



In residence at the
Lincoln Park
Cultural Center

2045 N. Lincoln Park West
Chicago, Illinois 60614

Telephone: (773) 274-9026
Web site: www.newleaftheatre.org

For Immediate Release

Contact: Adam Webster
773-600-1117
adam@thesideproject.net

***Accelerando* not your typical “boy-meets-girl” story, nor romantic comedy, says Director Brandon Ray**

New Leaf Theatre drawn to themes of connection, spirituality, history, art, life... and comedy

CHICAGO, IL – “On one level,” New Leaf Artistic Director Brandon Ray says, “it is a hilarious romantic comedy that everyone can relate to and enjoy. Reading further, however, you realize that it is so much more than that. To me, this is a very ‘big’ play in the form of a ‘boy-meets-girl’ play. It is about love, but it’s also about connection, spirituality, history, art and life. That it says all of these things in a very funny, accessible way really won us over.”

The play that has him, and the rest of the company, so excited, and eager to open, is *Accelerando*, which will round out the company’s fourth season, commencing March 1, 2006, at the Lincoln Park Cultural Center.

About the play

“This play is fundamentally about connection, whether that be in relationship with another person or in communication with the masses through great works of art. The play is extremely relevant in an age when people feel largely disconnected, stressed, over-stimulated and overbooked. We want to explore questions about the purpose of life, about what is worth spending our time on, and what really lasts,” Ray added.

The story revolves around SHE, a dancer determined to find love. SHE may or may not have found it in HE, a classical musician and filmmaker who lives for art. When the duet unwillingly becomes a quartet as the two are joined by the spirits of their eccentric mothers, they are left to discover a relationship that spans an entire nighttime. Because with the way the world is speeding up nowadays, “a nighttime is really what a lifetime used to be,” Loomer writes.

“Above all, I think that I connected the most with some of the issues that the play raises, basically asking ‘What is the ultimate point of living on this planet?’” Ray says. “On one hand, the play presents the view that we should

-- MORE --

the side project
Press Relations

Adam R. Webster
Press Coordinator

Telephone: 773.600.1117
E-mail: adam@thesideproject.net



In residence at the
Lincoln Park
Cultural Center

2045 N. Lincoln Park West
Chicago, Illinois 60614

Telephone: (773) 274-9026
Web site: www.newleaftheatre.org

-- ADD ONE --

strive to create works of lasting significance: Art that transcends our humanity and communicates to future generations. On the other hand, the play presents the case for Love: that a profound connection with another person is the most important thing that we can strive for. These two points of view are taken up by the man and woman at the center of the play. I found it to be a very interesting question, personally, and the play handles it in a pretty balanced way.”

“However,” he cryptically adds, “just because it's a romantic comedy, don't assume that ‘love’ automatically wins out.”

About the production

Accelerando will open Wednesday, March 1 and run Thursdays through Saturdays, March 1-April 8, 2006, at 7:30 p.m. at the Lincoln Park Cultural Center, at 2045 Lincoln Park West. Tickets are \$15 gen; \$12 srs/students. Thursdays are \$5 Industry Nights. Hi-resolution press pics are available at <http://newleaftheatre.org/photos.html>

The cast will feature Michael Derting as HE, Georgann Charuhas as SHE, Isabel Quintero as the fast-talking MAMI (hers) and Annie Silvinski as the Freudian/ Oedipal MOTHER (his). Sets by John Sundling; Lights by Jared Moore; Sound by Nick Keenan; Costumes by Rachel Sypniewski; and Projections by Matt Mefford.

Past Productions Garner Raves

From dazzling tech (the soundscape *Lexicon*, by Nick Keenan, resident sound designer since 2003) to heralded ensemble work (the 2005 Jeff-nominated *As It Is in Heaven*) to innovative staging (last year's production of Len Jenkins' Obie winner *Limbo Tales*), New Leaf Theatre has created a rich tapestry of productions at its resident home, the Lincoln Park Cultural Center.

In addition to *As It Is in Heaven* (“Highly Recommended” – *Chicago Reader*; “An effective... warm production” – Jonathan Abarbanel, WBEZ), other heralded past productions also include *Brilliant Traces* (“Highly Recommended... enchanting... perceptive direction” – *Chicago Reader*) and a world premiere adaptation of *Girl in Hyacinth Blue* (“Recommended” – *Sun-Times*; “powerful” – *Chicago Reader*)

For more information on the company or show visit www.newleaftheatre.org.

the side project
Press Relations

Adam R. Webster
Press Coordinator

Telephone: 773.600.1117
E-mail: adam@thesideproject.net