



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Two River Theater Company
Presents

Mere Mortals

By David Ives Directed by KJ Sanchez

October 30 – November 18, 2007

Red Bank, NJ – From October 30 through November 18, Two River Theater Company will present **David Ives'** hilarious series of short plays ***Mere Mortals***. A sharp and riotous evening from the overactive imagination of today's smartest, most off-kilter, comic master, ***Mere Mortals*** explores life, love, and language – not to mention monkeys typing Shakespeare and a surfer dude's version of *Moby Dick* – with humanity and hilarity. This particular selection of funny and charming works has never before been performed together. **Director KJ Sanchez** received special permission from the playwright to create an evening of her personal favorites – the plays she found the most perplexing, the most side-splitting, and the most enchanting. This production of *Mere Mortals* is sponsored by **RBC Dain Rauscher**.

Playwright David Ives is best known for his evening of one-act comedies *All In the Timing* – winner of the Outer Critics Circle Playwriting Award. His short plays are collected in two anthologies, *All In the Timing* and *Time Flies* and his full-length works for theater are *Polish Joke and Other Plays*. He is also the author of *Monsieur Eek* and *Scrib*. *The New York Times* calls Ives "the master of fun." And *Time* hails this as "theater that "aerobicizes the brain and tickles the heart." Mr. Ives' adaptation of Mark Twain's *Is He Dead* opens at the Lyceum Theater on Broadway next month.

Associate Artistic Director, **KJ Sanchez** (Heather Raffo's *9 Parts of Desire* at Actors Theatre of Louisville, *Mi Vida en Jira*, Jose Rivera's *Sonnets for an Old Century*, and her own plays *Pants on Fire* at American Repertory Theatre, *Highway 47*, *Handcuff Girl Saves the World*) talks about her TRTC directorial debut. "David Ives' short plays are a celebration of little people with great big dreams. They are people just like us, in delightfully, extraordinary, *funny* situations. They are chock full of what I think makes for great theater: wonder, surprise, enchantment and delight, peeking out from under the most pedestrian, common, and unexpected places."

The four-actor ensemble are all newcomers to Two River Theater Company audiences. **Ericka Kreutz** (Regional: *Reckless, Indoor/Outdoor, Metamorphoses, The Underpants, Sylvia, Proof*), **Raymond McAnally** (New York: *365 Days/365 Plays, The Burial at Thebes, Jorge Cortinas' The Charm of Preparedness*), **Glenn Peters** (Off-Broadway: *The Turn of the Screw, Murder by Poe, The Two Gentlemen of Verona, Richard III*), **Ariel Shafir** (New York: Dan Fogler's *Elephant in the Room, Robert Ohara's American Maul, Media in Jerusalem, Craft, Pieces of the Throne*) will play multiple characters throughout the evening.

The creative team includes Seattle-based scenic designer **Jennifer Zeyl** (recent designs for: ACT Theatre, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Intiman Theatre, Benaroya Hall), costume designer **Niki Hernandez-Adams** (*Twist, Pants on Fire, Wrecked, and The Water Station*), lighting designer **Steve O'Shea** (recent designs: *Last Easter, The Tempest, Spring Fever Festival NYC*), and sound designer **Emily Wright** (*A Spanish Play* directed by John Turturro, *Midsummer Night's Dream, Border/Clash, Exits & Entrances*).

Mere Mortals begins previews on Tuesday, October 30; opens Saturday, November 3; and runs through Sunday, October 18. **Tickets are \$30 - \$56** and are available by calling the TRTC Box Office at **732.345.1400**, online at **www.trtc.org** or by visiting the Box Office at 21 Bridge Avenue in Red Bank.

B4 Play, TRTC's **free, pre-show discussion series**, is scheduled 45 minutes prior to every performance. This fun workshop, **Jokeology 101: a David Ives Warm-Up**, about how to tell a joke will be hosted by actors from the *Mere Mortals* cast.

Post-show discussions are scheduled following the 8pm performance on Wednesday, November 7 and following the matinees on Sunday, November 11 at 3pm and Wednesday, November 14 at 1pm. TRTC has partnered with several area restaurants to offer a **dinner/theater package** to patrons. Reservations are available by calling the Box Office at 732.345.1400. **Discounted group rates** are available through the Box Office or by calling TRTC's Sales Hotline at 732.345.1400 ext 813.

TRTC is accessible to people with disabilities, including wheelchair accessibility, assisted listening devices and large print programs at every performance. Accessible seating is available by reservation. For more information call the Box Office at **732.345.1400**.

CALENDAR NOTICE: EVENTS RELATED TO MERE MORTALS:

Tuesday, October 30 – Community preview performance sponsored by Zager, Fuchs PC.

Wednesday, November 7 at 8pm; Sunday, November 11 at 3pm; and Wednesday, November 14 at 1pm – Post-show discussion with the cast will follow each performance.

Thursday, November 15 – An **audio-described performance** is scheduled at 8pm. Tickets are \$12 for those needing audio description. Call 732.345.1400.

Saturday, November 17 – An **open captioned performance** is scheduled at 3pm. Reservations required. Call 732.345.1400.

WHERE:

Two River Theater Company
21 Bridge Street
Red Bank, NJ 07701

WHEN:

October 30 – November 18, 2007

Members of the press are invited to the opening night performance on **Saturday, November 3 at 8pm.**

Please schedule tickets through Jayme Powers by phone at **732.345.1400 ext. 830** or via email at **jpowers@trtc.org.**

WHO:

Written by **David Ives**
Directed by **KJ Sanchez**
Scenic Design by **Jennifer Zeyl**
Costume Design by **Niki Hernandez-Adams**
Lighting Design by **Steve O'Shea**
Sound Design by **Emily Wright**

CAST:

Ericka Kreutz
Raymond McAnally
Glenn Peters
Ariel Shafir

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TWO RIVER THEATER COMPANY is a professional not-for-profit regional theater company, providing outstanding plays and educational programs for audiences of central New Jersey and beyond. TRTC was founded in 1994 by Robert and Joan Rechnitz as Monmouth County's first professional regional theater in 30 years, and over the past 13 seasons has grown into one of the most vital and dynamic arts organizations in the region. Since opening its new theater in May of 2005, TRTC has hosted a number of luminaries and award winners, including Bruce Springsteen, Olympia Dukakis, Jackson Browne, Jon Bon Jovi, Edward Albee, and Sheldon Harnick. In 2006, the company received "Theatre of the Year" awards from both *The Star-Ledger* and the New Jersey Theatre Alliance. TRTC is supported in part by grants from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Dept. of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, and contributions from hundreds of local and national corporations, foundations, businesses and individuals. Two River Theater Company is a member of Theatre Communications Group and the New Jersey Theatre Alliance.