

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Humana Festival Hit *LOW* Comes to Pillsbury House Theatre 2007 Season Announced

Pillsbury House Theatre proudly announces its 2007 season, featuring three area premieres and the mainstage debut of the theatre's Breaking Ice Company. Glen Berger's *Underneath the Lintel: An Impressive Presentation of Lovely Evidences*, opens the season on February 23 under the direction of Noël Raymond. On May 11, *Breaking Ice*, which has performed throughout the country, will present a company created show under the direction of Heidi Hunter Batz. Rha Goddess' powerful one woman show about mental illness *LOW*, directed by Chay Yew, begins its run on May 30th. The season concludes with Marion McClinton directing Samm-Art Williams classic, *Home*, opening October 5th.

In *Underneath the Lintel: An Impressive Presentation of Lovely Evidences*, Glen Berger's one-man Off Broadway hit comedy, a Dutch librarian comes across a book that is 113 years overdue. An obsession to find the miscreant borrower sets the librarian on a world-wide quest. As he gathers more clues about the mysterious library patron, his collection of "lovely evidences" leads him to the belief that he is on the heels of a myth. *Underneath the Lintel* is a funny and profound play that explores the nature of time, the substance of life and the possibility of miracles.

Underneath the Lintel had over 450 performances Off-Broadway, Time Out New York named it one of the Ten Best Plays of 2001 and the play also received a 2001 Ovation Award for Best Play and the Garland Award for Best Playwriting. Pillsbury House Theatre's production features former Twin Cities resident **John Shuman**, who was most recently seen in *Li'l Abner* at Goodspeed Opera House and on Broadway in *La Cage aux Folles*. PHT's Co-Artistic Director **Noël Raymond**, who last directed *An Almost Holy Picture*, directs the production. *Underneath the Lintel* runs **February 23 – March 17, 2007**.

"One of a handful of great plays written in the last five years..."
—Seattle Weekly

On May 11 & 12, *Breaking Ice* will perform an originally created production. For over ten years, Breaking Ice has brought artists from the Twin Cities community together to collaboratively create theatre for a vast array of audiences. In 2006, Breaking Ice performed across the country, inspiring dialogue around social issues in hospitals, universities, government agencies, conferences and corporations. *Breaking Ice* will bring its provocative performance style to the mainstage using poetry, music, movement and scenes to follow a host of characters as they navigate their way through social norms and biases in search of a sense of belonging.

The season continues with *LOW*, written and performed by Rha Goddess and directed by Chay Yew. *LOW* is a one-woman multidisciplinary theatre piece that explores the mythology, stigma, fear and confusion surrounding mental illness. The title of the show refers both to its main character, Lowquesha, and to the way she feels. Low, a budding poet, grows from a bright, happy and creative young girl to a troubled teenager who quickly descends into homelessness, addiction and a frightening psychosis. Low's arduous journey gives voice to those who strive for dignity and self-possession even as the painful descent into madness takes over. *Low* initially was presented as part of the 2006 Humana Festival of New American Plays at Actors Theatre of Louisville.

Rha Goddess is a world-renowned performance/recording artist, poet, social activist and a legendary voice in the hip-hop community. Her debut album *Soulab Vibe* was named "one of the year's coolest records" by

Time magazine in 1999. As a community activist, she founded The Next Wave of Women and Power and co-founded the Sista II Sista Freedom School for Young Women of Color and the World Conference Against Racism. *Essence* magazine named her one of the 30 Women to Watch in the new millennium. **Chay Yew** was the director of the Taper's Asian Theatre Workshop for 10 years. His numerous directing credits include *The Architecture of Loss* (New York Theatre Workshop); *Citizen 13559* (Kennedy Center); *LOW* (Actors Theatre of Louisville); *36 Views* (Portland Center Stage, Geva Theatre Center and Laguna Playhouse); and *Frozen, The Laramie Project* and *Strange Attractors* (Empty Space). ***LOW* runs May 30 – June 16.**

"In a fleet and flawless hour, Rha Goddess goes on a savage journey into the tortured mind of a young woman battling mental illness."

- Courier-Journal

The mainstage season closes with Samm-Art Williams classic of the African American theatre canon, ***Home***. First produced to great acclaim by the Negro Ensemble Company in 1979, the production subsequently moved to Broadway the following year and was nominated for both the Tony and Drama Desk Awards. In the play, Cephus Miles is raised on the family farm in the rural community of Cross Roads, North Carolina. His life is hard but happy, filled with work on the family farm, church revivals, and stolen kisses from his sweetheart Pattie Mae. With the onset of the Vietnam War, Cephus is forced to make a life-altering decision, and finds himself part of a great migration to the urban north. But the glitter of the city quickly fades and Cephus returns to North Carolina, settles on the land and finds redemption in coming home.

Home marks the Pillsbury House Theatre directing debut for Marion McClinton. A long-time member of the Penumbra Theatre Company and a Pillsbury House Theatre associate company member, McClinton recently directed the Mixed Blood production of *Yellowman* at Guthrie's Dowling Studio, and the world premiere of August Wilson's *Gem of the Ocean* at Goodman Theatre and Mark Taper Forum. His Broadway productions include *Drowning Crow*, the revival of *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* and *King Hedley II* (Tony nomination). His Off-Broadway credits include *Jitney* (Obie and Lortel Awards), *Roar*, *Talk* and *Breath, Boom*. ***Home* runs October 5 – November 3.**

CALENDAR INFORMATION

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

Underneath the Lintel: An Impressive Presentation of Lovely Evidences

By Glen Berger.

Directed by Noël Raymond.

February 23 – March 17, 2007

Title

Written and performed by the Breaking Ice Company.

Directed by Heidi Hunter Batz

May 11 & 12, 2007

LOW

Written and performed by Rha Goddess.

Directed by Chay Yew

May 30 – June 16, 2007

Home

By Samm-Art Williams

Directed by Marion McClinton

October 5 – November 3, 2007

Mainstage season tickets are \$18 Thursday – Saturday, Wednesday evenings are pay-what-you-can. For more information call 612-825-0459 or visit www.pillsburyhousetheatre.org. The theatre is located at 3501 Chicago

Avenue South in Minneapolis. *The Mission of Pillsbury House Theatre is to create challenging theatre to inspire choice, change and connection.*