



Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company
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ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT FOR

A BRIGHT NEW BOISE

To Members of the Media:

As part of Woolly's ongoing green initiatives, moving forward every one of our performances will have an electronic press kit available on our website. Here you can view all the contents of the show's press kit, including press releases, links to feature articles and/or past reviews, as well as password protected press photos.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, look forward to seeing you at the theatre!

Sincerely,

Brooke Miller
Press and Digital Content Manager



For Immediate Release
September 12, 2011
Contact: Brooke Miller
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*THIS RELEASE HAS BEEN UPDATED ON 9/30/11 TO REFLECT CHANGES TO THE WOOLLY MAMMOTH COMPANY

WOOLLY MAMMOTH THEATRE COMPANY KICKS OFF ITS 32ND SEASON WITH OBIE-AWARD WINNING PLAY *A BRIGHT NEW BOISE*

FIRST PLAY OF A SEASON-LONG JOURNEY THROUGH APOCALYPTIC THEMES

(*Washington, DC*) – Earthquakes! Hurricanes! Woolly’s apocalyptic 2011-12 season is already off to quite a start! Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company begins its 32nd Season with *A Bright New Boise* written by **Samuel D. Hunter** in his Woolly debut, and directed by Company Member **John Vreeke** (*Gruesome Playground Injuries, Boom*). *A Bright New Boise* was the recipient of the 2011 OBIE Award for Playwriting and also received a 2011 Drama Desk Nomination for Best Play following its critically acclaimed premiere at Partial Comfort Productions in New York. *A Bright New Boise* runs at Woolly October 10–November 6; Wednesdays–Fridays at 8pm, Saturdays at 3pm and 8pm, and Sundays at 2pm and 7pm.

Prepare yourself: in the parking lot of a mega craft store in Idaho, someone is summoning The Rapture. **Samuel D. Hunter**'s heartbreakingly funny reckoning between a father and son will shatter your preconceptions about the sacred, the profane, and the secret lives of big-box retailers.

A native of northern Idaho, **Samuel D. Hunter** is a member of Partial Comfort Productions and is an alumnus of Ars Nova’s Playgroup. In addition to his OBIE Award for Playwriting, he is the recipient of the 2011 Sky Cooper Prize, a 2008-2009 PONY Fellowship from the Lark, and two Lincoln Center Le Compte du Nuoy Awards among other honors.

“With Sam Hunter’s lovingly idiosyncratic play, *A Bright New Boise*, we launch a season of daring new works on apocalyptic themes,” says Artistic Director **Howard Shalwitz**. Set in a Hobby Lobby craft store in the heartland, the play offers a rare glimpse into a part of America we don’t often see on stage, and dramatizes the challenge of reconciling our beliefs with the reality of our lives and relationships. Surprisingly, the central character—a father attempting to re-unite with his son—actually longs for the apocalypse as a means of deliverance! It’s a thrill to introduce Sam’s award-winning play to Washington in a production featuring several of Woolly’s gifted company artists.”

A Bright New Boise will feature Company Members **Kimberly Gilbert** (*Clybourne Park, In the Next Room or the vibrator play, Fever/Dream*), **Michael Russotto** (*House of Gold, Full Circle, She Stoops to Comedy*), **Emily Townley** (*House of Gold, Maria/Stuart*), and **Michael Willis** (*Full Circle, Fever/Dream*) with **Felipe Cabezas**, **Michael Glenn** (*Clybourne Park*), and **Joshua Morgan**.

A Bright New Boise will feature set design by Company Member **Misha Kachman**, costume design by **Ivania Stack**, lighting design by Company Member **Colin K. Bills**, sound design composition by **Chris Baine**, and video design by **Aaron Fisher**.

cont.

A Bright New Boise
Written by Samuel D. Hunter
Directed by John Vreeke

CAST (in order of appearance)

Will.....Michael Russotto*
Pauline.....Emily Townley*
Alex.....Joshua Morgan
Anna.....Kimberly Gilbert*
Leroy.....Felipe Cabezas
Hobby Lobby Personality.....Michael Willis*
Hobby Lobby Personality.....Michael Glenn

*denotes Woolly Mammoth Company Member

CREATIVE TEAM

Playwright.....Samuel D. Hunter
Director.....John Vreeke*
Set Designer.....Misha Kachman*
Costume Designer.....Ivania Stack
Lighting Designer.....Colin K. Bills*
Sound Designer/Composer.....Chris Bane
Video Designer.....Aaron Fisher
Properties.....Jennifer Sheetz
Dramaturg.....John M. Baker

*denotes Woolly Mammoth Company Member

This production of ***A Bright New Boise*** is supported in part by a generous gift from Joan and David Maxwell.

