



philly  
fringe

Festival Box Office 215.413.1318  
[www.livearts-fringe.org](http://www.livearts-fringe.org)

June 6, 2008

For Immediate Release

## **Play Development Group Shrinks the Space and Expands the Possibilities for Philly Fringe Festival**

**Philadelphia, PA – PDC Presents 4x4**, an innovatively claustrophobic and endlessly energetic discovery of what happens when you push the boundaries and they push back. Four plays, written by four Philadelphia playwrights, directed by four directors, performed in four separate, four-by-four-foot spaces. Travel through four different worlds in one provocative, energetic evening of theater at Plays and Players Theatre, 1714 Delancey Street. The show runs September 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 and 7:00pm, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 8pm, and September 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00pm.

**4x4** is an evolution of PDC Presents Primary Stages – staged readings of short (10-15 minute) plays. After several successful years working with the original format, creator Todd Holtsberry put his over-active imagination to good use when he decided to experiment with shrinking the size of the playing area and confining the action to a four-foot square. **4x4** presents the audience with a “choose-your-own-adventure” experience, as the pieces repeat simultaneously, four times during each performance, in environmental, untraditional locations.

“I had been producing Primary Stages for a few years and I was looking for a new challenge and a way to make things “‘fresh’,” says Holtsberry. “I had just finished *Project X/X...Run Zola Run!*, which was staged in very tight playing areas due to technical requirements, and this led me to think about what happens on stage when the boundaries are constrained.”

### **The Plays**

*The Opposite of Moths* by Brian Grace-Duff: A blackout in the library leads to the chance meeting of two strangers, both hiding, both searching. In a time of fear and vulnerability, each one struggles to find faith and hope. But the darkness remains and angels flee to the light.

*Crumbled Worlds* by Robin Rodriguez: Fifteen-year-old Janie may have had a baby, but where is it? Is the baby alive? Does Janie even know...and, if so, how will she reconcile this proof that she is becoming a woman with her, and her mother's, determination that she always remain a good, little girl?

*Shovel* by Greg Romero: Combining script and Butoh-inspired movement, *Shovel* is a solo performance work about a woman trying to dig up pieces of her shattered past before she blacks out again. She searches for memory and finds something hard, like a bone. And we hear her chains scrape the floor.

*The Last Dance* by Samuel Toll: He and She are aging professionals. They are fiercely independent and angrily frustrated. Will She add He to her list of losers? Will He add She to his list of conquests? A simple test answers their burning questions.

**What other people are saying:**

*“Working with PDC and Todd's Primary Stages has given me a fabulous outlet in which to act and direct new work in Philadelphia. I've always been interested in different types of movement and physical theater, which adds a unique challenge to placing a play in a four-by-four-foot space.”* –Biz Wells

*“The first response was, ‘You gotta be kiddin’ me, right? A four-foot-by-four-foot stage?’ But after a good sell by Todd, I was on board. Grand things can come from tiny packages. May thoughts of genies and Yoda dance in your cerebral cortex.”* –John D’Alonzo

*“I'm interested in ways that new work can be sparked. Ideas and projects like this one build community and point a group of artists at a common goal and collaboration.”* –Andrew J. Merkel

**LISTINGS INFORMATION:**

**What:** PDC Presents **4x4**

**When:** September 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm and 7:00pm; September 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm; September 11, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00pm

**Where:** Plays and Players Theatre, 1714 Delancey Street

**Tickets:** \$15, purchase at the door or through the Live Arts and Philly Fringe Box Office

\* \* \*

**FESTIVAL INFORMATION:**

The Philadelphia Live Arts Festival & Philly Fringe runs from August 29 - September 13, 2008. The Festival Box Office will open for phone [(215) 413-1318] and walk up sales [location TBA] in August 18th. Festival Guides, which include dates, times, and venues for all performances for both Festivals, will be available mid-August at all Festival venues, and other locations throughout the city.

The Philadelphia Live Arts Festival & Philly Fringe were originally founded in 1997 as the Philadelphia Fringe Festival. Today, the Live Arts Festival serves as a series of selected cutting-edge, boundary-breaking performing arts events, created by some of the most renowned contemporary artists from our region and around the world.

The Fringe serves as a collective home for artists bringing their work to audiences in every conceivable form - in traditional and untraditional venues, using new artistic forms and established ones, breaking rules or refining them.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

...about 4x4, visit <http://www.pdc1.org>

...about Plays and Players, visit <http://www.playsandplayers.org>

...about The Philly Fringe Festival, visit [www.livearts-fringe.org](http://www.livearts-fringe.org)