internship programs across a wide variety of theater disciplines. From actors to directors to designers, The Rep annually welcomes top-level emerging professional artists to spend a full season working alongside recognized masters of their craft as they seek to transition to fully professional careers. *Rep Lab* allows Rep audiences to get a closer look at the work of tomorrow’s leading

regional theater artists working under the guidance of members of The Rep’s Artistic and Production staffs.

The second installment of The Rep’s annual *Rep Lab* short-play festival focuses on nine distinct worlds in which something or someone is absent – and the void that is created by these “missing pieces” – a void that drives the characters to reach for fulfillment, forcing them on inspiring journeys of self-discovery or to take rash actions with spectacular, often profound consequences.

Rep Lab 2011/12

***Normal* by Jami Brandli**
Directed by Neil Easterling

***Bright.Apple.Crush* by Steven Yockey**
Directed by JC Clementz

***The Can-Can* by Kelly Younger**
Directed by Laura Webb

***Land of the Dead* by Neil Labute**
Directed by Joshua Baggett

***One for the Chipper* by Adam Seidel**
Directed by Brent Hazelton

***Letters from Quebec to Providence in the Rain* by Don Nigro**
Directed by Sandy Ernst

***Parachute Silk* by Carson Kreitzer**
Directed by Leda Hoffmann

***Lobster Boy* by Dan Dietz**
Directed by Brent Hazelton

***Devised Piece* by Artistic Ensemble**

In Jami Brandli's *Normal*, Robert has a problem: he and his son are overdue for Sunday brunch with Bobby, Jr.'s, grandparents, but Bobby's only coming down from his favorite tree if he can wear what he wants to the restaurant – and Robert's not having it. **Education Assistant Neil Easterling** directs **Acting Intern F. Tyler Burnet** in this touching exploration of two generations of men – a young father unable to connect with his pre-teen son and a young boy unwilling to bargain with his father – as they struggle for connection while trying to bridge a massive gap in the family.

Three people are pushed to the breaking point by the actions of those closest to them, and drown in the aftermath of an act of horrific violence. **Directing Intern JC Clementz** guides **Acting Interns Nathaniel French, Melissa Graves** and **Eric C. Lynch** on an exploration of the motivations and impacts of frightening, impulsive acts of revenge in Steven Yockey's visceral, propulsive *Bright.Apple.Crush*.

Two tin cans connected by a string and seven dozen threadbare clichés, the only tools for communication at their disposal, Candie and Duncan's chances to meaningfully connect with one another are hilariously slim – but that won't stop them from trying! **Big Read Project Manager** and **2009/10 Directing Intern Laura Webb** tries to keep **Acting Interns N'Tasha Anders** and **Joseph Kemper** from tying themselves in knots of meaningless words as they attempt to tiptoe through Kelly Younger's *The Can-Can*.

Melissa Graves and **Acting Apprentice Alexander Pawlowski IV** recount the very personal impact of the events of a day during which the entire world changed in Neil Labute's shattering drama, *Land of the Dead*. **Directing Intern Joshua Baggett** helms this character study of the price of survival and the shocking sacrifices that we make for those we love.

Coach Chip's been having a rough few months. Exiled to a life in the garage after making a well-intentioned but indiscrete comment to his wife, Chip's desperately trying to find something in his life that works. Enter the Zippers, the woebegone Little League team under Chip's watch, as they attempt to break up their perfectly blemished record by winning the final game of their

season in this comic exploration of the lengths to which we'll go to find someone to talk to.

Associate Artistic Director Brent Hazelton directs the world premiere of **Literary Intern Adam Seidel's** *One for the Chipper*, featuring Acting Interns **N'tasha Charmel Anders, Eva Balistrieri, F. Tyler Burnet, Nathaniel French** and **Eric C. Lynch**.

