



**Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company**  
Press Contact:  
Brooke Miller  
Press and Digital Content Manager  
202-312-5263 [brooke@woollymammoth.net](mailto:brooke@woollymammoth.net)

## **ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT FOR**

### ***Mr. Burns, a post-electric play***

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  
April 25, 2012  
Contact: Brooke Miller  
Press and Digital Content Manager  
202-312-5263 [brooke@woollymammoth.net](mailto:brooke@woollymammoth.net)

**WOOLLY MAMMOTH THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS THE WORLD  
PREMIERE OF *MR. BURNS, A POST-ELECTRIC PLAY*  
MAY 28<sup>TH</sup> THROUGH JULY 1<sup>ST</sup>**

**FINAL PLAY IN WOOLLY'S SEASON IS A WITTY TAKE ON POST-APOCALYPTIC SOCIETY AND  
POP CULTURE, SET TO MUSIC BY OBIE AWARD-WINNER MICHAEL FRIEDMAN**

(Washington, DC) – Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company presents the World Premiere of ***Mr. Burns, a post-electric play*** by **Anne Washburn** and directed by **Steven Cosson**. Armageddon has struck and the grid is down: no TV, no radio, no internet—*how will life go on?* For one group of tenacious survivors, sitting around a fire and reminiscing about *The Simpsons* proves to be the greatest escape from despair. Miraculously, from their collective memories, a new industry struggles to be born: a crude theatrical re-creation of the digital culture we can't possibly live without. From *The Simpsons* to Lady Gaga, from Eminem to the Baha Men, ***Mr. Burns, a post-electric play*** leaves you questioning how you'd make sense of the world if all your gizmos were gone. ***Mr. Burns, a post-electric play*** runs May 28–July 1; Wednesdays–Fridays at 8pm, Saturdays at 3pm and 8pm, and Sundays at 2pm and 7pm.

“Woolly’s season about the demise of civilization reaches a celebratory conclusion with the premiere of ***Mr. Burns, a post-electric play***, **Anne Washburn** and **Michael Friedman**’s futuristic fantasy-with-music about a technology-starved world where TV memories help forge a new world order,” says Artistic Director **Howard Shalwitz**. “A fascinating comic drama that traces the re-emergence of civilization after a catastrophic collapse, the play is a brainy work of imaginative cultural anthropology that broadens our ideas about ‘culture’ and how it functions in our lives. I’m delighted to welcome director **Steve Cosson** to Woolly for the first time, and to acknowledge the great partnership between The Civilians artists and Woolly artists in bringing this ambitious new play to life.”

***Mr. Burns, a post-electric play*** was commissioned by The Civilians, an investigate theatre troupe based in New York, and developed in partnership with The Civilians, Seattle Repertory Theatre, and Playwrights Horizons. **Anne Washburn** was recognized as a Finalist for the Susan Smith Blackburn Award in 2010-11 for this play.

***Mr. Burns, a post-electric play*** will feature Company Member **Kimberly Gilbert** (*A Bright New Boise*, *Clybourne Park*, *In the Next Room or the vibrator play*) with **Chris Genebach**, **Amy McWilliams** (*Maria/Stuart*), **Erika Rose** (*Lenny & Lou*, *The Mineola Twins*), **Steve Rosen**, **Jenna Sokolowski** (*Civilization (all you can eat)*, *Antebellum*, *She Stoops to Comedy*), and **James Sugg** (*Hell Meets Henry Halfway*).

***Mr. Burns, a post-electric play*** will feature set design by Company Member **Misha Kachman**, costume design by **Frank Labovitz**, lighting design by Company Member **Colin K. Bills**, sound design by **Elisheba Ittoop**, and choreography by **Diane Coburn Bruning**.

**Mr. Burns, a post-electric play**

Written by Anne Washburn

Directed by Steven Cosson

**CAST**

Listed in order of appearance

Matt.....	Steve Rosen+
Jenny.....	Kimberly Gilbert**+
Maria.....	Jenna Sokolowski+
Sam.....	James Sugg+
Colleen.....	Amy McWilliams+
Gibson.....	Chris Genebach+
Quincy.....	Erika Rose+

**CREATIVE TEAM**

Playwright.....	Anne Washburn
Director.....	Steven Cosson
Set Design.....	Misha Kachman**
Costume Design.....	Frank Labovitz
Lighting Design.....	Colin K. Bills**
Composer.....	Michael Friedman
Musical Director/Musician.....	Jonathan Tuzman
Sound Designer.....	Elisheba Ittoop
Choreographer.....	Diane Coburn Bruning
Fight Choreographer.....	Lorraine Ressegger
Properties.....	Jennifer Sheetz
Dramaturg.....	Miriam Weisfeld

