



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rising Sun Performance Company
in association with
Planet Connections Theatre Festival
Presents
DONKEY

Coffee served hot with a side of small town politics

By John Patrick Bray

at the Planet Connections Theatre Festivity
May 18th thru June 8th 2014
@ Paradise Factory Theatre

Founding Artistic Director announced today that their upcoming production of “Donkey” by John Patrick Bray is slated to be published and licensed with Next Stage Press. This will be Bray’s third publishing with Next Stage Press, Bray’s other plays available for licensing with Next Stage Press include Hound and Liner Notes, which were also produced at the Planet Connections Theatre Festivity (2009, 2010); Trickster at the Gate, and short plays in 64 Squares and Game Night. Donkey will be available for licensing in late June 2014.

Founded by playwright Gene Kato in 2009, Next Stage Press operates as an independent play publisher and licensing agent serving professional, community, and academic theatres.

Donkey will also soon be added to Indie Theatre Now’s catalog, via special arrangement with Next Stage Press. Indie Theatre Now is a website dedicated to primarily NY Indie Theatre, created and operated by Martin and Rochelle Denton. Bray’s other published works with Indie Theatre Now include Hound, Liner Notes, Goodnight Lovin’ Trail, and On Top. The latter two plays are frequently performed in Rising Sun’s repertory of short plays.

Eloise’s monologue from Donkey will be published in the forthcoming Smith & Kraus anthology The Best Stage Monologues for Women 2014 edited by Lawrence Harbison.

Donkey was a finalist for the 2012 Last Frontier Theatre Conference, and earned Bray the status of Finalist for the 2010 Hangar Theatre Playwriting Residency.

This summer, Rising Sun Performance Company will be presenting Donkey, directed by Tim Errickson, as part of the 6th Annual Planet Connections Theatre Festivity. The Festivity will take place May 12 through June 8 at the Paradise Factory.

An indie coffee shop owner who hates coffee and people fails to learn his lesson when a corporate coffee shop threatens to take over his business. A satire of small-town politics, *Donkey* reminds us that for every decision we fail to make, there is another decision.. waiting not to be made .

Donkey will feature the talents of RSP's critically acclaimed ensemble and guest artists Ashley Bloom, Elizabeth Burke, Samantha DeSimone, Tom Frank*, Bret Hoskins, Christopher Sanchez & Mark Saunders. The Creative Team of *Donkey* includes Jak Prince who received rave reviews for his design of the 2010 smash hit "Last Supper", Sound Design by Rich Johnson, and Costume Design by Ashleigh Herndon & Samantha DeSimone. (*Appears Courtesy of Actors Equity Association)

Donkey Plays the following Performance Schedule as a part of Planet Connections Theatre Festival:

Sunday May 18th @ 9:00pm, Friday May 23rd @ 4:00pm, Sunday May 25th @ 6:30pm, Tuesday May 27th @ 5PM, Tuesday June 3rd @ 8:00pm, Wednesday June 4th @ 6:30pm & Friday June 6th @ 7:00pm

Tickets are \$18 and available online at www.planetconnections.org or at the Door.

Additional information can be found online at www.risingsunnyc.com

All performances will be at **the The Paradise Factory 64 E 4th St, Btw 2nd Ave & Bowery**
Close to the 6 Train -Bleeker St Stop, N,R to Broadway/8th St, or F Train to 2nd Avenue

Founded in September of 2001, **RISING SUN PERFORMANCE COMPANY (RSP)** is an Off-Off Broadway theatre company dedicated to producing ensemble-based work. It is run by artists for artists to allow them to create their own opportunities instead of their opportunities creating them. RSP is the full time artistic home for a wide range of theatre artists, including actors, writers, directors, designers, singers, and dancers. 2014 marks the beginning of RSP's 13th producing season, culminating in 60 plus productions and events. This includes the development of countless NYC and World debut plays, over 40 One Act Plays as part our annual series, 3 musical cabaret series, free outdoor performances, children's theatre, immersive themed theatrical experiences and its trademark revivals, including sold out critically acclaimed hits: *The Shape of Things*, *An Adult Evening of Shel Silverstein*, *Hellcab* *The Last Supper*, *Fool For Love* and *Bug* RSP has received 6 New York Innovative Theatre Award Nominations.

