



**BOSTON
PLAYWRIGHTS'
THEATRE**

THE WRESTLING PATIENT

Local producers team up to present new play on Etty Hillesum

**For immediate release:
March 16, 2009**

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

(BOSTON) – From March 27-April 11, 2009, SpeakEasy Stage Company, Boston Playwrights' Theatre and FortyMagnolias Productions, will team-up to present the world premiere of **THE WRESTLING PATIENT**, a new play inspired by the life and writings of Dutch Jewish author Etty Hillesum.

Written by acclaimed playwright Kirk Lynn in collaboration with Boston actress Anne Gottlieb and Obie Award-winning director Katie Pearl, **THE WRESTLING PATIENT** tells the story of a young woman who, as World War II engulfed her native Amsterdam, was confronted with a remarkable choice: to hold onto a kind of integrity, or to save her own life. With the help of a charismatic teacher, Etty wrestled to answer the demons of her time by looking within herself, remaining a celebrant of life whose intelligence, sympathy and generosity were themselves a form of inner resistance.

THE WRESTLING PATIENT is the work of three talented theatre artists who came together to create this remarkable tale. It was Anne Gottlieb who first secured the rights to tell Etty's story, and who, in 2005 brought on playwright Kirk Lynn as a collaborator after being introduced by a mutual friend. Mr. Lynn is the founder and co-artistic director of the Rude Mechanicals theater collective in Austin, TX, where he has had 16 of his plays produced. Mr. Lynn has also had success in New York with productions of his plays *Lipstick Traces* and *Major Bang*. In 2006, director Katie Pearl joined the project, which received a stage reading last March sponsored by SpeakEasy Stage.

This past fall, **THE WRESTLING PATIENT** was selected as a finalist in the Outstanding New American Play competition administered by Arena Stage and sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) New Play Development Program.

Anne Gottlieb will appear as Etty in this World Premiere production, which also features Daniel Berger-Jones, Joel Colodner, Tom Gottlieb, Marya Lowry, Will Lyman and Will McGarrahah.

Co-creator Katie Pearl directs.

THE WRESTLING PATIENT 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 \$14-\$44.

For more about Etty Hillesum or the play, patrons may call 617-933-8600 or visit www.wrestlingpatient.org

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**SPEAKEASY STAGE CO.
THE WRESTLING PATIENT**

Page 2 of 3

About The Artists

Anne Gottlieb (Artistic Director, Actor) is an acclaimed performer who has appeared in many New England and World Premieres (*Crave*, *The Dazzle*, and *The Laramie Project*), including several Elliot Norton award-winning productions. She has toured professionally to London, the New York International Fringe Festival and Moscow's Podium Festival. She produced, co-authored, and performed in the play *Anam Cara: Two Women Fall into the Ancient Tale of Gilgamesh*, which toured to The Roy Hart Theatre in France. Her classical work includes leading roles in *As You Like It*, *Comedy of Errors* (Shakespeare & Company) *The Taming of the Shrew*, and *Macbeth* (Boston Theatre Works). She is the 2004 IRNE (Independent Reviewers of New England) Award Winner for her work as Cleopatra in Antony and Cleopatra and Emma in *Betrayal*. Currently, she serves as a Resident Scholar in Collaborative Theater at the Women's Studies Research Center at Brandeis University.

Kirk Lynn (Playwright) is a Founder and Co-Producing Artistic Director of the theatre collective Rude Mechanicals in Austin, TX. Kirk has served as playwright with the Rude Mechs on 16 world-premieres. In May of 2001, Kirk's adaptation of Greil Marcus' *Lipstick Traces* enjoyed a critically acclaimed Off-Broadway run. In 2002 and 2003, *Lipstick Traces* toured the U.S. and internationally, to Austria. His latest work, *Major Bang*, commissioned by the Foundry Theatre, premiered in January 2006 and received rave reviews. He is also one of five recipients for Distinguished New American Play Award for his work on *I Have Never Been So Happy*. Kirk holds a James A. Michener Fellowship from the University of Texas in Playwriting and Fiction.

Katie Pearl (Director) is an Obie-award winning collaborative theater maker working throughout the country on site-specific performance and new plays. Recent directing credits include D'Amours *CATARACT* (Women's Project, NYC), Steve Moore's *Nightswim* (State Theater, Austin TX), and Sally Oswald's *The Painful Adventures* (Labapalooza Puppet Lab at St. Ann's Warehouse). Ms. Pearl has developed work with writers at the Playwright's Center (MN), New Dramatists and Soho Rep (NY), and University of Texas/Austin. She has led workshops and taught youth theatre classes and is a proud member of Physical Plant Theater of Austin TX nationwide. She has also has numerous awards for direction and production from the Austin Critics' Table, and is the recipient of a Roothbert Fellowship, a Drama League directing fellowship and a 2003 Village Voice OBIE award.

For tickets and more information on **THE WRESTLING PATIENT**, the public is invited to call the BostonTheatreScene.com box office at 617-933-8600.

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

SpeakEasy Stage Company (www.SpeakEasyStage.com) is a proud to be the resident theater company at the Stanford Calderwood Pavilion at **The Boston Center for the Arts** (BCA). *The Boston Center for the Arts (BCA) is 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.*

Founded in 1981 by Nobel Laureate Derek Walcott, **Boston Playwrights' Theatre** (www.bu.edu/bpt) is an award-winning small professional theatre dedicated to promoting the writing and production of new plays.

FortyMagnolias Productions is dedicated to bringing together local, national and international artists of diverse disciplines for on-going training and inquiry and to collaboratively create bold new works for the stage.
www.fortymagnolias.com

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SPEAKEASY STAGE CO.
THE WRESTLING PATIENT
Page 3 of 3

SPEAKEASY STAGE COMPANY
Calendar Listing Information

THE WRESTLING PATIENT

by Kirk Lynn, in collaboration with Anne Gottlieb and Katie Pearl

Presented by:

SpeakEasy Stage Company, a resident theatre company at the Boston Center for the Arts;
Paul Daigneault, Producing Artistic Director;
Boston Playwrights Theatre, Kate Snodgrass, Artistic Director; and
FortyMagnolias Productions, Anne Gottlieb, Artistic Director.

Cast : Daniel Berger-Jones, Joel Colodner, Anne Gottlieb, Tom Gottlieb, Marya Lowry,
Will Lyman, and Will McGarrah

Director: Katie Pearl

Production Stage Manager: Victoria Coady

Design Team: Richard Wadsworth Chambers, Scenic Design
Charles Schoonmaker, Costume Design
Franklin Meissner Jr., Lighting Design
Ben Emerson, 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, March 29, 2009 3PM

Performance Schedule: March 27 – April 11, 2009
Wed., Thurs. at 7:30PM; Fri at 8 PM; Sat. at 4 & 8; Sun at 3PM
Added performance, Tuesday, April 7 at 7:30PM

Ticket Prices: Wed., Th. 7:30PM; Fri. 8 -- \$40.00 / \$35.00 student/sr.
Sat. 4 & 8 PM; Sun. at 3PM -- \$44.00 / \$39.00 student/sr.
Tuesday, April 7 – 7:30PM - \$40.00/\$35.00 student/sr.

Gallery Seats \$30 at all times, subject to availability!

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

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

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