



SPEAKEASY TO HAVE ITS “SPRINGER MOMENT” IN 2008-2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 25, 2008

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Jim Torres (617) 529-1670

World Premiere of “The Wrestling Patient” Set as Season Bonus

(BOSTON) –The London musical sensation **JERRY SPRINGER – THE OPERA**, the Tony-nominated play **THE SEAFARER**, and Paul Rudnick’s hilarious comedy **THE NEW CENTURY** will each have their New England premiere as part of SpeakEasy Stage Company’s 2008-2009 Season.

Also in the mix for SpeakEasy’s 18th year is the regional theatre premiere of the Tony Award –winning musical **THE LIGHT IN THE PIAZZA**, and the Boston-area premiere of **BLACKBIRD**, the 2007 Olivier Award-winner for Best New Play.

As a season bonus, the company will team up with Boston Playwrights’ Theatre and FortyMagnolias Productions to present the World Premiere of **THE WRESTLING PATIENT**, a new play inspired by and adapted by the diaries of Dutch Jewish writer Etty Hillesum.

SpeakEasy’s 2008-2009 program also includes an impressive roster of directors including Norton Award-winners Paul Daigneault, Scott Edmiston, David R. Gammons, and Carmel O’Reilly, plus Obie-winner Katie Pearl.

“Without a doubt this is our strongest line-up ever,” remarked SpeakEasy Producing Artistic Director Paul Daigneault. “Two London hits, a hilarious off-Broadway comedy, two recent Broadway favorites, and a world premiere - it’s going to be a fun and exciting year!”

All of these productions will play the Roberts Studio Theatre in the Stanford Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts, 527 Tremont Street in Boston’s South End.

To purchase a subscription or for more information, the public can call SpeakEasy Stage at 617-482-3279 or go online to www.SpeakEasyStage.com

(more)

SPEAKEASY STAGE CO.
SPEAKEASY ANNOUNCES 08-09 SEASON
Page 2 of 4

Here is the 2008-2009 SpeakEasy Stage Season (dates, artists and titles subject to change):

1) THE LIGHT IN THE PIAZZA

Music and Lyrics by Adam Guettel

Book by Craig Lucas

Directed by Scott Edmiston

September 19– October 18, 2008

Press Performance – Sunday, September 21 – 3PM

Boston Regional Theatre Premiere!

This soaring musical whisks you away to Italy for a captivating tale of passion and romance. It's the summer of 1953, and Margaret Johnson is traveling the Tuscan countryside with her daughter Clara. When a handsome young Florentine captures Clara's heart, Margaret must decide whether or not to reveal a truth that could threaten her daughter's happiness.

2) THE SEAFARER

By Conor McPherson

Directed by Carmel O'Reilly

November 14 – December 13, 2008

Press Performance – Sunday, November 16 – 3PM

New England Premiere!

2008 Tony Nominee – Best Play! Both hilarious and chilling, *The Seafarer* weaves a mythic tale of the sea, Ireland and redemption. It's Christmas Eve in North Dublin, and Sharky Harkin finds himself hosting old friends at the dingy house he shares with his brother Richard who has recently gone blind. A lot of booze and card-playing carry the men into Christmas Day, when Sharky must face the grim promise he made decades ago to one of these old friends.

3) THE NEW CENTURY

By Paul Rudnick

Directed by Paul Daigneault

January 16 – February 14, 2009

Press Performance, Sunday, Jan. 18 – 3PM

New England Premiere!

From the author of *Jeffrey* and *The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told* comes this hilarious collection of four short gay-themed plays. A wealthy Jewish matron with at least three gay children, a flamboyant public access TV host and a Midwestern scrapbooker/competitive cake decorator each have their say, then meet unexpectedly, in this outrageous look at where society is headed in the new millennium. *Contains nudity. Recommended for mature audiences.*

(more)

SPEAKEASY STAGE CO.
SPEAKEASY ANNOUNCES 08-09 SEASON

Page 3 of 4

4) BLACKBIRD

By David Harrower

Directed by David R. Gammons

February 20 – March 21, 2009

Press Performance: Sunday, Feb. 22 – 3PM

2007 Olivier Award – Best New Play!

Two people who once had a passionate affair meet again fifteen years later in this gripping drama that has left audiences stunned in both London and New York. Guilt, rage, and raw emotions run high as the pair recall their relationship and attempt to come to terms with the shattering truth of their abandoned love. *Recommended for mature audiences.*

5) JERRY SPRINGER – THE OPERA

Music by Richard Thomas

Book and Lyrics by Stewart Lee and Richard Thomas

Directed by Paul Daigneault

May 1 – 30, 2009

Press Performance – Sunday, May 3 – 3PM

New England Premiere!

The only work in history to earn “Best Musical” honors from all the major British award groups, Jerry Springer – The Opera is a fascinating mix of high art and low culture. Shockingly funny and brilliantly original, the show introduces us to a series of unusual characters, each desperate for their “Jerry Springer” moment. *Recommended for mature audiences.*

Season Bonus: THE WRESTLING PATIENT

By Kirk Lynn in collaboration with Anne Gottlieb and Katie Pearl

Directed by Katie Pearl

Produced in association with Boston Playwrights’ Theatre and FortyMagnolias Productions

March 27– April 11, 2009

Press Performance – Sunday, March 29 – 3PM

World Premiere!

Based on the true story of Etty Hillesum, a young Jewish writer, this extraordinary new play chronicles Etty’s remarkable journey into the emerging science of psychology just as World War II engulfs her native Amsterdam.

(more)

SPEAKEASY STAGE CO.
SPEAKEASY ANNOUNCES 08-09 SEASON

Page 4 of 4

Subscription Information

Subscriptions for SpeakEasy's 2008-2009 Season are now on sale. Information on different membership packages can be obtained by calling Jim Torres at 617-482-3279 or via email at JimTorres@SpeakEasyStage.com.

For more information on any of SpeakEasy's 2008-2009 shows, the public is invited to call the BostonTheatreScene.com box office at 617-933-8600 or go online to www.BostonTheatreScene.com.

Tickets to individual shows in SpeakEasy's 2008-2009 season go on sale August 18th, 2008.

SpeakEasy Stage Company is proud to be the Pavilion Resident Theatre Company at the Boston Center for the Arts.

About Boston Center for the Arts

Boston Center for the Arts (BCA) is an urban cultural village, incubating and showcasing the performing and visual arts and artists of our time. Occupying a city block in Boston's historic South End, the BCA provides a creative "home" for artists, a welcoming destination for audiences, and an arts connection for youth and community. For more information, visit www.bcaonline.org.

Press inquiries should be directed to **SpeakEasy Marketing Director Jim Torres:**

Office: 617-482-3279 Cell: 617-529-1670

Email: JimTorres@SpeakEasyStage.com