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Pillsbury House Theatre Announces 2003 Season Mainstage to Feature Three Area Premieres

Pillsbury House Theatre today announced their 2003 season. The mainstage season includes three area premieres, as well as an exciting season of education programming. The Midwest premiere of *[sic]*, the area premiere of *Jesus Hopped the A Train*, and the world-premiere production of *The Evidence of Silence Broken*, all promise the kind of provocative, cutting-edge theatre that Pillsbury House Theatre has become known for.

The Pillsbury House Theatre's mainstage season will open on Friday, February 28, with *[sic]* by Melissa James Gibson, under the direction of Noël Raymond. A smart bittersweet comedy about being friends, being disconnected, and being totally misunderstood – *[sic]* proved to be one of the biggest hits of the 2001-2002 New York season. The premiere at SoHo Repertory Theatre garnered critical acclaim, sold-out audiences and Obie awards for both the play and its director. The Pillsbury House Theatre production will feature Paul de Cordova, Brian Goranson and Tracey Maloney. *[sic]* will run through Saturday, March 29.

*“A verbally dexterous and neurotically wise comedy...the most alluring
new play to open in New York this season”*
—Bruce Weber, The New York Times

Friday, April 18 – Saturday, May 3, Pillsbury House Theatre will present *The Evidence of Silence Broken*, a co-production with Trú Rúts Endeavors, under the direction of Daniel Alexander Jones. Written and performed by poet/actor/playwright Zell Miller, III, this semi-autobiographical piece about a poet's growth blends spoken word, hip-hops beats with metaphors that fly through the air.

“A writer and performer, Zell Miller, III is an incendiary device waiting for a match.”
—C. Denby Swanson, Austin Chronicle

The final mainstage production of the 2003 season will be the area premiere of Stephen Adly Guirgis' *Jesus Hopped the A Train*, under the direction of Stephen Dimenna, running from Friday, October 10 through Saturday, November 8. Set in the lockdown ward of Riker's Island, Angel Cruz is a rough but essentially good young man, awaiting trial for shooting the cult leader who stole his best friend. His interactions with his fellow inmate, a serial killer who has found God, profoundly affects the impressionable Angel, changing the course of his trial and life. Questions of faith, morality and salvation are confronted with humor and passion in Guirgis' powerful, cage-rattling play.

“...fire-breathing...[a] probing, intense portrait of lives behind bars...whenever it appears that Jesus is settling into familiar territory, it slides right beneath expectations into another, fresher direction. It has the courage of its intellectual restlessness...[Jesus Hopped The A Train] has been written in flame.”
-New York Times

MORE

All mainstage productions open on Fridays and run Wednesday through Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15. The theatre will continue its Wednesdays at the House program, where the last two Wednesday performances of every show are pay-what-you-can. Ticket information is available by calling the box office at 612-825-0459.

Pillsbury House Theatre's Chicago Avenue Project, which pairs adult theatre professionals with youth from Minneapolis neighborhoods to create original theatre, will present three productions during the 2002 season. *Buzzword* will run Monday & Tuesday, May 12 & 13, *The Cat's Out of the Bag* on Monday & Tuesday, August 25 & 26, and *By the Book* on Monday & Tuesday, November 17 & 18. Past productions of the Chicago Avenue Project have featured some of the Twin Cities' best-known actors and playwrights, including actors Steve Hendrickson, Jodi Kellogg, Barbara Kingsley, Marvette Knight, Shawn Hamilton and James A. Williams; and playwrights Bill Corbett, Kim Hines, Tracey Wilson, Matt Sciple, and Ann Schulman.

CALENDAR INFORMATION

MAINSTAGE PRODUCTIONS

Shows open on Fridays and run Wednesdays through Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.

[sic] by Melissa James Gibson
Directed by Noël Raymond
February 28 – March 29
Wednesdays at the House: March 19 & 26

The Evidence of Silence Broken, a co-production with Trú Rúts Endeavors.
Written and performed by Zell Miller, III
Directed by Daniel Alexander Jones
April 18 – May 3
Wednesdays at the House: April 23 & 30

Jesus Hopped the A Train by Stephen Adly Guirgis
Directed by Stephen Dimenna
October 10- November 8
Wednesdays at the House: October 29 & November 5

CHICAGO AVENUE PROJECT

Chicago Avenue Project Performances are Monday and Tuesdays at 7:30p.m. Performances are free and open to the public
Buzzword, May 12 & 13
The Cat's Out of the Bag, August 25 & 26
By the Book, November 17 & 18

Pillsbury House Theatre is located at 3501 Chicago Avenue South in Minneapolis. For tickets and information, call 612-825-0459.

The Mission of Pillsbury House Theatre is to create challenging theatre to inspire choice, change and connection.

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