

new leaf



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Obie Award-winning LIMBO TALES brings a freak-show to town

*New Leaf Theatre presents LIMBO TALES, by Len Jenkin,
opening Wednesday, September 28th, at 7:30 p.m. in the Lincoln Park Cultural Center.*

CHICAGO, IL, September 2005

Limbo Tales is a traveling freak-show, but the freaks are not what you'd expect - a history professor driving towards destiny and a traveling salesman trying to escape it - and their spectacle lies in the struggle between fate and free will. The show opens Wednesday, September 28th at 7:30 p.m. and runs Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. through November 12th. New Leaf Theatre is located in the Lincoln Park Cultural Center, 2045 N. Lincoln Park West, Chicago, IL 60614. There will be no performances October 27th-29th.

Limbo Tales is presented as a triptych of three stories - *Highway*, *Intermezzo* and *Hotel* - that explore the common themes of self-determination, the march of time, and the search for things we don't want to find. In *Highway*, a man suddenly decides to drive to his girlfriend's house, which is 200 miles away. He becomes obsessed with the thought that each car that passes may be his girlfriend coming to visit him, rendering him immobile, and as he begins to lose touch with time and place he is drawn deeper into the Mayan folklore he teaches. *Intermezzo* reveals the Master of Ceremonies, who introduces in gruesome and playful detail all the unusual acts he was unable to book for the evening. In *Hotel*, a down-on-his-luck traveling salesman sits in a cramped hotel room, eating Chinese food and reading the Bible, unable to tune out the private moments of his neighbors, while contemplating the stagnation of his existence in purgatory.

Limbo Tales weaves together inventive theatricality, humor and piercing insight to probe into those parts of the human psyche that keep us bound in our own fears, and those parts that push us upward when we seem utterly defeated. The New York Daily News says, "(playwright) Jenkin owns one of the most original comedic imaginations at work on the stage today. He is a writer who actually appears to know what the human comedy is."

New Leaf's Resident Lighting Designer, Jared Moore, who was recently awarded the Jeff Citation for Lighting Design for the second year in a row, lends his critically lauded talents to this production. Artistic Director Brandon Ray, director of last spring's *As It Is In Heaven*, which was nominated for a Best Ensemble Jeff Citation, tapped David Chapman to direct *Limbo Tales* because of his imaginative and fearless approach to theater craft; Chapman recently wrote and performed in his one man-show *Planet of the Bisexuals* at Bailiwick Performing Arts Center. Actor Jeff Davis plays The Driver, Paul Joseph appears as The Man, and Tiffany Joy Ross presides over all as The Master of Ceremonies.

Limbo Tales opens Wednesday, September 28th at 7:30 p.m. and runs Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. through November 12th. There will be no performances October 27th-29th. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for students/seniors, with group discounts available. Call the New Leaf Theatre box office at 773-274-9026, or visit www.newleaftheatre.org, for reservations, directions and additional information. All performances will be held at New Leaf Theatre in the Lincoln Park Cultural Center, 2045 N. Lincoln Park West, Chicago, IL 60614.

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