



New City Stage Company

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PRESS RELEASE

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New City Stage Company begins 6th season with original interpretation of Sam Shepard classic poetry pieces *Savage/Love* and *Tongues*

PHILADELPHIA -- New City Stage Company begins their 6th season with their Philadelphia Fringe Festival submission of *Savage/Love* and *Tongues*, by Sam Shepard and Joseph Chaiken. These companion one-act poetry plays will run September 2 –17, 2011. Performances will be held at Symmetry Dance Studio at 1923 Chestnut Street, 3rd Floor, Philadelphia. Tickets cost \$10 - \$24. Subscription and single ticket information is available at [The New City Stage Online Box Office](#) and by calling **215-563-7500**, or by visiting the official Fringe web site at www.livearts-fringe.org.

In a season entitled *The Terror Within*, New City begins with a unique modern interpretation of the two one-act monologues from 1978 written by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Sam Shepard in conjunction with distinguished actor/director Joseph Chaikin. This is New City's first foray into the Philadelphia Fringe Festival. *Savage/Love* and *Tongues* are two of the best known Avant garde performances pieces in the English language. Besides the beats and depths of a poetry reading, they incorporate a battery of percussive instruments to highlight and underscore the emotional journey of the protagonist. *Savage/Love* is a propulsive quest of a lonely man looking for love and a prelude to *Tongues*, a passionate fever dream in which a dying man delivers his last rites. These stream of consciousness confessionals are written to be performed with live percussion accompaniment.

New City gives them a modern update with electronic sound and video as well as a contemporary vibe pulsating with the undercurrent of rave culture.

The idea to update the pieces with electronic sounds and music grew out of necessity. A percussionist with the battery of acoustic instruments was not readily available. In the interim, we thought, rehearsals would commence with a compact and affordable electronic keyboard serving to replicate the more exotic and modern sounds the New City's creative forces craved. This plan quickly became seen as a viable substitute rather than a stopgap measure. Electronic replication of the soundscape would not only give the pieces a cold and solitary individualism but also throw open the door to any number of sounds otherwise not possible.

New City Artistic Director **Ginger Dayle** has long wanted to test the experimental waters of the wildly popular Philly Fringe Festival but hadn't been able to set on the right material. When New City Co-Artistic Director **Russ Widdall** appeared in last year's Fringe production of *Polaroid Stories* at the University of the Arts, she was reminded of innovative pair of Sam Shepard pieces she had long admired. Widdall's portrayal of a street hustling drug survivor played on the rhythms and emotions inherent in Shepard's melodious language. Widdall and Dayle then reached out to composer and sound sculptor from Widdall's New York connections.

New York City's Michael Bazini (aka **DJ Butterface**) got his start in 1994 with his "fundustrial" band Dystopia One. They released three full-length albums and performed aggressively throughout the 90's. By 2000, he reintroduced himself as DJ Butterface, working as an electronic composer and producer. His music can be heard in video games (Extreme G3, Acclaim Entertainment), local independent films and television shows (HBO Boxing, CBS: NFL Basketball, MTV's *Cribs*, *Room Raiders*), and his original compositions have been used for several New York City theater productions.

Widdall is a veteran of over 50 theatrical productions in Philadelphia, as well numerous national television and film appearances. He has had featured roles on *The Wire*, *Hack*, *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*, and recent films include *My One and Only* (with Renee Zellweger), *Limitless*, and soon to be released HBO movie *Game Change* with Julianne Moore. He has

appeared in over 20 national and local commercials, ranging from V8 to Direct TV to Pennsylvania Lottery.

New City Stage will present 19 performances of shows back-to-back, followed by a dance party with DJ Butterface following the last performance on the three Saturdays, September 3, 10 and 17. The show is being directed by Artistic Associate **Ryder Thornton**, who directed last season's highly acclaimed Philadelphia premiere of Christopher Durang's *Miss Witherspoon*.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR PRESS TICKETS: Contact Ginger Dayle at Ginger.Dayle@NewCityStage.org.

All complimentary press tickets should be requested at least 24 hours in advance.

ABOUT THE SHOW

Savage/Love and Tongues

Written by Sam Shepard and Joseph Chaikin

Directed by Ryder Thornton

September 2 –17, 2011, as part of the Philadelphia Fringe Festival

Previews: Friday, September 2 at 8 and 10 PM, Saturday, September 3 at 7 PM

Opening Performance: Saturday, September 3 at 9 PM

Closing Performance: Saturday, September 17 at 11 PM

Featuring:

Russ Widdall* as the Poet

**Denotes member of Actors' Equity Association.*

DJ Butterface as the Percussionist



Technical Crew

Sound Design	Mike Bazini
Lighting Design	Matt Sharp
Set Design	S. Cory Palmer
Costume & Properties Design	Amy Chmielewski
Production Management & PR	Ginger Dayle

About New City Stage Company

New City Stage Company, founded in 2006, is dedicated to presenting high quality professional theatre that engages audiences on a variety of levels; not only entertaining them but also encouraging awareness of issues relevant to the community. We draw our season from contemporary and classical works, with a special focus on including Philadelphia premiers from playwrights whose work and stories are not normally found in the region.

About the Philadelphia Fringe Festival

The 15th Annual Philadelphia Live Arts Festival and Philly Fringe will take place September 2-17, 2011. Tickets prices range from free to \$55, and can be purchased online at www.livearts-fringe.org or by calling 215.413.1318. The Festival Guide will be available the first week of August, and can be either downloaded as a PDF or picked up in hard copy at any Festival venue as well as at key “Hot Spots” (to be announced online in July) throughout the city.

The Philadelphia Live Arts Festival and Philly Fringe were originally founded in 1997 as the Philadelphia Fringe Festival. Today, the Live Arts Festival is a curated festival of the world's most cutting-edge, high-quality performing arts groups who are invited by the Festival's Producing Artistic Director. The Live Arts Festival is often the only opportunity the region's audiences will have to see these works without traveling internationally. In 2011, 16 Live Arts shows will be presented.

The Philly Fringe is an unfiltered festival, where a platform is provided for new and established artists to present their work free of a selection process. For some it's a once-a-year, or once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to create a show; for professional companies, it can be an opportunity to try something new. The Philly Fringe seeks create a cityscape filled with theater, dance, music, and everything in between for audiences to enjoy; encourage artists to give expression to and develop their talents and artistic visions in total artistic freedom without any curatorial barriers in bringing that work to an audience; to help artists become successful independent producers; and ensure the growth and continued health of the local and regional performing arts community. In 2011, over 200 Philly Fringe shows will be self-produced by thousands of artists from throughout the region.

New City Stage Company thanks its 2011-12 season corporate partners at Oh! Shea's Irish Pub, Marathon Grill, Qdoba Burrito Bar, and Symmetry Dance Wellness.

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