



## **New City Stage Company**

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[www.NewCityStage.org](http://www.NewCityStage.org)

### ***PRESS RELEASE***

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215-603-9600

New City Stage Company presents world premiere espionage thriller *Asymmetric*

**PHILADELPHIA** – New City Stage Company is pleased to announce the last show of our 2011-12 season, the world premiere of *Asymmetric* by award-winning New York playwright Mac Rogers. This play was originally part of a playwright's workshop in New York, and after being viewed by Co-Artistic Director Russ Widdall, a full script was commissioned for New City's season **The Terror Within**, looking at the "war o terror" 10 years after 9/11. This exciting new thriller will run May 17 to June 10, 2012. Opening night is Saturday, May 19 at 8 PM. Performances will be held at the Adrienne Theater Second Stage at 2030 Sansom Street in downtown Philadelphia. Tickets are \$22 - 35 and available at [www.NewCityStage.org](http://www.NewCityStage.org) and by calling the box office at 215-563-7500.

*There is a mole on the Fifth Floor. Sometimes finding the mole is the easy part. To exterminate a mole it takes guts... it takes guile... it takes extreme prejudice. And the only way to come out on top is to be... Asymmetric...*

This one act 80 minute play follows the return of CIA Blacks Ops agent Josh Ruskin to the mysterious Fifth Floor to break a traitor who has been leaking sensitive information to the nation's most threatening enemies. A former top interrogator in this elite anti-terrorist intelligence wing of the CIA, it all fell apart when he became a depressed alcoholic and his wife left him. Now he has one more chance to redeem himself, and to put his life and career back on track. But to do so could mean destroying the only person who ever really mattered to him.

Full of sophisticated CIA language and intriguing interrogation room tactics, the play makes an often incomprehensible subject accessible to most theatre-going audiences. And that's exactly what attracted **Producing Artistic Director Ginger Dayle** to the play. "This is really a love story, set in a spy thriller, full of mystery and intrigue, a well as the problems that can arise in when you allow mental health issue and substance abuse interfere with your relationship" says Dayle. "You root for the couple, Josh and Sunny, to somehow make it and at the same time have to ask yourself how far would you be willing to go

to protect this country, and the ones you love. Is any act of terrorism or assassination justified?" The play takes place in real time in an interrogation room and then later moves to the outskirts of R..., Iceland for its thrilling conclusion. This play to film buffs and theatre-goers alike. If the hopeful but heartbreaking finale of *Casablanca* ranks among your treasured cinematic memories, this is the show for you.

The show marks **Co-Artistic Director Russ Widdall's** directing debut. Russ has been a professional actor for over 20 years and has considerable television, screen and stage credits, including 7 shows with New City, where he became Co-Artistic Director in 2009. He most recently appeared in the HBO film *Game Change* with Julianne Moore. He is also appearing in the remount of Sam Shepard's *Savage/Love* and *Tongues*, which runs in runs in reparatory with *Asymmetric* (for more info see the end of this release).

The production features several of Philadelphia's hottest actors right now, all of whom are making their New City Stage debut. **Kevin Bergen** (Josh) was recently seen in InterAct Theatre Company's production of *Microcrisis*, performed on the Main Stage of the Adrienne Theatre this past fall. He is a company member at People's Light and Theatre Company in Malvern where he was nominated for a Barrymore Award for Outstanding Supporting Actor for his work in Tracy Letts' *The Man from Nebraska*. **Ross Beschler** (Zack) was part of the ensemble of the Wilma Theater's *Our Class* this past fall and most recently in the original ensemble piece *The Golem* with Ego Productions. He also appeared in EgoPo's Barrymore-nominated 2010 Fringe production *Marat/Sade* and is an adjunct professor of theatre at Rowan University. **Kim Carson** (Sunny) most recently played the title role in *Becky Shaw* at Montgomery Theatre Project, where she is also a teaching artist and playwright. An accomplished musical theatre performer, she won the Barrymore Award for Outstanding Leading Actress in a musical for her work in *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* in with Azuka Theatre. **Eric Rolland** (Ford) a Monmouth, New Jersey native and accomplished film and television actor, is making his professional Philadelphia theatre debut with *Asymmetric*. A new member of Actors' Equity, he has performed with the Two Rivers Theatre, Revision Theatre and Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey.

