



## THE NEW CENTURY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**December 9, 2008**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
**Jim Torres (617) 529-1670**

*Note: Playwright Paul Rudnick is available for interview*

(BOSTON) – From January 16- February 14, 2009, SpeakEasy Stage Company will proudly present the New England premiere of **THE NEW CENTURY**, a series of four short plays by comic mastermind Paul Rudnick.

In each of these gay-themed one-act plays, Rudnick introduces us to some of his most lovable and eccentric characters to date, including:

- Helene Nadler, an attractive Long Island matron out to prove that she is the most accepting, the most tolerant, and the most loving mother of all time. Bar none.
- Mr. Charles, an effeminate late night cable TV host currently residing in Palm Beach, Florida, after having been exiled from New York for being “too gay” and;
- Barbara Ellen Diggs, a Decatur, Illinois scrapbooker and competitive cake decorator out to prove the critical importance of crafts in our culture. Says Barbara, “Crafts allow me to express myself, to create something worth dusting.”

Each of these characters have their say, then meet in this provocative and outrageous new work which examines where society is headed in the new millennium.

SpeakEasy Producing Artistic Director Paul Daigneault will direct the Boston premiere of **THE NEW CENTURY**. The cast includes award-winning Boston actors Paula Plum, Robert Saoud, and Kerry A. Dowling plus Boston Conservatory seniors Emilie Battle and Bud Weber.

**THE NEW CENTURY** will be performed in the Nancy and Edward Roberts Studio Theatre in the Stanford Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts, 527 Tremont Street in Boston’s South End.

Ticket prices range from \$30-\$50, with discounts available for both students and seniors at all times excluding gallery seating. Student rush seats, when available, are just \$14.

For tickets or more information on **THE NEW CENTURY**, the public is invited to call 617.933.8600 or go online to [www.SpeakEasyStage.com](http://www.SpeakEasyStage.com). (Please note that the play includes nudity and adult content and is intended for mature audiences.)

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**THE NEW CENTURY** was originally produced in New York City at Lincoln Center's Mitzi Newhouse Theater in April, 2008, with a cast that included Linda Lavin, Peter Bartlett, and Jayne Houdyshell. Former Huntington Theatre Company Artistic Director Nicholas Martin directed this production, which consisted of four short plays: *Pride & Joy*, *Mr. Charles*, *Crafty*, and *The New Century*.

Paul Rudnick has had his plays produced both on and off Broadway and around the world. His long list of credits include the recent Manhattan Theatre Club production of *Regrets Only* plus *I Hate Hamlet*, *Valhalla*, *The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told*, *The Naked Eye* and *Jeffrey*, for which he won an Obie, an Outer Critics Circle Award and the John Gassner Playwrighting Award.

Mr. Rudnick has had two novels published: "Social Disease" and "I'll Take It." His articles and essays have appeared in *Vogue*, *Esquire*, *Vanity Fair* and *The New York Times*, and he is a frequent contributor to *The New Yorker*. Rudnick also writes a column for *Premiere* magazine under the pseudonym Libby Gelman-Waxner, whose collected columns have been published under the title, "If You Ask Me."

His screenplays include "Addams Family Values", the screen adaptation of "Jeffrey," the Kevin Kline comedy "In & Out," and the 2004 remake of "The Stepford Wives."

SpeakEasy producing Artistic Director Paul Daigneault will direct the Boston premiere of **THE NEW CENTURY**. Paul won his second Elliot Norton Award in 2008, for his work on three Boston-areas premieres: *Parade*, *Zanna*, *Don't!* and *Some Men*. Paul's other directing credits for SpeakEasy include: *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*; *Almost, Maine*; *Caroline or Change*; *Take Me Out*; *Company*; *A Man of No Importance* (co-production Sógán); and *Bat Boy: The Musical* for which he won his first Norton Award for directing. Paul is also on the Faculty of The Boston Conservatory. In 2007, he was honored with the Boston College Arts Council's Alumni Award for Distinguished Achievement.

For the Boston-premiere of **THE NEW CENTURY**, Mr Daigneault has assembled a remarkable cast that pairs some seasoned Boston veterans with some exciting new talent.

Paula Plum (Helene Nadler) returns to SpeakEasy Stage after her acclaimed turn as Mrs. Lintott in the New England premiere production of *The History Boys* last spring. One of Boston's leading actresses, Ms. Plum has been honored with three Elliot Norton and four IRNE Awards; and in 2003, was named a Distinguished Alumna of Boston University's School for the Arts. Her acclaimed body of work includes roles in *Miss Witherspoon*, *Three Tall Women*; and *The Goat, or Who is Sylvia* (Lyric Stage); Margaret in *Richard III* and Lady Macbeth in the all-female *Macbeth* (Actors Shakespeare Project); and *No Exit*, *Ivanov*, *Mother Courage*, and *Lysistrata* (American Repertory Theatre).