\*\* Denotes a Woolly Company Member

+ Denotes Member, Actors' Equity Association

**Mr. Burns, a post-electric play** Catering Sponsor: Geppetto Catering

**Mr. Burns, a post-electric play** Restaurant Sponsor: Oyamel

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

**Anne Washburn** (playwright) has previously been produced in DC at Studio Theatre: *The Internationalist* and *The Folger: Orestes*. Other plays include *Apparition*, *The Communist Dracula Pageant*, *I Have Loved Strangers*, *The Small*, *The Ladies*, and *Devil at Noon*. Her work has also been produced by 13P, Actors Theatre of Louisville, American Repertory Theater, Cherry Lane Theatre, Clubbed Thumb, The Civilians, Dixon Place, The Ensemble Studio Theatre, London's Gate Theatre, NYC's Soho Rep, Two River Theater Company, and NYC's Vineyard Theatre. Awards include a Guggenheim, a NYFA Fellowship, a Time Warner Fellowship, residencies at MacDowell and Yaddo, and an ArtsLink travel grant to Hungary to work with the playwright Peter Karpati. She is a member of 13P, an associated artist with The Civilians and New Georges, and an alumna of New Dramatists. Anne is currently commissioned by MTC, Playwrights Horizons, Soho Rep, and Yale Rep.

**ABOUT THE DIRECTOR**

**Steven Cosson** (director) is a writer, director and the founding Artistic Director of The Civilians. Recent work for The Civilians as writer/director in collaboration with composer Michael Friedman includes *The Great Immensity* at Kansas City Rep; *The Next Forever* created for the 2012 TED Conference; *In The Footprint* (Top 10 of 2010 in *NY Times*, *Time Out*, *New Yorker*); *This Beautiful City* at Humana Festival, Vineyard Theatre, Center Theatre Group, and Studio Theatre; *Paris Commune* at The Public Theater, La Jolla Playhouse, upcoming BAM Next Wave; and *Gone Missing* (*NY Times* Top 10 of 2007). Additionally, he's directed these Civilians works and others at Actors Theatre of Louisville, American Repertory Theater, HBO's Comedy Festival, MoMA, London's Gate Theatre and Soho Theatre, Arts Emerson, and more. Outside of the company, recent directing highlights include Anne Washburn's *A Devil at Noon* (Humana Festival, O'Neill); and *Bus Stop* (Kansas City Rep).

## SOCIAL MEDIA

To follow the conversations about ***Mr. Burns, a post-electric play*** on social media:

Facebook.com/woollymammothtc

Twitter.com/woollymammothtc (#WoollyBurns)

Blog: woollymammothblog.com

Radio Woolly podcasts: <http://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/radio-woolly/id359206232>

## CONNECTIVITY

Complete description and schedule of Connectivity initiatives including lobby design, special events, and post-show discussion guests will be announced at a later date.

## POST-SHOW DISCUSSIONS

- Wednesday, June 6<sup>th</sup> following the 8pm performance
- Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup> following the 2pm performance
- Thursday, June 14<sup>th</sup> following the 8pm performance

## PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

***Mr. Burns, a post-electric play*** runs May 28–July 1; Wednesdays–Fridays at 8pm, Saturdays at 3pm and 8pm, and Sundays at 2pm and 7pm. \*Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> no 2pm performance. **There will be Pay-What-You-Can performances on Monday, May 28<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, May 29<sup>th</sup> at 8pm.**

## TICKETS

Tickets for ***Mr. Burns, a post-electric play*** start at \$35 and can be purchased through the Woolly Mammoth Box Office at 202-393-3939, online at [www.woollymammoth.net](http://www.woollymammoth.net), or in person at the Box Office located at 641 D Street, NW (7<sup>th</sup> & D). For directions and parking information, please visit [www.woollymammoth.net](http://www.woollymammoth.net).

