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LCT3
ANNOUNCES SECOND AND THIRD PRODUCTIONS OF ITS
2009-2010 SEASON

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THE NEW YORK PREMIERE OF
"GRACELAND"
A NEW PLAY by ELLEN FAIREY
DIRECTED by HENRY WISHCAMPER

Monday, May 3 – Saturday, May 29, 2010

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THE WORLD PREMIERE OF
"ON THE LEVEE"
A MUSICAL PLAY
CONCEIVED and DIRECTED by LEAR deBESSONET
BOOK by MARCUS GARDLEY
MUSIC and LYRICS by TODD ALMOND

Monday, June 14 – Saturday, July 10, 2010

AT THE DUKE ON 42ND STREETSM

LCT3, Lincoln Center Theater's new programming initiative devoted to producing the work of new artists and developing new audiences, has announced the remaining productions of its 2009-2010 season: the New York premiere of **GRACELAND**, a new play by Ellen Fairey, directed by Henry Wishcamper and the world premiere of **ON THE LEVEE**, a musical play conceived and directed by Lear deBessonet with book by Marcus Gardley and music and lyrics by Todd Almond. Both productions will be presented at The Duke on 42nd Street, a New 42nd Street[®] project (229 West 42 Street), where **LCT3**'s first production of the season, the world premiere of Ann Marie Healy's **WHAT ONCE WE FELT**, directed by Ken Rus Schmoll, is currently in previews, opening Monday, November 9 and running through Saturday, November 21.

GRACELAND, beginning Monday, May 3 through Saturday, May 29, with an opening night scheduled for Monday, May 17, is a comedic drama about two estranged siblings who are reunited when they try to make sense of their father's recent suicide.

Playwright **Ellen Fairey** will make her New York playwrighting debut with *Graceland*. Her first play, *Girl 20* was named one of the 10 Best Plays

of 2006 by Chicago Tribune theatre critic Chris Jones and was nominated for two LA Weekly theatre awards. *Graceland* premiered earlier this year at Chicago's Profiles Theatre. Director **Henry Wishcamper** directed Conor McPherson's *Port Authority* at the Atlantic Theater Company and *The Seafarer* at Hartford TheaterWorks, Horton Foote's *Talking Pictures* at the Goodman Theatre and the NY premiere of Jane Martin's *Flags* at 59E59ST.

ON THE LEVEE, beginning Monday, June 14 through Saturday, July 10 with an opening night scheduled for Monday, June 28, is based on a true story and is set in 1927 in Greenville, Mississippi on a levee during an almost forgotten flood.

Conceiver-Director **Lear deBessonnet**'s productions include a site-specific *Don Quixote* in collaboration with playwright Lucy Thurber in Philadelphia, Brecht's *Saint Joan of the Stockyards* at PS 122, *transfigures* (Women's Project) and productions at the HERE Arts Center, NY Fringe and NYU's Experimental Theatre Wing. **Marcus Gardley** (Book) is a playwright-poet who received a 2008 Helen Merrill Award for Emerging Playwright and the prestigious 2007 Kesselring Honoree Award. His plays include *Love is a Dream House in Lorin* (Shotgun Players, Berkeley, CA.), *dance of the holy ghost* (Yale Rep), *(L)imitations of Life* (Empty Space Theatre) and *like sun fallin' in the mouth* (National Black Theatre Festival). **Todd Almond** (Music and Lyrics) is a composer, lyricist and performer whose musicals include *People Like Us* (NY Musical Theatre Festival), *Girlfriend* (Berkeley Rep), *Ahraihsak* (Theatre Mitu) and the upcoming *We Have Always Lived In The Castle* (Yale Rep). His songs have been performed by such theatre performers as Victoria Clark, Cheyenne Jackson, Jayne Houdyshell, Laura Benanti and Stephen Pasquale.

Citing the need to develop strong relationships with new artists and to develop a new audience, and recognizing the frustrations that playwrights have with the current system of readings and workshops, Lincoln Center Theater (under the direction of Artistic Director Andre Bishop and Executive Producer, Bernard Gersten) created **LCT3** to offer new artists fully staged productions. All tickets to **LCT3** productions are priced at an affordable \$20.00. Lincoln Center Theater's long term plans for **LCT3** call for the creation of a permanent venue to present the work of these artists; to that end a 99-seat theater will be built in or near Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. Paige Evans is the Director of **LCT3**.

In celebration of its 25th Year, Lincoln Center Theatre is presenting a season of entirely new work, all New York, American or World Premieres. In addition to **WHAT ONCE WE FELT**, **GRACELAND** and **ON THE LEVEE** LCT's 2009-2010 season will include Nathan Louis Jackson's **BROKE-OLGY** (currently running at the Mitzi E. Newhouse Theater through Sunday, November 22), which marks the playwright's New York debut, Sarah Ruhl's **IN THE NEXT ROOM or the vibrator play** (currently in previews on Broadway at the Lyceum Theatre where it will open on Thursday, November 19), which will mark the playwright's Broadway debut, the American premiere of Andrew Bovell's **WHEN THE RAIN STOPS FALLING** and the

world premiere of A.R. Gurney's **THE GRAND MANNER**. In addition, LCT's Tony Award winning production of *Rodgers & Hammerstein's SOUTH PACIFIC* continues its record breaking run at the Vivian Beaumont Theater.

For additional information on **LCT3** please visit www.lct3.org.

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About the organization: The New 42nd Street®

Founded in 1990, **The New 42nd Street** is an independent, nonprofit organization charged with long-term responsibility for seven historic theaters on 42nd Street between Seventh and Eighth Avenues. In addition to running **The New Victory®**, **The New 42nd Street** built and operates the **New 42nd Street Studios** - a ten-story building of rehearsal studios, offices and a 200-seat theater named **The Duke on 42nd StreetSM** - for national and international performing arts companies. Since its opening on June 21, 2000, the **New 42nd Street Studios** has been fully occupied by both nonprofit and commercial theater, dance and opera companies. With these institutions and the other properties under its guardianship, **The New 42nd Street** plays a pivotal role in fostering the continued revival of this famous street at the Crossroads of the World.

About the theater: The Duke on 42nd StreetSM

The Duke on 42nd StreetSM is an intimate 200-seat black box theater built and operated by The New 42nd Street. Since opening in 2000, the theater has been available to international and domestic nonprofit organizations to present their work. Companies that have presented at The Duke on 42nd Street include: Harkness Dance Project; The NYC Tap Festival; Rosie's Broadway Kids; Playwrights Horizons; London's National Theatre; Theatre for a New Audience, which continues to present work on a regular basis; Lincoln Center Theater's LCT3, which is in its second season, and The New 42nd Street's "New Victory at The Duke" series. Companies presented by The New 42nd Street have included: Karole Armitage; Chicago Shakespeare Theater; Naked Angels, The Classical Theatre of Harlem, and Steppenwolf Theater Company.