

new leaf



P.O. Box 30030 Chicago, Illinois, 60630 773-391-9800 newleaf@newleaftheatre.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - April 20, 2005 Contact: Bill Hyland - 312-527-6833

New Leaf Theatre spotlights emerging theatre artists
2nd Annual IN THE SPOTLIGHT Local Playwright Series

Opens: May 19, 2005
Closes: June 6, 2005

Bill Hyland –
Executive Director
Brandon Ray –
Artistic Director
Morgan Leavitt –
Artistic Associate
Tanya Ray –
Managing Director
Lisa Hyland –
Board President

CHICAGO, IL, February 2005 – Building from the success of New Leaf’s latest Jeff-Recommended production *As It Is In Heaven*, New Leaf Theatre continues its commitment to fostering opportunities for new and emerging theatre artists with its second annual *In The Spotlight* Local Playwright Series this May. The 2003 *In the Spotlight* series was hailed by the *Chicago Reader* as “a fresh addition to the scene” (Mary Shen Barnidge).

In The Spotlight provides up and coming Chicago playwrights an opportunity to share their work with an audience, as well as with other theatre artists, through collaboration with New Leaf Theatre. The series will feature diverse works from local playwrights Laura Schellhardt, Idris Goodwin and Nick Keenan. *In The Spotlight* opens Thursday, May 19th 2005 through June 6th 2005 at the Lincoln Park Cultural Center - 2045 N. Lincoln Park West, Chicago, IL 60614 - Thursdays, Fridays and Mondays at 7:30pm.

Ticket price is \$10.00 for general admission. Tickets can be reserved by telephone at 773-274-9026 or by email at reservations@newleaftheatre.org.

PERFORMANCES

In The Spotlight Local Playwright Series features *Inheritance* by Laura Schellhardt, *Close To Victory* by Idris Goodwin and *Lexicon* by Nick Keenan.

In The Spotlight opens Thursday, May 19, 2005 and runs through Monday, June 6, 2005 at the Lincoln Park Cultural Center - 2045 N. Lincoln Park West, Chicago, IL. Performances are Thursday, Friday and Monday nights at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$10.00 for general admission. Reservations can be made in advance at 877-238-5596 or by e-mail at reservations@newleaftheatre.org.

Visit newleaftheatre.org for more information.

MISSION

New Leaf Theatre creates intimate, animate theatrical experiences which renew both artist and audience.

NEW LEAF THEATRE



THREE PLAYWRIGHTS. THREE STYLES. THREE VOICES.

INHERITANCE by Laura Schellhardt

Daphne lures Tess to her home and into the bathroom - a bathroom she inherited from her mother - and reveals a haunting secret. Like her mother before her, Daphne is becoming the bathroom. Haunting and lyrical, *Inheritance* tempts us to ask what exactly we inherit from our parents and drives us to determine which lessons to keep and which lessons to leave behind.

Laura Schellhardt recently received her MFA in playwriting from Brown University under the direction of Paula Vogel. Prior to attending Brown, she was head of the playwriting program at Northwestern University, where she also received her Bachelors Degree in Theatre and Creative Writing. Her adaptations include *Creole Folktales*, *The Giver*, *The Mysteries of Harris Burdick*, and *the Phantom Tollbooth*. Her original works include *On Yellow Wings*, *Searching for Loch Ness*, *Je Ne Sais Quoi*, *Shapeshifter*, *Courting Vampires*, and *The Outfit*, which launched Serendipity Theatre Company's season this year. Her book, *Screenwriting for Dummies* was published last winter by Wiley Publishing.

CLOSE TO VICTORY by Idris Goodwin

Victory, Special Ron and Zora were the performers that almost were. Years after their brush with glory, a local behind the music spin-off features the hip-hop artists from the neighborhood - opening the old wounds of loss, disappointment, and squandered inspiration. In desperation, Victory hatches another plan for success and reaches out to the one person who can make it happen.

