



October 20, 2011

Press Contact:

Deeksha Gaur, Director of PR and Marketing  
[dgaur@trtc.org](mailto:dgaur@trtc.org) or 732.345.1400 x1830

Box Office: 732.345.1400 or [www.trtc.org](http://www.trtc.org)

**TWO RIVER THEATER COMPANY PRESENTS AWARD-WINNING WRITER AND PERFORMER  
NILAJA SUN IN *NO CHILD...*, THE OFF-BROADWAY SMASH HIT ABOUT PUBLIC EDUCATION  
AND THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF ART, DIRECTED BY HAL BROOKS**

**In conjunction with the production, Two River will work with local students to create an original play, inspired by the themes of *No Child...* and drawn from their own experiences**

**Performances begin November 1 with the opening night on Saturday, November 5 at 8 pm**

RED BANK, NJ— Two River Theater Company, under the leadership of Artistic Director John Dias and Managing Director Michael Hurst, continues its season with the critically acclaimed play *No Child...*, a multi-character, one-person show written and performed by **Nilaja Sun** and directed by **Hal Brooks**. Performances will begin in Two River's Joan and Robert Rechnitz Theater, 21 Bridge Avenue, on **Saturday, November 1** and continue through **Sunday, November 20**. The opening night performance is **Saturday, November 5 at 8pm**.

Tickets are available from 732.345.1400 or [www.trtc.org](http://www.trtc.org). Single ticket prices start at \$45. Discounts are available for groups, seniors, students, and patrons aged 30 and under.

Nilaja Sun makes her Two River debut with this tour-de-force solo performance, which she based on her own experiences working in the New York public schools. Since its 2006 world premiere, Sun has received 21 awards for *No Child...*, and she has performed the play to acclaim in theaters around the country and internationally.

*No Child...* tells the story of a dedicated teaching artist and her work with a group of 10<sup>th</sup> graders in a Bronx public school. Transforming herself into 16 different characters, Sun captures the voices of an entire classroom of students, their teachers and family members, the principal, a janitor, and a security guard. Her virtuosic performance, which has been lauded for its passion and rapid-fire humor, proves that one person can make a difference—and shows us the transformative power of art.

In conjunction with this production, Two River will offer discussions and events inspired by the themes of the play. The run will kick off on Monday, October 24 from 5 pm-7 pm with **"A Love Letter to Teachers,"** an event celebrating local educators. Sun will discuss the play over cocktails and conversation at Two River, joined by Artistic Director John Dias and Alysia Souder, a member of the Steering Committee for the New Jersey Arts Education Partnership.

Two River Theater will also use the themes of *No Child...* as the basis for this season's **PlayBack**, an original performance devised and performed by local high school students. In this intensive, 12-week program, participating students work with professional teaching artists to create an original play or

musical inspired by a production in the theater's season—but drawn from their own lives, experiences, and questions about the world. Students in this year's program will have opportunities to work with Nilaja Sun on the play they create, which will be performed at the theater in January, 2012. More information about Play Back will be announced at a later date.

Says Artistic Director John Dias, "I saw *No Child...* in its first Off-Broadway production, and was so moved by Nilaja's performance, and her writing, that I went back to see it two more times. This is theater at its purest and most powerful. I believe, as Nilaja does, that art really can change lives, and I am delighted to bring her glorious performance—artfully directed by Hal Brooks—to our stage."

**Nilaja Sun** (Playwright) has received 21 awards for her creation and performance of *No Child...*, including an Obie, Lucille Lortel Award, two Outer Critics Circle Awards including the John Gassner Playwriting Award for New American Play, the Helen Hayes Award in Washington, D.C., an LA Ovation Award, and Best One-Person Show at the U.S. Comedy Arts Festival in Aspen. She was a teaching artist in the New York public school system for eight years while performing in numerous off-Broadway shows.

**Hal Brooks** (Director) has worked with Nilaja Sun on *No Child...* since its original run in New York in 2006. His other credits include the world premiere of Will Eno's *Thom Paine*, the current revival of Ionesco's *The Bald Soprano* at the Pearl Theatre, and Two River's 2010 production of Steve Martin's *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*. He was recently appointed Artistic Director of the Cape Cod Theatre Project in Falmouth, Mass.

The creative team for *No Child...* includes scenic designer **Neil Prince**, costume designer **Jessica Gaffney**, lighting designer **Mark Barton**, and sound designer **Ron Russell**. The stage manager is **Whitney McAnally**.

For complete biographies of the company, visit [www.trtc.org](http://www.trtc.org).

### **Discussions and Events**

**Before Play:** Before every performance in the Rechnitz Theater throughout Two River's season, an artistic staff member or special guest will speak about the production, providing insight into the work on stage. Before Play starts 45 minutes prior to the performance and is sponsored by Zager Fuchs, PC.

**Post-Play Conversations:** Discussions hosted by an artistic staff member will take place on the following dates:

Wednesdays: **November 9** at 7 pm and **November 16** at 1 pm

Sunday: **November 13** at 3 pm

**Accessibility:** Two River Theater is fully wheelchair accessible and offers assisted-listening devices and large-print programs at every performance. To reserve wheelchair accessible seating or tickets for a performance listed below, patrons should call 732.345.1400.

**Audio-described performances** are scheduled for **Wednesday, November 16** at 1 pm and **Saturday, November 19** at 8 pm; tickets are \$15 for patrons needing audio description.

An **open-captioned performance** is scheduled for **Saturday, November 19** at 3 pm; tickets are \$15 for patrons needing open captions.

## Calendar

Tuesday, November 1 at 8 pm  
Wednesday, November 2 at 7 pm  
Thursday, November 3 at 8 pm  
Friday, November 4 at 8 pm  
Saturday, November 5 at 8 pm (Press Opening)  
Sunday, November 6 at 3 pm  
Tuesday, November 8 at 10 am (Student Matinee)  
Wednesday, November 9 at 1 pm and 7 pm  
Thursday, November 10 at 8 pm  
Friday, November 11 at 8 pm  
Saturday, November 12 at 3 pm and 8pm  
Sunday, November 13 at 3pm  
Tuesday, November 15 at 10 am (Student Matinee)  
Wednesday, November 16 at 1 pm and 7 pm  
Thursday, November 17 at 8 pm  
Friday, November 18 at 8 pm  
Saturday, November 19 at 3 pm and 8 pm  
Sunday, November 20 at 3pm

Two River Theater Company is supported in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, The Hickory Foundation, The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, The Stone Foundation of New Jersey, Molly Pitcher Inn/Oyster Point Hotel, The Shubert Foundation, Flowerful Events, et al fine food & events, and many other foundations, corporations, and sponsors.

###

---

**TWO RIVER THEATER COMPANY** is under the leadership of Artistic Director John Dias and Managing Director Michael Hurst. Founded in 1994 by Joan and Dr. Robert M. Rechnitz, Two River Theater is a member of the League of Resident Theaters (LORT), Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the New Jersey Theatre Alliance, and ArtPride New Jersey, and has been designated a “Major Arts Institution” by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. For more information, visit [www.trtc.org](http://www.trtc.org).