

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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***New Leaf Theatre explores the present through the past in the Chicago premiere of Six Years by Sharr White***

CHICAGO, September 2008: Kicking off its 8<sup>th</sup> season of intimate, animate, renewing theatre, New Leaf is proud to present the first Chicago production of Sharr White's epically evocative **Six Years**, opening Wednesday, October 8, running through November 22, 2008. This is the first offering in a season that explores the question, *"How do we build a future from a present we didn't expect?"*

**Six Years** follows a single couple through the most metamorphic years in our country's history. In 1949, Meredith and Phil Granger begin to pick up the pieces of their lives after the hardships of World War II. We return to them every six years until 1973, following them through prosperity and upheaval, hope and fear, love and loss. This play speaks to a question that faced our grandparents, our parents, one which we're still striving to answer: *how does our nation of families hold together through the push and pull of progress?*

Framed by two wars that changed the face of our nation, *Six Years* allows us to examine our current national landscape – this unexpected present in which our country finds itself – in the light of our past experience. When we look at the challenges confronting Phil and Meredith in the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, with a clarity that only the passage of time affords, we find that their struggles are startlingly familiar.

"I find it intriguing – and a little unnerving – to look at this play and see both how far we've come and how little has really changed," says director Jessica Hutchinson. "*Six Years* resonates with us as we are again faced with war and progress, the need to care for our veterans as they come home from battle, to care for our families in the midst of economic uncertainty, to move forward even as the ground on which we stand is shifting. By exploring these ideas through the eyes of Phil and Meredith, two compelling and complex and often raw characters, we're able to look at how these grand ideas affect people – then and now – every day in every area of their lives. And by extension, we can look at how these concerns are affecting us in our own lives as we travel through this play with them."

**Six Years** opens Wednesday, October 8, 2008 at 8 PM and runs Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 8 PM through Saturday, November 22, 2008. There will be no performances October 23, 24, or 25. All performances take place in New Leaf's home at the Lincoln Park Cultural Center, 2045 N. Lincoln Park West. Tickets are \$18, \$12 student/senior, and \$10 for industry professionals.

New Leaf Theatre offers a peak behind the curtain at the process for this production and all it does on the company blog: [www.newleaftheatre.org/blog](http://www.newleaftheatre.org/blog).



SIX YEARS  
By Sharr White

# FACT SHEET

**WHAT:** **Six Years**  
by Sharr White  
directed by Jessica Hutchinson

In 1949, Meredith and Phil Granger begin to pick up the pieces of their lives after the hardships of World War II. We return to them every six years until 1973, following them through prosperity and upheaval, hope and fear, love and loss. *Six Years* speaks to a question that faced our grandparents, our parents, one which we're still striving to answer: how does our nation of families hold together through the push and pull of progress?

**WHERE:** **New Leaf Theatre**  
in residence at the Lincoln Park Cultural Center  
2045 N. Lincoln Park West  
limited street parking  
CTA accessible

**WHEN:** **Opening Night** – Wednesday, October 8 at 8 PM  
Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, November 22, 2008  
Thursdays – Saturdays at 8 PM  
**No performances October 23 – 25**

**TICKETS:** \$18 – general; \$12 – students/seniors  
\$10 – industry with headshot/resume  
Group discounts available  
Call (773) 516-3546 for tickets or more info  
Reserve or purchase tickets online through [www.newleaftheatre.org](http://www.newleaftheatre.org)

<b>CAST:</b>	Sean Patrick Fawcett	<b>CREW:</b>	Assistant Director: Kyra Lewandowski
	Marsha Harman		Stage Manager: Amanda Frechette
	Mary Jo Bolduc		Dramaturg: Megan McClain
	Christopher Carr		Set Design: Michelle Lilly O'Brien
	Kevin Gladish		Light Design: Jared Moore
	Christian Heep		Sound Design: Nick Keenan
	Darci Nalepa		Costume Design: Rachel Sypnewski

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## About New Leaf Theatre

New Leaf Theatre is a not-for-profit theatre, founded in 2001, which strives to create intimate, animate theatrical experiences that renew both artist and audience. Last fall's production of *The Dining Room* earned New Leaf two Non-Equity Joseph Jefferson Award nominations – Best Ensemble and Best Director – and was also featured on *Time Out Chicago's* "Ten Most Wanted 2007." Other highlights include Non-Equity Jeff Award nominations for *The Permanent Way* (2007 – Best Ensemble) and *As It Is in Heaven* (2005 – Best Ensemble), and mention in the "Top Ten Reasons to Take a Risk" in the *Chicago Tribune (The Permanent Way – 2007)*. New Leaf has also been home to four world-premieres, the Chicago premiere of Morris Panych's *Girl in the Goldfish Bowl*, and the first United States production of David Hare's *The Permanent Way*. Please visit [www.newleaftheatre.org](http://www.newleaftheatre.org) for more about where we've been and where we're going.

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