Idris Goodwin was the recipient of the 2004 NEA/TCG Playwright in Residence Grant to explore the hip-hop aesthetic on stage with Free Street Programs. His play *Braising* was selected in the 2005 National New Playwrights Showcase at Stanford University. His most recent play *Pluto*, a hip-hop opera about American History, premiered at the 2005 PAC Edge Festival. Idris is the co-founder of Hermit Arts, a not for profit performing arts organization. With Hermit Arts he has written and co-produced ten full-length plays in venues such as Chicago Cultural Center, Prop Thtr, Free Street Programs and Curious Theater Branch. Also a hip-hop performer (solo and with the group Farm Crew) Idris has performed all over Chicago and recorded albums independently and for the Naivete Records Label. Through his work with organizations like Young Chicago Authors, Free Street Programs, Interfaith Youth Core and After School Matters, Idris has helped young artists from all parts of Chicago to develop their writing ability.

LEXICON by Nick Keenan

What are we supposed to be doing on this rock, anyway? A performance piece composed in the medium of sound, *Lexicon* is a whimsical exploration of the fears and distractions that pull the rug out from our creative drive, and what gives us the strength to pick it all up and try again.

Nick Keenan is a Chicago-area sound designer and engineer, and has been an artist in residence with New Leaf Theatre since 2003. Nick has created sound designs for Metropolis (*The Odd Couple*), Apple Tree (Hello Again, *A Man of No Importance*), Visions and Voices (*Arrangement for Two Violas*, *The Violent Sex*, *Accidental Rapture*), Raven Theater (*Dancing at Lughnasa*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *The Man Who Had All the Luck*), Famous Door (*The Great Society*). At New Leaf, Nick has both designed sound (*Reckless*, *In the Spotlight '03*, *Brilliant Traces*) and provided original compositions (*Girl in Hyacinth Blue*). Nick has engineered and operated sound at Dallas Theater Center, Northwestern University, Apollo, and Goodman Theatres.

Lexicon is partially supported by a Community Arts Assistance Program grant from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and the Illinois Arts Council.

###

new leaf



NEW LEAF THEATRE'S *IN THE SPOTLIGHT* FACT SHEET

THEATRE:

Lincoln Park Cultural Center - 2045 N. Lincoln Park West

DATES:

May 19, 2005 through June 6, 2005

Blackout Date: Memorial Day, May 30, 2005

PRESS OPENING

Thursday, May 19th, 2005

SYNOPSIS:

Three diverse performances by up and coming Chicago Playwrights. In *Inheritance* by Laura Schellhardt, Daphne lures Tess to her home and into the bathroom and reveals that, like her mother before her, Daphne is becoming the bathroom. *Close to Victory* by Idris Goodwin is the story of Victory, Special Ron, and Zora, the band of hip hop artists that almost were. Years after their brush with glory, a local behind the music spin-off features the trio - opening the old wounds of loss, disappointment, and squandered inspiration. A performance piece composed in the medium of sound, *Lexicon* by Chicago sound designer and playwright Nick Keenan is a whimsical exploration of the fears and distractions that pull the rug out from our creative drive, and what gives us the strength to pick it all up and try again.

SCHEDULE:

Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays at 7:30 pm

PERFORMANCES

Thursday	5/19/05	7:30 pm	Opening
Friday	5/20/05	7:30 pm	
Monday	5/23/05	7:30 pm	
Thursday	5/26/05	7:30 pm	
Friday	5/27/05	7:30 pm	
Monday	5/30/05	NO SHOW	
Thursday	6/2/05	7:30 pm	
Friday	6/3/05	7:30 pm	
Monday	6/6/05	7:30 pm	Closing

TICKET PRICE:

\$10 general admission

RESERVATIONS

773-274-9026 or reservations@newleaftheatre.org.

INFORMATION

www.newleaftheatre.org

NEW LEAF THEATRE