The Planet Connections Theatre Festivity is New York's premiere eco-friendly/socially conscious not-for-profit arts festival. Fostering a diverse cross-section of performances and events, the Planet Connections Theatre Festivity seeks to inspire artists and audiences both creatively and fundamentally, in a festive atmosphere forming a community of like-minded artists. At the heart of the Festivity are like-minded individuals striving to create professional, meaningful theatre, music and film, while supporting organizations which give back to the community at large.

Our Charity Cause: Founded in 1866, the ASPCA was the first humane organization in the Western Hemisphere. Our mission, as stated by founder Henry Bergh, is "to provide effective means for the prevention of cruelty to animals throughout the United States." While there are SPCAs and humane societies all over the country, the ASPCA is not directly affiliated with them. However, the ASPCA works nationally to rescue animals from abuse, pass humane laws and share resources with many shelters across the country.

This An Approved Actors Equity showcase Production

Actors' Equity Association (AEA), founded in 1913, represents more than 45,000 actors and stage managers in the United States. Equity seeks to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions, providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO, and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. The Equity emblem is our mark of excellence.
www.actorsequity.org



Mission

Committed to the principle of ensemble performance through the collaboration of a company of actors, directors and playwrights, Rising Sun Performance Company's (RSP) mission is to advance the vitality and diversity of American theater by nurturing artists, encouraging repeatable creative relationships, and contributing new works and revitalized pre-existing work to the national canon. Rising Sun Performance Company realizes this goal by providing a safe artistic home which stimulates risk-taking without limits of genre or agenda.

Philosophy

Rising Sun's core values are that of ensemble theatre, one in which the ensemble stands together, the director stands beside them to guide them, to assist them in creating vivid characters so that together they can tell a story. Rising Sun holds each member of any production from the lighting board operator to the actor with one line as a full member of the production; no one person carries the weight or the glory of a production alone. Not only artistically but on all levels of production, every member of the cast & crew should feel ownership of each production and performance, and take both the artistic and financial success importantly. Rising Sun believes whole heartedly in nurturing an actor's growth at any level, we believe fully & passionately in the power and striking beauty of a story well told, we believe in preserving a history of performance and the integrity of theater that can not be found in any other medium today.

An Overview

Founded in September of 2001, RSP is a downtown Off-Off Broadway theatre company dedicated to producing ensemble work. It is run by artists for artists to allow them to create their own opportunities instead of their opportunities creating them. RSP is the full time artistic home for a wide range of theatre artists, including actors, writers, directors, designers and dancers. Each ensemble member brings their own unique training, talents and aesthetic to the group. In addition to our permanent ensemble, we have a rotating roster of local, national and international guest artists, including performers, designers, playwrights, musicians, directors and technicians who work with the company on a show-to-show basis.

2014 marks the beginning of RSP's 13th producing season and its 8th year of veteran residency at Horse TRADE Theater Group (the Kraine Theatre, UNDER St Marks, and the Red Room), culminating in 70-plus productions and events. This includes the development of eleven world debut plays (including "Good Enough", "Without", "Music to Travel By", "Southern Werewolf"), numerous originals and one-act plays, the launch of an on-going musical cabaret series, free outdoor performances, children's theatre and its trademark revivals, including six New York Innovative Theatre award nominations.

For the past 13 years, RSP has been dedicated to producing top quality Off-Off Broadway productions. Whether it is a re-imagining of a published work or a premiere production of an original piece, RSP continues to provide opportunities for artists both established and emerging to work and/or get their work seen. From their inception in 2001 with their first double billing performance of "Hellcab" and "Marcus is Walking" at Actors Playground Theatre (a renovated Burger King turned into a theatre!), to their held-over hit revival, "Hellcab" at UNDER St. Mark's Theatre, RSP's dedication to bringing quality, cutting-edge entertainment to the Off-Off Broadway community has been steadfast.

The Company and staff of RSP are dedicated to maintaining the quality of independent theatre that began at Cafe Cino and the Living Theatre back in the 1950's. Because of their commitment to theatre, RSP regularly receives accolades from many other Off-Off Broadway companies, theatres and institutions.

www.risingsunnyc.com

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The Rising Sun Performance company has non-profit fiscal sponsorship from The Field. The Field is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt, 501(c) (3) organization serving the New York City performing arts community. Contributions made to The Field and earmarked for The Rising Sun Performance Company are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. For more information about The Field contact: The Field, 161 6th Avenue, New York NY 10013, (212) 691-6969, fax: (212) 255-2053, www.thefield.org. E-mail: info@thefield.org. A copy of The Field's latest annual report may be obtained, upon request, from the Field or from the Office of the Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271