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Robert Saoud (Mr. Charles) was last seen at SpeakEasy in *Some Men*. Most recently he was seen as Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof* at Fiddlehead Theatre. In the Boston area, Robert has worked at the Huntington Theatre, Trinity Repertory Theatre, North Shore Music Theatre, Merrimack Repertory Theatre, The Lyric Stage Company, New Repertory Theatre, SpeakEasy Stage Company, Wheelock Family Theatre, Stoneham Theatre, and Worcester Foothills Theatre. He has also appeared with Overture Productions and was in the cast of Boston's longest running show "Shear Madness".

Kerry A. Dowling (Barbara Ellen Diggs) has also worked extensively in Boston, most recently appearing in the Lyric Stage Company's production of *Follies*. At SpeakEasy, Ms. Dowling has appeared in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *Parade*, *The Women*, *Company* (IRNE Award), and *Bat Boy: The Musical*, among others. Other Boston credits include *Into the Woods* (New Rep), *A Man of No Importance* (SpeakEasy/Súgán) and *Pal Joey* (Stoneham Theatre). Kerry has also performed as a featured soloist with the Boston Gay Men's Chorus and is featured on their recordings of *Oz and Beyond: the Music of Harold Arlen* and *Razzle Dazzle: the Music of Kander and Ebb*.

Emilie Battle (Joann) was last seen at SpeakEasy as part of the Radio Trio in *Caroline, or Change*. Other regional credits include Young Hattie in *Follies* (Lyric Stage Company) and Crystal in *Little Shop of Horrors* (Animus Ensemble). Emilie was also a featured singer and dancer in *Tezz Yancey's Rhythmic Journey* at the Majestic Theatre. Emilie was also seen as Frenchie in *The Life* and Margarita in *West Side Story* both at The Boston Conservatory from which she will graduate this spring with a BFA in Musical Theatre.

Bud Weber (David Nadler, Shane) returns to SpeakEasy after appearing as Tank in the New England premiere of *Zanna, Don't!* A senior at The Boston Conservatory, Bud recently appeared as Buddy in the Conservatory's Fall production of Stephen Sondheim's *Follies* and as Max in last season's production of *Bent*.

For more information on **THE NEW CENTURY**, the public is invited to call the Boston Theatre Scene Box Office at 617-933-8600 or go online to [www.BostonTheatreScene.com](http://www.BostonTheatreScene.com).

Press inquiries should be directed to **SpeakEasy Marketing Director Jim Torres**:  
Office: 617-482-3279 Cell: 617-529-1670 Email: [JimTorres@SpeakEasyStage.com](mailto:JimTorres@SpeakEasyStage.com)

SpeakEasy Stage is a proud resident theater company at the **The Boston Center for the Arts** (BCA), the nonprofit performing and visual arts center whose mission is to support working artists to create, perform, and exhibit new work; to develop new audiences; and to connect the arts to a broad public. For more information, visit [www.bcaonline.org](http://www.bcaonline.org).

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***Calendar Listing Information***

Plays by Paul Rudnick

Cast : Emilie Battle, Kerry A. Dowling, Paula Plum, Robert Saoud,  
& Bud Weber

Director: Paul Daigneault

Production Stage Manager: Dawn Schall

Design Team: Cristina Todesco, Scenic Design  
Gail Astrid Buckley, Costume Design  
Jeff Adelberg, Lighting Design  
Nathan Leigh, Sound Design

Performing at: The Nancy & Edward Roberts Studio Theatre  
in the Stanford Calderwood Pavilion  
at the Boston Center for the Arts,  
527 Tremont Street in Boston's South End

Press Performance: Sunday, Jan. 18, 2009 3PM

Performance Schedule: Jan. 16 – Feb. 14, 2009  
Wed., Thurs. at 7:30PM; Fri at 8 PM; Sat. at 4 & 8; Sun at 3PM  
Added performance, Tues., Feb. 10 at 7:30PM

Ticket Prices: Wed., Th. 7:30PM; Fri. 8, -- \$47/ \$42 Student/Sr.  
Sat. 4 & 8 PM; Sun. at 3PM -- \$50 / \$45 Student/Sr.  
Tues. Feb. 10 – 7:30PM - \$47/\$42 Student/Sr.

Gallery Seats: \$30 flat rate at all times, no additional discount.

Student Rush: \$14 with valid college ID, at the box-office only, one hour  
before curtain, subject to availability

Box Office: 617-933-8600; [www.BostonTheatreScene.com](http://www.BostonTheatreScene.com)

Press Contact Only: Jim Torres – 617- 482-3279/ 617-529-1670 (cell)

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