An old book, some yellowing letters, a claw foot bathtub, dark creatures lurking in the basement, the sound of something scuttling in the cupboards and a mysterious, melancholy beauty beloved by everyone she encounters. In his moody, atmospheric thriller, *Letters from Quebec to Providence in the Rain*, Don Nigro taps into the dark, surreal world of horror titan H.P. Lovecraft. **Associate Artistic Director Sandy Ernst** leads **Acting Interns Cody Craven, John Mark Jernigan, Elizabeth Telford** and **Jenna K. Vik** through Nigro's suspenseful unraveling of the intertwining lives of four young artists.*

Carson Kreitzer's exhilarating *Parachute Silk* takes us back to the 1940s, where we meet two hopeful, young brides-to-be longing for the return of their servicemen fiancés and dreaming about their perfect weddings despite the strictures of wartime rationing. **Education Coordinator** and **2010/11 Directing Intern Leda Hoffmann** directs **N'tasha Charmel Anders, Eva Balistrieri** and **Alexander Pawlowski IV** in this joyous, heartwarming story about being reunited with those we love.

Two young brothers – one who can, quite literally, feel no pain – spend the most unique of childhoods together, until a change in the rules of a favorite game one moonlit evening leaves their lives irrevocably altered in Dan Dietz' *Lobster Boy*. **Brent Hazelton** directs **Joseph Kemper** in this moving, one-man ghost story about the pitfalls of sibling rivalry and a long-ago act with ever-present consequences.

The final component of *Rep Lab* will be a never-before-seen, world-premiere short play, developed and devised by the Ensemble!

THE CAST

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The cast of *Rep Lab* will feature Rep Artistic Intern Ensemble Members: **N'tasha Charmel Anders**, who was recently a member of the ensemble in The Rep's annual production of *A Christmas Carol* and a Packer Cheerleader in The Rep's production of *Lombardi*; **Eva Balistrieri**, who recently played Martha Cratchit in *A Christmas Carol* and a Packer Cheerleader in *Lombardi*; **F. Tyler Burnet**, who recently played the Ghost of Christmas Future in *A Christmas Carol* and a Green Bay Packer in *Lombardi*; **Cody Craven**, who is currently the understudy of Gabe Goodman in *Next to Normal* and was recently seen as a Green Bay Packer in *Lombardi*; **Nathaniel French**, who was recently a member of the ensemble in *A Christmas Carol* and a Green Bay Packer in *Lombardi*; **Melissa Graves**, who was recently a member of the ensemble in The Rep's annual production of *A Christmas Carol* and a Packer Cheerleader in The Rep's production of *Lombardi*; **John Mark Jernigan**, who is currently the understudy of Doctor Fine/Doctor Madden/Dan Goodman in *Next to Normal* and was recently seen as a Green Bay Packer in *Lombardi*; **Joseph Kemper**, who was recently a member of the ensemble in *A Christmas Carol* and was recently seen as a Green Bay Packer in *Lombardi*; **Eric C. Lynch**, who recently played the Milkman in *A Christmas Carol* and was recently seen as a Green Bay Packer in *Lombardi*; **Elizabeth Telford**, who is currently the understudy of Natalie Goodman in *Next to Normal* and was recently seen as a Packer Cheerleader in *Lombardi* and **Jenna K. Vik**, who is currently the understudy of Diana Goodman in *Next to Normal* and was recently seen as a Packer Cheerleader in *Lombardi*. *Rep Lab* will also feature **Acting Apprentice Alexander Pawlowski IV**, who recently played Mr. Mudd in *A Christmas Carol* and played the Customs Officer in last year's production of *Cabaret* as part of The Rep's 2010/11 Intern Ensemble and **Luke Brotherhood**, a nine-year-old from Mequon who will be making his Milwaukee Rep debut.

THE CREATIVE TEAM

The creative team for this production of *Rep Lab* includes: **Artistic Intern Ensemble Member/Directing Intern Joshua Baggett** (Director for *Land of the Dead/Devised*); **Artistic Intern Ensemble Member/Directing Intern JC Clementz** (Director for *Bright.Apple.Crush/Devised*); **Education Assistant Neal Easterling** (Director for *Normal*);

Associate Artistic Director Sandy Ernst (Artistic Internship Program Director/Director for *Letters from Quebec*); **Artistic Associate Director Brent Hazelton** (*Rep Lab* Conception and Oversight/Director for *One for the Chipper/Lobster Boy*); **Education Coordinator/2010/11 Directing Intern Leda Hoffmann** (Director for *Parachute Silk*); **Big Read Project Coordinator/2009/10 Directing Intern Laura Webb** (Director for *The Can-Can*).