Tim Errickson (Director) is the Artistic Director of Boomerang Theatre Company. Previous Boomerang credits include directing productions of *Hamlet*, *Fenway*, *Burning The Old Man* (6 NYIT Nominations, including Outstanding Direction), *Stoppard Goes Electric*, *Much Ado about Nothing* and *As You Like It*. Other recent directing credits include *The Desk Set* for Retro Productions (6 NYIT Nominations including Outstanding Production), Brad Fraser's *Unidentified Human Remains and the True Nature of Love*, Racine's *Phaedre*, Jamie Pachino's *Famous for Fifteen Years*, Michael Weller's *Moonchildren* (OOBR Award for Outstanding Production) and Brian Smallwood's *The Wedding Play*. His recent play *Endless Summer Nights* recently premiered with Boomerang in September 2010, and was a "Pick of the Week" by nytheatre.com. Tim has previously developed projects with John Pielmeier, Bill C. Davis and Mike Folie, including the treatment for the feature film script "Places". He continues work with his band Mother Tortilla recording songs for their upcoming album "Mental Salad".

John Patrick Bray (playwright) has written plays under grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, Acadiana Center for the Arts, and Acadiana C.A.R.E.S. His works have been produced in NYC with Rising Sun Performance Company, Rachel Klein Productions, Full Circle Theatre Co., (re:)Directions Theatre Co., At Hand Theatre Co.; he has had productions in the Samuel French OOB Festival, Planet Connections Theatre Festivity, and the Strawberry One-Act Festival. His plays are published with Applause, Smith and Kraus, Next Stage Press, Indie Theatre Now, Heartland Plays, JACPublishing, and in two of the Strawberry One-Act Festival anthologies. He has worked with Rising Sun for over ten years! John has an earned PhD in theatre studies from LSU, an MFA in Playwriting from The New School for Drama/Actors Studio Drama School, and he is a lecturer at the University of Georgia. johnpatrickbray.webs.com

"Rising Sun Performance Company is a youthful, enthusiastic company and I look forward to seeing more from them." **William Coyle, Off Off Online**

"It's worth the price of admission to see the Rising Sun Performance Company's aspiring talent."

Jennifer Rathbone, Theater Online

"Ridiculously talented ensemble."

MetroMix

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www.risingsunnyc.com

“an act of artistic inspiration”

“..cannot adequately be described—it must be experienced”

“..It is not a simple spectacle, but an experience that envelops all your senses.”

Show Business Weekly

This is a must-see for anyone who likes site-specific theater with a side order of intensity.

 **New York Press**

**TRACY
LETTO**

BUG

“This company has got it together and their coolness factor is up.”

No Red Lipstick Review

Stripper Lesbians

(A Naked Love Story)

"One of the 5 MUST SEE Shows at
This Years' FRIGID Festival"

The New York Times



The Local
East Village

"..all-time-classic hang-your-hat-
on-it bit of genius"
"thought-provoking"

nytheatre.com

"comic gold"

"a play that will surely continue
on past the duration of The
Frigid Festival"

THEATRE
IS EASY
www.THEASY.COM

THESIS

The Last Supper

Written by Dan Rosen

Directed by Akia

Eat... Drink... Be Buried...



flavorpill
your culture guide

"Director Akia and her Rising Sun actors maintain a high level of B-movie suspense, ridiculousness, and surprise"

- Patricia Contino

offoff
online
what's on

"It's funny, lighthearted, absurd and perfect for a summer evening in the city"

"..realistic and even chilling"

... William Coyle, Off-Off-online



"wonderfully designed" "spot on"

".. thought-provoking.."

"It's a rip-roaring good time, and well worth your dime"

"very entertaining"

"Check it out. You'll be glad you did"

-Bonny Prince Billy, Cultural Capitol

"There are no weak links in this cast. Everyone creates a full character and is fantastic in his or her role" ..a production not to be missed, not only for the subject matter, but also for the talent of all involved"

"... wonderful talent .." "...brilliantly played.."

Alyssa Simon, NYtheatre.com (PICK OF THE WEEK!)

nytheatre.com





TWISTED

"..uproarious.."
"..side-splittingly funny.."

"..genuinely hilarious.."
"..funnier than anything I've seen
on television in years."

"A few of the cast members could fit in
easily on Saturday Night Live."

