



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Leaf Theatre dives into uncharted waters with THE LONG COUNT

CHICAGO, March 2009: We conclude our season asking ***How do we build a future from a present we didn't expect?*** by venturing as an ensemble into new artistic territory.

The Long Count weaves the seven voices of our company members together to create our most intimate exploration of the season's question. With this collage-like anthology New Leaf is re-imagining and interrogating our space, our process, and ourselves. It is the culmination of over a year's collaboration, and the company's first devised work.

The Long Count is our most process-oriented production to date, so much so that rehearsal will not stop with our opening night performance. During the run, Thursday evenings are open rehearsals. We want to give our community an unprecedented look at the push and pull of collaboration that brings a New Leaf production to life and guides its development. This new level of artistic transparency is a bold step for the company and a fitting conclusion to our most daring season yet.

To address the unique demands of this production, we've created the position of "curator" in place of a more traditional director. Company member Marsha Harman (*Six Years, The Dining Room*) has taken on this role. "It's like navigating and drawing a map at the same time," says Harman. "The process itself is evolving even as the play comes into focus. At each step along the way, we find ourselves doing things we've never done before. Not only are we writing the script as a group, company members are stepping outside of their comfort zones and areas of expertise to collaborate on all aspects of the production. As the curator, I funnel all of the artistic, directorial, and design voices of the company and ensemble and keep us on course as we decide and re-decide together where that course is headed."

For the members of New Leaf Theatre, *The Long Count* is the answer to our season question even as we ask it: How do we build a future from a present we didn't expect? Let's find out. Together.

MORE



THE LONG COUNT
created by
the New Leaf Theatre company

FACT SHEET

WHAT: **The Long Count**
created by the New Leaf Theatre company
curated by Marsha Harman

How do we build a future from a present we didn't expect? With *The Long Count*, our final offering of the 2008-2009 season, the members of New Leaf Theatre move through our previous cultural and individual perspectives to a deeply personal confrontation of the question. This original piece -- devised by the company and curated by Marsha Harman -- uses story and sound, language and light, movement and metaphor to create an anthology of possibilities. *The Long Count* is our response to the question even as we ask it: how do we build a future from a present we didn't expect? Let's find out. Together.

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** – Friday, April 17 at 8 PM
Friday, April 17 – Saturday May 9, 2009
Fridays and Saturdays at 8 PM
Open Rehearsals on Thursdays: April 23, 30, and May 7 at 7 PM
Industry Performance on Monday, April 27 at 7 PM

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

CAST:	Mary Jo Bolduc Mark Jacob Chaitin Bilal Dardai Alyse Kittner Layne Manzer Joel Reitsma P.J. Schoeny Elizabeth Vanderhoof	CREW:	Stage Manager: Rebecca Miles-Steiner Set Design: Michelle Lilly O'Brien Light Design: Jared Moore Sound Design: Nick Keenan Costume Design: Rachel Sypniewski Production Manager: Marni Keenan
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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 company 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 for more about where we've been and where we're going.