

Firebelly Productions

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Firebelly Productions presents *A Body of Water* by Lee Blessing, June 26-July 20, 2008, performed at Theatre on the Run, 3700 South Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington, Virginia.

In this mystery, a couple awakes in a house with no memory of who they are or how they got there in this suspenseful, yet comic, exploration of the deep relationship between memory and identity.

“One of the things that I find refreshing about this script is that it has one of the best blends of comedy and drama that I have seen,” said guest director Michael Ryan Fernandez. “I plan to approach this play like it is a comedy, and I hope that in doing so the dramatic parts become that much more important.”

Yet the content is serious, as is losing one’s memory, through an accident, disease, or perhaps some other circumstance, which the play infers in its mysterious moments. “If you approach a play like this as though it were a drama,” says Fernandez “not only do you tend to glaze over the comedic parts, but you feel like you are just waiting for the really dramatic moments. Then those moments don’t pop out like they should. A serio-comedy, like *A Body of Water*, is a delicate creature, but we have a cast that is perfect for it.”

Audiences are in for some surprises. “The most amazing way to tell a story is to make your audience feel the same as one or more of the characters within the story, explained Fernandez. “I want the audience to feel as alienated, lost, and confused as the characters. I want everyone to be a part of the discovery and the frustration that happens throughout this play and to feel what it might be like to be lost without a memory in the world.” Then the audience experiences same journey as these characters do, sharing the discovery.

As part of the Firebelly mission to provide young actors and technicians with professional opportunities, this production marks the professional directing debut of Fernandez, who has worked with Firebelly in previous productions and readies himself for graduate work in a few months. “This is what Firebelly is all about, and we are

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excited to offer Fernandez this opportunity. He has assembled a great cast, technicians and designers, and we will offer our support as needed,” said Artistic Director Kathi

Gollwitzer. Other directorial debuts have been *Proof*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Nothing Sacred*, which all received solid, and some, extraordinary reviews.

Sixteen performances are offered Thursdays-Saturdays at 8 pm and Sundays at 2 pm and Saturday, July 19 at 2 pm. Note there is no performance Friday, July 4. Tickets: \$15 adults, \$12 students/seniors 65+, with a special \$5 rate for seniors on Sundays. Group rates available for any performance, please call the box office for details at 703.409.2372. Tickets online: firebellyproductions.net via Instantseats, or call 703.409.2372.

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