"Rising Sun Performance Company is a
youthful, enthusiastic company and I
look forward to seeing more from them.."

William Coyle, offoffonline.com

"The practiced cast handles the comedic
timing with **accuracy and
eloquence**"

"**twisted** is a fun night of short
serio-comedic one-acts. The facile
situational comedies will appeal to some,
while the parodies, the **grotesque**, and
the ironic will appeal to others. **It's worth
the price of admission** to see the Rising Sun
Performance Company's aspiring talent.."

Jennifer Rathbone,
TheaterOnline.com



"Twisted is the **latest
great ensemble piece**
to come from the Horse
Trade group and once
again they deliver a show
that lives up to its
name. From **outlandishly
twisted to deviously
twisted** to simply subtly
twisted, each of these five
one-acts is served up with a
twist."

"Hell, yeah"

"[Teddy knows too much] Written cleverly
by Hanf and played with **deadpan bravado**
by the **wonderful** Aguero, this short,
snappy piece almost goes by too quickly."

"I don't think I've seen a more inventive,
funnier bit of theatre this year than Head
Games ... the payoff was **so unexpected
and so beautifully played** that I think **the
audience was literally tickled**; happy to
have been hoodwinked as well, but horrified
by the confusion."

...Neighbourbee Blog

"The young, hip cast is smartly directed by Akia..... bring(s) to life a number of unforgettable characters. This is a little gem hidden in the dark Under St. Mark's."

"Kern's comedic scenes are uproarious..."

"A killer dark comedy."

by Robin Reed



"Some are hilarious....Some are emotional..."

Kern seems to write what he knows...your interest is piqued just as the vignette ends"

"The play's director, Akia, keeps it moving at a steady pace and sets up some nice comic business"

By Tom Penketh

BACKSTAGE

"Nic Mevoli, onstage for virtually the entire play, is superb as the cabbie, creating a very human, very sympathetic character whose travails authentically engage us."

"The silly vignettes are fun for the actors...The more serious stories are often compelling."

"All of the vignettes depict men and women at their basest-drunk, stoned, on-the-make, deceiving, betraying, fighting."

By Martin Denton

nytheatre.com
The New York Theatre Connection, Inc.

"Director, Akia...brought out remarkably insane performances from her actors in some cases and deep, meaningful ones in others"

"Well worth the audience's time and money"

"Deeply Honest"

oobr[™]

By Seth Bisen-Hersh



Rising Sun Performance Company

The Buzz of Rising Sun~

Company Highlights & Review Quotes

Goodnight Lovin' Trail

FRIGID Festival, New York February/March 2011

"A lot can be said for brevity, though when it comes to writing a play, it's hard to create a fully developed plot and characters in a short time. John Patrick Bray doesn't seem to suffer this problem in his 35-minute two-hander" "Nic Mevoli and Olivia Rorick create **well-rounded, convincing characters**"

- Dan Gordon, *nytheatre.com* Review 02/26/2011

"Goodnight Lovin' Trail is a **finely produced play** and a **wonderful choice for those seeking a production with considerable substance**" "Rorick and Mevoli work beautifully together and form a fast **believable intimacy**" " Rorick particularly does a **brilliant job** of portraying a **deeply layered rich character** instead of a Texas caricature"

"..characters teeter fluently between casual dialog and **lyrical whimsy** and feel **both earnest and engaging**" ".. an engaging and **thought-provoking** forty minutes"

"..playwright John Patrick Bray's **use of language is especially adept**"

-Terra Vetter, *TheatreIsEasy.com* 02/27/2011

"Goodnight Lovin' Trail is **about as perfect a one act play as I've ever come across**; effectively **comprised of all the parts that make a play work**: characters who are brimming with contradiction, both **hopeful** and hopeless and a story line that drops in on the surface of these lives **like a perfect teardrop**"

"**A perfect gem** found along a dusty trail; Goodnight Lovin' Trail will leave you remembering the things you've lost along that road that stretches out behind you"

"..a **perfect moment suspended in time**"

"The arc is **heartbreaking and real** and, under the direction of Akia who uses a restrained hand, the actors play their parts straight-on neither tipping too far into needless brio or hopeless subjugation but just walking the line of **solid truth**"

"**This play will leave you with tears glistening in your eyes** – no small feat for a show that clocks in at just over half an hour" -Karen Tortora-Lee , *Happiest Medium* 03/02/2011