



For immediate release

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Firebelly Offers Two World Premieres

Two One-act Plays by new Playwrights showcase Firebelly's commitment to young talent

Firebelly shows its commitment to new talent again in its Spring production, May 11-28, offering world premiers by two new young playwrights in a teeter-totter program of romantic comedy and psychological thriller that is sure to please any audience.

In the romantic comedy *Conversing Elevens*, by David Cahill, we join a married couple whose ids, egos, and superegos are greatly led astray through the unqualified “therapy” session by a nosey restaurant waiter, Sigmund, as the couple tries to rekindle their passion and understanding of each other during a special dinner. With great wit, punchy dialogue, and insight into our relationships and their fragilities, *Conversing Elevens* is a delightful comedy with heart-felt poignancy. *Conversing Elevens* showcased in the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts’ Page-to-Stage New Play Festival, September 2004 to a standing room only crowd with great enthusiasm.

A murder has been committed, but by whom? A frightened housewife, a frustrated husband, or a volatile cast of friends and relatives? Can a young boy corroborate an alibi? With surprising twists and turns, *Not So Soft*, by Jonah Sea Knight, is a psychological thriller that takes audiences on a roll-coaster ride of emotional highs and lows, as all these personas contribute to the ever-important question in murder mysteries: “Who done it”?

“Offering young playwrights a chance to professionally perform their works is as important to our mission as providing young actors with professional stage experience,” says Artistic Director Kathi Gollwitzer. “Our artistic exploration, that we might use in an established play, is put aside; it is the young playwrights time to be seen, heard, and evaluated for their own expression and ideas. This is ‘their’ show,” she continued.

Firebelly takes these two one-act plays on the road following their 16-performance run in Arlington. The company heads on the “road” to Hong Kong as part of the Faust International Theatre’s 2005 Faust Festival in June for seven more performances. “We call this production our ‘two for the ‘run’/ two for the road’ production,” says guest director Jessica Lefkow. Last year, Firebelly took their production of *Waiting for Godot* to the Prague International School for performances as well. “Performing in new spaces, foreign lands, and for new audiences, sharpens one’s senses and improves flexibility in front of an audience,” suggests Gollwitzer. “It’s another training ground for everyone.”

Firebelly has been home to young actors and technicians since its inception in 2002, and David Cahill is no stranger. He has worked with Firebelly in many ways for the past three years. Jonah Sea Knight, who has also found a voice through Firebelly, is a credentialed playwright and founder of the New Playhouse in Frederick, Maryland. (MORE)

Question-and-Answer (Q & A) sessions with the playwrights and local playwrights are planned; visit [www. Firebellyproductions.net](http://www.Firebellyproductions.net) for late-breaking news, details, and ticket ordering information. Groups are encouraged to attend and ask about special Q&As with the cast or playwrights to enhance their theatre and learning experience.

Firebelly continues its tradition of offering deep discounts on its Wednesday and Thursday 8 pm performance (\$5 tickets) to seniors, students, actors, technicians, and other artists to provide opportunities to share great theatre.

All performance, in the U.S., run at Theatre on the Run, 3700 South Four Mile Run Dr., Arlington, VA 22206. Directed by Jessica Lefkow, featuring Josh Drew, Sarah Imes, and Ed Xavier; Sixteen performances: May 11-14, 18-21, 25-28 at 8 pm; May 15, 21, 22, 28 at 2 pm; Tickets: \$15 (adults); \$12 (students/seniors 65+); Special Student/Senior/Artist/Actor rate only \$5 on Wed. & Thurs. evenings! Group rates available. Order tickets online at www.firebellyproductions.net via Instantseats, or call 703.409.2372.

Firebelly Productions is supported by Arlington County through the Arlington Commission for the Arts and the Cultural Affairs Division of the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources.

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