A Bright New Boise catering sponsor: Well Dunn Catering

A Bright New Boise restaurant sponsor: 701 Restaurant

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Samuel D. Hunter's recent plays include *The Whale* (upcoming production at Denver Center in 2012), *Norway* (Phoenix Theatre of Indianapolis; Boise Contemporary Theater), *Jack's Precious Moment* (Page 73 Productions at 59E59), *Five Genocides* (Clubbed Thumb at the Ohio Theatre), and *I Am Montana* (Arcola Theatre, London; Mortar Theatre, Chicago). His newest play, *When You're Here*, was recently workshopped at the Williamstown Theatre Festival, and he is a contributing writer to Headlong Theatre's *Decade* which is currently running at London's National Theatre.

His plays have been developed at the O'Neill Playwrights Conference, Bay Area Playwrights Festival, PlayPenn, Ojai Playwrights Conference, the Lark Playwrights Workshop, Juilliard, LAByrinth, Rattlestick, Seven Devils Playwrights Conference, 24Seven Lab, and elsewhere. Internationally, his work has been translated into Spanish and presented in Mexico City and Monterrey, and he has worked in the West Bank with Ashtar Theatre of Ramallah and Ayyam al-Masrah of Hebron. At Ashtar, he co-wrote *The Era of Whales* which was performed in Ramallah and Istanbul.

He is a member of Partial Comfort Productions and is an alumnus of Ars Nova's Playgroup. A native of northern Idaho, Samuel lives in New York City and holds degrees in playwriting from NYU, The Iowa Playwrights Workshop, and Juilliard. He has taught at Fordham University, Rutgers University, Marymount Manhattan College, and The University of Iowa.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

John Vreeke's Woolly Mammoth directing credits include *Gruesome Playground Injuries* by Rajiv Joseph, *Boom* by Peter Sinn-Nachtrieb, *Homebody/Kabul* by Tony Kushner, *Our Lady of 121ST Street* by Stephen Adley Guirgis, *Martha, Josie and the Chinese Elvis* by Charlotte Jones, and *The K of D* by Laura Shellhardt.

In the DC area he has worked at Theater J, Washington Shakespeare Company, Metro Stage, Everyman Theatre, Olney Theatre, Forum Theatre, H Street Theatre, Source Theatre Festival, Charter Theatre, Theater Alliance, Kennedy Center Theater for Young Audiences, Imagination Stage, and the Helen Hayes Awards Society.

He has received four Helen Hayes Awards nominations for Best Director.

Other regional theatre credits include the Alley Theatre in Houston, Arkansas Repertory Theatre, Attic Theatre in LA, Salt Lake Acting Company, and First Stage in Milwaukee. In Seattle: Book-It Repertory Theatre, Annex Theatre, Alice B. Theatre, Arts West Playhouse, Seattle Public Theatre, Balagan Theatre, Center Stage, and Stone Soup Theatre.

His television credits include Associate Producer and Casting Associate for the CBS TV Series: *Northern Exposure*.

For detailed biographical information about the cast and creative team of ***A Bright New Boise***, please visit www.woollymammoth.net.

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BLOGS AND PODCASTS

Beginning Tuesday, September 13th, Woolly will produce a bi-weekly series of blogs exploring the themes inherent in ***A Bright New Boise***, such as the 2012 election politics and religion, stories of retail workers, and exploring faith in regards to education, internal clashes within religious traditions, and fundamentalism. Blogs will be posted every Tuesday and Friday and can be found at woollymammothblog.com. Radio Woolly podcasts will be posted every other Wednesday and can be downloaded for free on iTunes.

CONNECTIVITY EVENTS

Discussions

How do you negotiate your worldview with the world at large? What are the realities of believing, especially in a capital city where so many worldviews collide? Will your beliefs survive? Over the course of the run of ***A Bright New Boise***, Woolly will be hosting several short post-show discussions led by actors and other members of the show's creative team. During these discussions, artists and audiences will explore together issues of faith and belief that the play cracks open.

Tuesday, October 11 following the 8pm Pay-What-You-Can performance:
Featuring playwright Samuel D. Hunter, production dramaturg John M. Baker, and Connectivity Director Rachel Grossman.

Thursday, October 13 following the 8pm performance:
Featuring lighting designer Colin K. Bills and set designer Misha Kachman.

Wednesday, October 19 following the 8pm performance:
Featuring members of the cast.

Sunday, October 23 following the 3pm performance:
Featuring members of the cast.

Thursday, October 27 following the 8pm performance:
Featuring members of the cast.

