



NEW LEAF THEATRE'S WORLD PREMIERE OF

VOX PANDORA

BY BILAL DARDAI

The show

Swift on the heels of *The Permanent Way* – Jeff Recommended and critically lauded as “the match of anything seen at Steppenwolf or the Goodman”^{*} – New Leaf Theatre has kicked off rehearsals for the world premiere of *Vox Pandora*. Written by award-winning Chicago playwright and Neo-Futurist Bilal Dardai, *Vox Pandora* takes a clever and innovative look into Pandora’s box, picking up where the tale left off. *Vox* begins with Hope still cloistered in the box, free to leave, but choosing to stay. With the distance between humanity and Hope thus greater than the distance between humanity and all the evils Zeus could muster, Hope is little to mankind but a vague, pleasant feeling. However, when an idealistic politician shows up and prompts her to abandon her box for what lies beyond it, Hope finds herself challenged by reality and forced to define who she is to herself and who she is to the world. In doing so, she and *Vox Pandora* create a myth for the modern generation.

The facts

Vox Pandora opens Wednesday, April 25th at 8:00 p.m. and runs Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays through May 26th. Showtimes are at 8:00 p.m., with added 3:00 p.m. matinees on May 19th and May 26th. All performances are held at the Lincoln Park Cultural Center, 2045 N. Lincoln Park West in Chicago. Tickets are \$15, \$12 sr/student, and \$10 industry tickets, with headshot and resume. Tickets can be reserved by calling 1-800-838-3006 or through our website at <http://newleaftheatre.org>. Credit card purchases can only be made online.

The people

Dardai, part of *The Permanent Way* ensemble, can’t pinpoint when he began writing *Vox* – sometime in 2002 or 2003 – but is perfectly clear about what prompted him to do so: “I’ve had a long-standing fascination with mythology in general, and Greek mythology specifically, and I’m something of a politics junkie as well. I was intrigued by the idea of squaring off an eternal being like Hope against a modern-day politician, who can be a very temporal being, to find if I could locate a common ground for the two of them. Part of this play grew out of my feelings surrounding the 2004 election, and my disappointment in a number of things – Americans, the electoral process, the media. For a while, I was one of those people who seriously considered moving to Canada. I chose to stay, in part, because I still believe in the ideal of America. Because, despite my concern that the country is collapsing under its subconscious dreams of empire, I believe there’s something worth saving. The possibility of the place is alive and well.”

New Leaf is a not-for-profit theatre company in its 5th season. Recent shows include last season’s *Accelerando*, Sun-Times Recommended by Hedy Weiss, and *As It Is In Heaven*, “Highly Recommended” by the Chicago Reader and nominated for Best Ensemble by the Jeff Citation Committee. New Leaf’s last show, *The Permanent Way* by David Hare, was Jeff Recommended, Highly Recommended by the Chicago Reader, deemed a “Must See” by TimeOut Chicago and overwhelmingly well-received by its audience.



BILAL DARDAI'S VOX PANDORA - FACT SHEET

WHAT: **Vox Pandoa**
by Bilal Dardai
Directed by Jessica Hutchinson

When Eleanor lifts the lid on a family heirloom and finds the embodiment of Hope cloistered within, what she once knew as history must be rewritten. But her life is not the only one up-ended. With the creak of a hinge, Hope, too, is sent reeling. Exploring for the first time what lies outside the box, Hope is forced to define who she is to herself and who she is to the world. In doing so, she and Vox Pandora create a myth for the modern generation.

WHERE: **New Leaf Theatre**
(in residence at the Lincoln Park Cultural Center)
2045 N. Lincoln Park West
Limited Street and Garage parking
CTA accessible – Sheridan, Clark, Broadway, Stockton and LaSalle bus routes

WHEN: **April 25 - May 26th, 2007**
Runs Thursdays - Saturdays at 8:00 pm

SPECIAL EVENTS *Opening Night - Wednesday, April 25 at 8:00 pm*
Added: Saturday Matinees, May 19 and May 26, at 3:00 p.m.

TICKETS: \$15.00 – general; \$12.00 – sr/students
\$10 - Industry tickets w/headshot and resume
Group discounts available
Call (773) 516-3546 for tickets or info
Online ticket reservations at www.newleaftheatre.org; credit cards accepted online only

CAST:	Alexandra Bennet	CREW:	Stage Manager - Jackelyn Normand
	Dana Dardai		Dramaturg - Joe Tracz
	Jeff Duhigg		Costume Designer - Rachel Sypniewski
	Christian Heep		Sound Designer - Nick Keenan
	Tiffany Joy Ross		Set/Props Designer - Marni Woloszyn

WEBSITE: www.newleaftheatre.org

MEDIA Erin Shelton
(773) 931-5477
erin@newleaftheatre.org