**Mac Rogers** is an award-winning Brooklyn-based playwright, professional writer, and performer who writes and produces emotionally gripping thrillers, science fiction, horror, and dark comedies for the stage. As a professional writer, Mac has contributed columns to Slate.com and New York Magazine's Vulture site. His award-winning science fiction short story "Miss Emily's Voyage" appears on At Length Magazine's web site. Mac currently writes online content for a number of global brands in his role as a Copywriter/Producer with the Brooklyn-based community-building and management firm StellarEngine. He is the founder and main producer of Gideon Productions, which is currently in residence at the Secret Theatre in Long Island City, New York. His most recent play at the Secret Theatre, *Blast Radius*, debuted in March to much critical acclaim. The New York Times called the production a "suspenseful second part of an alien invasion trilogy by Mac Rogers ("Advance Man" was first), whose confident writing displays deep affection for the genre.... [the] cast [was] hewing to the realism of this fantastical material... [the] two hours zip by." Mac's wife graduated *Magna Cum Laude* from the University of Pennsylvania's Law School and he is thrilled to finally have one of his shows produced in her hometown.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR PRESS TICKETS: Contact publicist Ginger Dayle at [Publicity@NewCityStage.org](mailto:Publicity@NewCityStage.org). You can also visit the production page for photos and media related to the show at <http://www.newcitystage.org/1112-asymmetric-about.html>.

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

ABOUT THE SHOW:

***Asymmetric***

Written by Mac Rogers

Directed by Russ Widdall \*

Previews: Thursday & Friday May 17 & 18 at 8 PM, Saturday May 19 at 3 PM

**Opening Performance: Saturday, May 19 at 8 PM**

Closing Performance: Saturday, September 17 at 11 PM

Cast:

|       |                 |
|-------|-----------------|
| Josh  | Kevin Bergen *  |
| Zack  | Ross Beschler * |
| Sunny | Kim Carson *    |
| Ford  | Eric Rolland *  |

Production staff:

|                             |                 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Stage Manager               | Janelle Caso *  |
| Scenic Design               | S. Cory Palmer  |
| Sound Design                | Ren Manley      |
| Lighting Design             | Matt Sharp      |
| Costume & Properties Design | Amy Chmielewski |
| Production Management & PR  | Ginger Dayle    |

\* Denotes member of Actors' Equity Association.

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.

Also being performed by New City Stage Company at the Adrienne Theatre Second Stage:

***SAVAGE/LOVE*** and ***TONGUES***

Written & Conceived by Sam Shepard & Joseph Chaikin

Performed by Russ Widdall \* and Josh Fox

5 performances only:

|          |                 |                             |
|----------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Saturday | May 26 at 11 PM | <b><i>Opening Night</i></b> |
| Sunday   | May 27 at 6 PM  |                             |
| Monday   | May 28 at 8 PM  |                             |
| Saturday | June 2 at 11 PM |                             |
| Sunday   | June 3 at 6 PM  |                             |

As an added bonus, New City Stage Company is happy to present an encore limited run of our 2011 Philadelphia Fringe hit, our first production in the festival. Audiences were enchanted by these rarely performed modern soliloquies, which the City Paper hailed as a “soaring soul plunge.”

Innovative poetry and movement unfurl in this physical theatrical experience. ***SavageLove*** is a propulsive quest of a lonely man looking for love and serves as a prelude to ***Tongues***, a passionate fever dream in which a dying man delivers his last rites. These stream of consciousness confessionals are performed with live original percussive music created just for our production.

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