Lobby Design

There will be an interactive lobby design for ***A Bright New Boise***, details will be posted at a later date at www.woollymammoth.net.

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

A Bright New Boise runs October 10–November 6; Wednesdays–Fridays at 8pm, Saturdays at 3pm and 8pm, and Sundays at 2pm and 7pm. *Saturday, October 15th at 8pm (no 3pm performance); Sunday, October 16th at 7pm (no 2pm performance). There will be Pay-What-You-Can performances Monday, October 10th and Tuesday, October 11th both at 8pm.

TICKETS

Tickets for ***A Bright New Boise*** start at \$30 and can be purchased through the Woolly Mammoth Box Office at 202-393-3939, online at www.woollymammoth.net, or in person at the Box Office located at 641 D Street, NW (7th & D). For directions and parking information, please visit www.woollymammoth.net.

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ABOUT WOOLLY

Now in its 32nd Season, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company continues to hold its place at the leading edge of American theatre. Acknowledged as “the hottest theatre company in town” (*The Washington Post*), “known for its productions of innovative new plays” (*The New York Times*), Woolly Mammoth is a national leader in the development of new plays, and one of the best known and most influential mid-sized theatres in America.

Woolly’s 32nd Season features five works that relate to the question, “Does our civilization have an expiration date?” They include Samuel D. Hunter’s ***A Bright New Boise*** (Oct 10-Nov 6), The Second City’s *Spoiler Alert: Everybody Dies* (Dec 6-Jan 8), Jason Grote’s *Civilization (all you can eat)* (Feb 13-Mar 11), Joey Arias and Basil Twist’s *Arias with a Twist** (Apr 4-May 6), and Anne Washburn’s *Mr. Burns, a post-electric play* (May 28-July 1).

*This tour of Basil Twist is made possible by a grant from Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation with support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

www.woollymammoth.net

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For Immediate Release
September 28, 2011
Contact: Brooke Miller
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WOOLLY MAMMOTH THEATRE COMPANY ANNOUNCES THE MOST SIGNIFICANT EVOLUTION OF ITS COMPANY IN 25 YEARS

**PLAYWRIGHTS, DIRECTORS, AND DESIGNERS ARE ADDED TO THE COMPANY AND
WILL ENGAGE MORE DEEPLY WITH ACTORS IN PLAY PRODUCTION PROCESS**

(Washington, DC) – Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company is proud to start its 32nd Season with the announcement of an important evolution of the theatre's Company, a group of core actors formed originally in 1986. In addition to actors, the Company will now include, for the first time, a number of playwrights, directors, and designers. The goal of this change is to knit all of the theatre's artists more closely together around a shared sense of purpose, and promote a deeper collaborative process for each production. Woolly will build more projects around Company Members, and seek new ways to involve Company Members in the full life cycle of each play, from early script and design development through the community dialogue surrounding each production.

Over the past year, a group of Woolly staff and board members served on a Company Task Force to examine the past and future of Woolly's Company. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Howard Shalwitz, the Task Force gathered ideas and feedback from current and potential Company Members, examined lessons learned about maintaining and building companies at Woolly and other theatres, and clarified future goals. The members of the Task Force included Board Members J. Chris Babb, Linette Hwu, and Scott Schreiber with Managing Director Jeffrey Herrmann, Director of Artistic Development Miriam Weisfeld, and Production Manager Taryn Staples.

Following is a list of new members who are joining the Woolly Mammoth Company at the start of Season 32. Several of them are involved in our inaugural show of the season, ***A Bright New Boise*** by Samuel D. Hunter:

Colin K. Bills has designed the lighting for over twenty productions at Woolly Mammoth including ***A Bright New Boise***. Other recent Woolly credits include *Bootycandy*, *Oedipus el Rey*, and *In the Next Room or the vibrator play*. He's received three Helen Hayes Awards and is the 2009 recipient of a Princess Grace Fellowship in Theater.

Michael John Garcés directed last season's *Oedipus el Rey*, as well as Woolly's productions of *Recent Tragic Events* and *Grace*. He's the Artistic Director of Cornerstone Theater Company in Los Angeles, and winner of the Alan Schneider Award for Directing.

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Misha Kachman designed the set for ***A Bright New Boise*** as well as Woolly's productions of *Gruesome Playground Injuries*, *Fever/Dream*, and *Oedipus el Rey*. He serves as an Assistant Professor of Scene and Costume Design at the University of Maryland.

Robert O'Hara was playwright and director of *Bootycandy* (Woolly World Premiere), playwright of *Antebellum* (Woolly World Premiere), and director of Woolly's production of *In the Continuum*. He received a 2010 Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding New Play for *Antebellum* and an OBIE Award for Directing the World Premiere of *In the Continuum* at Primary Stages.

