

Press contact: Janet Appel, Janet Appel Public Relations LLC, 205 West 54 Street, NY, Y 10019  
212-258-2413 or 212-257-9124, Cell: 917-282-1785, janetappel54@aol.com

**THEATRE LILA INTRODUCES THE 'ART OF FUSION'  
IN**

**TWO NEW WORKS AT THEATRE ROW**

***FIRECRACKER & WONDER:lust***

**SPIRALING UP THE PATH NOT TAKEN...**

(New York, March 5, 2008) Theatre LILA is proud to present two original works, *WONDER:lust*, a choreographic dreamscape conceived and directed by Andy Arden Reese and *FIRECRACKER* an adaptation of Chekhov's *Untitled Play*, directed & choreographed by Jessica Lanius. *WONDER:lust* and *FIRECRACKER* run March 28th, 2008 to April 19, 2008 at the Beckett Theatre at THEATRE ROW. (410 West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, NY NY 10026.)

Passionate about choreographic theater, Artistic Directors Jessica Lanius and Andy Arden Reese founded THEATRE LILA in 2004. Theatre LILA is dedicated to challenging the audience's experience of theater by integrating the 360° actor – using the physical, intellectual, psychological and emotional instrument – in a fusion of theater, dance, music and sound to create a total theater experience. Theatre LILA sculpts the theatrical playing space into images and ideas brought to life. Based in the European tradition of ensemble and through their unique rehearsal process of amalgamating physical storytelling with text, LILA bridges the gap between what is visually exciting and emotionally alive.

*WONDER:lust* depicts a modern urban fairy tale about finding love - and finding oneself – in the chaos of contemporary life. Inspired by texts of Lewis Carroll, Walt Whitman, and Samuel Beckett, this choreographic ensemble theater piece intersects dream with nightmare to create a kaleidoscope of human interaction. Irrational and experiential, *WONDER:lust* confronts the question of how to find ground in a crazily shifting world – It's a night of terrifying bleakness. A woman on the verge. Existential meltdown. Rules fly in the face of logic. And there is a fine line between what is brutal and kind. When everything you know to be true falls apart... there is a restless, voracious need to... *WONDER*.

In the farcically tragic adaptation of Chekhov's "Untitled Play," Theatre LILA's *FIRECRACKER* transports us to small town America somewhere between here and the Mississippi ubiquitously suffering the plight of chronic inescapability. Visually stimulating and emotionally hysterical, the comical tour de force sends us into the mediocre life of a man turned on its head by Midsummer Eve and the appearance of a former love. Risking, spinning the rest of his world into unrestrained chaos, will he dare to chase 'living the life he could?'

"Elements of The Art of Fusion can be found in both plays where LILA's directors are experimenting with extremes, the absurd and the ridiculous, playing with the voice, with tempo, and the space" says Lanius, "to give the audience a unique theatrical experience." Arden Reese explains, "when putting together a production like this, it is the sum-total of the experience itself that tells the story" even given that her play is a dreamscape.

"*WONDER:lust* and *FIRECRACKER* share similar themes of claiming one's self, and one's own identity, claiming the present moment, one's sexuality, vulnerability and the ability to give unselfishly of your self despite the odds, and finally learning to release one's control in order to find the ebb and flow of life," says Arden Reese, co-founder and artistic

director of Theatre LILA. "...of being trapped in your life, of never amounting to anything, and dealing with being confronted with the choices life offers, and deciding what to do. It is as much about the path not taken, as about the path one chooses to take."

Lanius, artistic director and co-founder explains that "other themes resonating between the plays center on 'why don't we live the life we could?' Focusing on our human desire for happiness and our ability or inability to make choices to fulfill our own personal definition of happiness. The feeling of being trapped and the inability to escape your choices."

#### THE DIRECTORS & CAST

Andy Arden Reese, director of *WONDER:lust*, received international acclaim for a traveling duet piece titled *Eggs in a Briar Patch* and her one-woman show *The Cry of the Children*. A former co-founder and artistic director of the theater company *Pendulum*, Andy has worked with the New York Shakespeare Festival, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Primary Stages, American Stage Company, The Women's Project and Productions, Harwich Winter Theater, New Jersey Rep, The Shoestring Players – winning the coveted Fringe First Award - and Café Theater, Inc., which was in residence at George Street Playhouse, as well as conceiving and directing over 15 original productions.

The *WONDER:lust* cast includes: Stanley Brode, Emily Mitchell, Vanessa Morosco\*, John Mulcahy, Jessica Pohly, Kate Russell, Susan Schuld, and Shadae Smith.

Jessica Lanius director of *FIRECRACKER*, was given the Dance Magazine Student Choreographer nomination through ACDFA for her piece entitled *16 Women While You Watched* which was performed at The Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. As Artistic Director for Theatre LILA, Jessica has created original works including: *Shakespeare's Women: Under the Corset*, *The Waltz of Elementary Particles*, *Alice: Shaken Not Stirred* and in 2006 was commissioned to write & create an original play entitled *THESMOPHORIA* for the River Arts Center in Sauk Prairie, Wisconsin.

The *FIRECRACKER* cast includes: Francile Albright\*, Paul Coffey\*, Jennifer Donlin\*, James Patrick Flynn, Scott Giguere\*, Eunice Ha, David Randolph Irving, Liam Joynt\*, Gregory Manley, Alexis Dominique Slade, and Richard Waddingham\*.

#### ABOUT THEATRE LILA

Founded in 2004, Theatre LILA is a non-profit ensemble theatre company based in New York City. Their mission is to create choreographic theater that arouses audiences and stimulates awareness, compassion and change. To consistently engage in a working laboratory to rigorously explore and expand the art of theatrical fusion and to collaborate with theater and arts organizations within hometown America to develop programs enabling the building of bridges and offering cultural exchange within communities.

For more information please go to [www.theatrelila.com](http://www.theatrelila.com)

**TICKETS: \$18.00** with the exception of two benefit performances, on April 12 (\$60.00)  
Tickets can be purchased through: Ticket Central 212-679-4200 or purchased at the box office or from [www.ticketcentral.com](http://www.ticketcentral.com)  
Dates: March 28 through April 19, 2008  
*WONDER:lust* Running time: 85 minutes  
*FIRECRACKER* Running time: 130 minutes

\*Actors appearing courtesy of Actors Equity Association