PRODUCTION STAFF

Assistant Properties Director Anna Warren (Scenic Design Assistant); **Costume Intern Jessi Veverka** (Costume Designer); **Technical Director Tylar Talkington** (Lighting Designer); **Assistant Sound Supervisor Erin Paige** (Sound and Projection Designer); **Stage Management Apprentice David Hartig** (Stage Manager) and **Stage Management Intern Jason Simpson** (Assistant Stage Manager).

TICKETS

Tickets for *Rep Lab* are \$10.

For more information or to charge tickets, call **414-224-9490**. Tickets can be purchased online 24/7 at www.MilwaukeeRep.com or at The Rep's Ticket Office located at 108 E. Wells Street.

Single tickets for all of Milwaukee Repertory Theater's 2011/12 productions are now on sale. Single tickets can be purchased online at www.MilwaukeeRep.com, through The Rep's Ticket Office by calling **414-224-9490** or in person at 108 E. Wells Street.

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Fact Sheet

WHAT: *Rep Lab*

WRITTEN BY: Jami Brandli, Dan Dietz, Carson Kreitzer, Neil Labute, Don Nigro, Adam Seidel, Steven Yockey and Kelly Younger

DIRECTED BY: Joshua Baggett, JC Clementz, Neal Easterling, Sandy Ernst, Brent Hazelton, Leda Hoffmann and Laura Webb

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT PROVIDED BY: UPAF, WISCONSIN ARTS BOARD

THEATER: Stiemke Studio

DATES: January 13 – 17, 2012

DESCRIPTION: A short-play festival featuring The Rep's Acting Intern Ensemble.

PERFORMANCES:

Friday, 1/13/2012 – 8:00 p.m. – Opening

Saturday, 1/14/2012 – 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, 1/15/2012 – 7:00 p.m.

Monday, 1/16/2012 – 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, 1/17/2012 – 7:30 – Closing

*To be performed only on Monday, January 16, 2012 and Tuesday, January 17, 2012.

TICKET PRICE:

\$10.00

TICKETS/INFORMATION: 414-224-9490 or buy tickets online at www.MilwaukeeRep.com.

TICKET OFFICE LOCATION: 108 East Wells Street in Milwaukee's Downtown Theater District

TICKET OFFICE HOURS: Monday – Sunday, Noon – 6 pm*

*On days with performances the Ticket Office will stay open until show time.

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Milwaukee Repertory Theater is a nationally recognized theater company that presents a critically-acclaimed selection of compelling dramas, powerful classics, award-winning contemporary works and lively Cabaret shows on three stages from September through May. The Rep also produces an annual production of A CHRISTMAS CAROL. The Rep's home, the Patty and Jay Baker Theater Complex, accommodates the Quadracci Powerhouse, the Stiemke Studio and the Stackner Cabaret. The Rep is also home to a Resident Acting Company of actors who perform with The Rep throughout the season.

The Rep is proud to be a member of the [United Performing Arts Fund \(UPAF\)](http://www.upaf.org), which provides major annual financial support. Through community support of the United Performing Arts Fund, UPAF Member and Affiliate Groups are able to provide education and outreach to over 400,000 children, provide over 2,000 live performances and reach over 1,000,000 people every year. When everyone supports the arts through UPAF, they help our local economy, improving education and strengthening outreach programs to the disabled and elderly – all while adding culture to their own life. Support of UPAF is critical to UPAF Member Groups' ability to continue to offer exceptional live performances, award-winning education and outreach programming and substantial economic impact to our region. To learn more about UPAF or to donate, go to www.upaf.org.

The Rep is supported in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the state of Wisconsin. The Rep is a member of the [League of Resident Theatres \(LORT\)](#), a management association of some of the nation's largest non-profit professional theaters that collectively bargains with the unions that represent the actors, directors and designers that work at The Rep; a constituent of [Theatre Communications Group \(TCG\)](#), the national organization for the nonprofit professional theater; and a member of [Theatre Wisconsin](#), the statewide association of non-profit professional theaters. This theater operates under agreements between the League of Resident Theatres and [Actors' Equity Association](#), the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States, as well as the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society. Many of our scenic, costume, lighting, and sound designers are members of the [United Scenic Artists](#), national labor union and our stagehands and carpenters are members of Milwaukee Theatrical Stage Employees' Union IATSE Local 18. This theater is an equal opportunity employer.

Milwaukee Repertory Theater

Patty & Jay Baker Theatre Complex

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