Emily Townley is a member of the ***A Bright New Boise*** cast who has also appeared at Woolly in *House of Gold*, *Maria/Stuart*, *Spain*, *Fuddy Meers*, and *Wonder of the World*. She has performed at numerous area theatres including Studio, Rep Stage, Everyman, Round House, and the Folger.

John Vreeke, ***A Bright New Boise***'s director, has helmed many Woolly productions including *Gruesome Playground Injuries*, *Boom*, *Our Lady of 121st Street*, and *Homebody/Kabul*. He has received four Helen Hayes nominations including Best Director and has worked in other area theatres including Theater J, Forum Theatre, and the Kennedy Center Theater for Young Audiences.

These new Company Members will be joining current Company Members Doug Brown, Jessica Frances Dukes, Daniel Escobar, Rick Foucheux, Kimberly Gilbert, Mitchell Hébert, Naomi Jacobson, Sarah Marshall, Jennifer Mendenhall, Bruce Nelson, Kate Eastwood Norris, Michael Russotto, Dawn Ursula, and Michael Willis. Longtime Woolly Company Members who are not currently active at the theatre will be honored as Company "Alumni." They include Grover Gardner, Jason Kravits, Christopher Lane, Namu Lwanga, Nancy Robinette, Rob Leo Roy, Rhea Seehorn, and Eric Sutton.

"The idea of a company was embedded in the founding of Woolly Mammoth in 1980 and has been a key to our identity and success," said Artistic Director Howard Shalwitz. "We have occasionally had actors who also directed or wrote Woolly plays. But by opening the door more fully to directors, designers, and playwrights who share the adventurous artistic values and collaborative spirit of our actors, I believe we are launching a new chapter. We have always been happiest when we work with artists over a long period of time, and now we will be drawing a fuller range of artists into the full investigative process and shared dialogue around each play. In doing so, we hope to tighten the connections among three key aspects of Woolly Mammoth's mission: to develop and produce provocative new plays, to build and sustain a company of outstanding theatre artists, and to engage deeply with our community."

The preparations for Season 32 have involved a number of specific steps aimed at deepening the role of Woolly Company Members in the investigative process around each production. The cast and design team for ***A Bright New Boise*** participated in a pre-rehearsal workshop to help playwright Samuel D. Hunter assess his script and respond to preliminary ideas from set designer Misha Kachman. Actress Sarah Marshall, who plays the pivotal role of "Big Hog" (a talking pig) in Jason Grote's *Civilization (all you can eat)*, is participating in design meetings and choreography workshops for the show, as well as research visits to local farms. Actress Jessica Frances Dukes is traveling to Chicago to improvise and rehearse with the cast of The Second City's *Spoiler Alert: Everybody Dies*, helping that venerable company connect their new piece with the themes of Woolly's "apocalyptic" season.

cont.

And actress Kimberly Gilbert will be participating in workshops of Anne Washburn's new play, *Mr. Burns: a post-electric play*. In addition, new Company Member Colin K. Bills is serving on Woolly's script-reading team, evaluating plays for future productions.

"This is a pivotal moment for the company tradition, as many American regional theatres are doing away with it entirely. So in addition to assessing our own experiences, we surveyed colleagues such as Steppenwolf and Dallas Theater Center about how their own companies have evolved and thrived," said Director of Artistic Development Miriam Weisfeld. "We want to head as far away as possible from what frequent Woolly collaborator Mike Daisey characterized in *How Theatre Failed America* as 'freeze-dried theatre,' in which artists based in New York or Los Angeles have become 'migrant workers,' shuttling between theatres throughout the country to create shows in impossibly short periods of time. Instead, we're strengthening our core team of artists so we can plan more projects with them at the center, and so we can grow more sustainable collaborations with new artists who regard our Company and the Washington DC community as the significant resources for theatrical innovation we know they are."

ABOUT WOOLLY

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*This tour of Basil Twist is made possible by a grant from Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation with support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

www.woollymammoth.net

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For Immediate Release
April 4, 2011
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WOOLLY MAMMOTH THEATRE COMPANY ANNOUNCES 32ND SEASON

WORLD AND REGIONAL PREMIERES, BASIL TWIST FESTIVAL, AND NEW SECOND CITY PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHT APOCALYPTIC THEMES

(Washington, DC) – Following on the heels of a record-breaking 31st season, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company announces its lineup of provocative new works for Season 32. “With recessions, revolutions, and natural disasters dominating the news, how could our playwrights not respond?” asks **Artistic Director Howard Shalwitz**. “We’ve had great fun pulling together a season that celebrates the question on all our minds: Does our civilization have an expiration date? And what comes next? Some of America’s most creative theatre makers will mine our collective visions of the apocalypse—with all the drama, jokes, and dreams they inspire.”

The 2011/12 season includes the Woolly debut for rising young playwright **Samuel D. Hunter**, world premieres by innovative playwrights **Jason Grote** and **Anne Washburn**, a new collaboration between Woolly artists and Chicago’s **The Second City** following this season’s *A Girl’s Guide to Washington Politics* which broke multiple sales records, and participation in a Basil Twist Festival along with Shakespeare Theatre Company and another theatre to be announced at a later date.

Shalwitz continues: “We start this fall with **A Bright New Boise**, **Samuel D. Hunter**’s moving tale of longing for the Rapture which opened to rave reviews at the Partial Comfort Theatre in New York (‘This clear-eyed comedy will lift your heart’ – *TimeOut New York*). In February we’ll produce the world premiere of **Civilization (all you can eat)**, a wicked satire by **Jason Grote** that vividly imagines the animals of agribusiness encroaching on us poor humans. We’ll close the season in the spring with another world premiere: **Anne Washburn**’s highly-anticipated **Mr. Burns, a post-electric play** (originally commissioned by the New York-based company The Civilians), a doomsday spectacular with music by Obie Award-winner **Michael Friedman** (*Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*) depicting a post-apocalyptic America sustained by memories of an animated TV series.”

“We’re also thrilled to announce two new collaborations: Woolly’s company of DC actors and designers will partner with members of Chicago’s legendary **The Second City** to create the ultimate anti-holiday provocation, **Spoiler Alert: Everybody Dies**; and we’ll welcome drag sensation **Joey Arias** and risqué puppeteer **Basil Twist** as they explore a sultry Garden of Eden in **Arias With A Twist** (‘Eat your heart out, Madonna’ – *The New York Times*). Surrounding each production is a rich menu of Connectivity events—discussions, happy hours, and festivals—that purge our existential anxieties and celebrate survival.”

Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company--Season 32 (2011/12)

Subscription Season:

A Bright New Boise

By Samuel D. Hunter

Directed by John Vreeke

October 10 – November 6, 2011

Prepare yourself: in the parking lot of a mega craft store in Idaho, someone is summoning the Rapture. Samuel D. Hunter's heartbreakingly funny reckoning between a father and son will shatter your preconceptions about the sacred, the profane, and the secret lives of big box retailers.

Spoiler Alert: Everybody Dies

World Premiere

By Chicago's The Second City

December 6, 2011 – January 8, 2012

Laugh while you can, 'cause things ain't gettin' better. Next season, Woolly artists fly to Chicago to work with The Second City's classic comedy wizards in an unprecedented collaboration. Their mission? Bring back to Washington the most gleeful anti-holiday celebration of doom ever.

Civilization (all you can eat)

World Premiere

By Jason Grote

Directed by Howard Shalwitz

February 13 – March 11, 2012

Does humanity have an expiration date? Six hungry city-dwellers scramble for sustenance in this scathing satire of American enterprise and ingenuity. But while they're busy cooking up schemes for love and success, the beasts of agribusiness are closing in...

Arias With a Twist

Created by Joey Arias and Basil Twist

Directed by Basil Twist

April 4 – May 6, 2012

When aliens abduct a large drag queen and drop her in a teeny Garden of Eden, will she have room to fall from grace? International cabaret sensation Joey Arias and Obie Award-winning puppeteer Basil Twist team up for an eye-popping musical tour, from Genesis to risqué universes beyond imagination.

Mr. Burns, a post-electric play

World Premiere

By Anne Washburn

Directed by Steven Cosson

Music by Michael Friedman

May 28 – July 1, 2012

- cont. -

Armageddon has hit, and all that remains is our nostalgia for a lost pop culture. In Anne Washburn's riveting vision of post-apocalyptic America, survivors invent a new entertainment industry from the ashes of the old. With music by Obie Award-winner Michael Friedman, their enterprise gives redemptive new meaning to the pop hits and cartoon icons we can't live without.

Subscriptions are now on sale and may be purchased online at www.woollymammoth.net, through the Box Office at 202-393-3939, or in person at 641 D Street, NW (7th & D). Single tickets will go on sale on Monday, August 1, 2011.

*Play, artists, and dates are subject to change

ABOUT WOOLLY

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Woolly Mammoth is a selected participant in EmcArts' Innovation Lab for the Performing Arts, a program generously funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

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