## 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 13), 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).

[www.woollymammoth.net](http://www.woollymammoth.net)

# # #

## ***Mr. Burns, a post-electric play***

### **Feature Article Links:**

“Colin K. Bills, the Lighting Designer DC Theaters Have Taken a Shine To” by Celia Wren – *The Washington Post*, 5/27/12

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/theater\\_dance/colin-k-bills-the-lighting-designer-dc-theaters-have-taken-a-shine-to/2012/05/24/gJQAab3tpU\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/theater_dance/colin-k-bills-the-lighting-designer-dc-theaters-have-taken-a-shine-to/2012/05/24/gJQAab3tpU_story.html)

“In Woolly Mammoth’s ‘Mr. Burns,’ Reconstructing a Cartoon and a Civilization” by Roger Catlin – *The Washington Post*, 5/27/12

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/theater\\_dance/in-woolly-mammoths-mr-burns-reconstructing-a-cartoon-and-a-civilization/2012/05/24/gJQAan35pU\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/theater_dance/in-woolly-mammoths-mr-burns-reconstructing-a-cartoon-and-a-civilization/2012/05/24/gJQAan35pU_story.html)

“Sneak Preview: *Mr. Burns* Goes to Washington” by David Gordon – *TheaterMania*, 5/23/12

[http://www.theatermania.com/washington-dc-theater/news/05-2012/sneak-preview-mr-burns-goes-to-washington\\_57045.html](http://www.theatermania.com/washington-dc-theater/news/05-2012/sneak-preview-mr-burns-goes-to-washington_57045.html)

“Interview: Anne Washburn” by Logan Donaldson – *Brightest Young Things*, 5/23/12

<http://www.brightestyoungthings.com/articles/interview-anne-washburn.htm>

“*Mr. Burns, a post-electric play* at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company” by Julia Fisher – *Washington City Paper*, 5/25/12

<http://www.washingtoncitypaper.com/articles/42733/mr-burns-a-post-electric-play-at-woolly-mammoth-theatre/>

“Woolly Mammoth Hosts Simpsons-Themed Trivia” by Stephanie Merry – *The Washington Post Going Out Guide*, 5/10/12

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/going-out-gurus/post/woolly-mammoth-hosts-simpsons-themed-trivia/2012/05/10/gIQAQMn6FU\\_blog.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/going-out-gurus/post/woolly-mammoth-hosts-simpsons-themed-trivia/2012/05/10/gIQAQMn6FU_blog.html)



For Immediate Release

May 10, 2012

Contact: Brooke Miller

Press and Digital Content Manager

202-312-5263 [brooke@woollymammoth.net](mailto:brooke@woollymammoth.net)

## **WOOLLY MAMMOTH THEATRE COMPANY HIRES NEW CONNECTIVITY DIRECTOR AND ANNOUNCES PROGRAMMING FOR *MR. BURNS, A POST-ELECTRIC PLAY***

### **JOCELYN PRINCE LEADS CONNECTIVITY INITIATIVES INCLUDING POST-APOCALYPTIC ARTWORK, TRIVIA NIGHTS, AND POST-SHOW DISCUSSIONS**

(Washington, DC) – Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company is pleased to announce the hire of **Jocelyn Prince** as the theatre's new Connectivity Director. Jocelyn will take over the theatre's innovative Connectivity department—whose goal is to create vital audiences through relationships in the greater Washington community and the cultivation of new audiences, as well as to enrich and enliven the theatergoing experience through unique experiences in the lobby, around the building, and throughout DC. Prince launches her tenure at Woolly with a comprehensive Connectivity initiative for the theatre's upcoming production of *Mr. Burns, a post-electric play*.

Woolly Mammoth received numerous grants to support our ground-breaking Connectivity Department. Incubated in the Innovation Lab for the Arts, funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and administered by EmcArts, Connectivity received further support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Earlier this season, Woolly Mammoth was awarded a grant through the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation's Continuing Innovation Program to continue Connectivity's positive growth and development. Additionally, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company is a participant in the New Generations Program, funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and administered by Theatre Communications Group—the national organization for the American theatre. The New Generations Program will fund a project to technologically-enhance Woolly's lobby throughout our 33<sup>rd</sup> Season to engage our patrons with explosive and interactive Connectivity programming.

**Jocelyn Prince** recently served as the Artistic Associate at The Public Theater in New York City where she produced the Public LAB Speaker Series, numerous new play readings, workshops, and audience engagement events. She also coordinated the selection process and helped facilitate the 2010 Emerging Writers Group. Dramaturgy credits include *A Raisin In The Sun* (Juilliard School of Drama); *Black Diamond: The Years the Locusts Have Eaten* (Lookingglass Theatre Company); *Invisible Man*, *Raisin* and *The First Breeze of Summer* (Court Theatre); *The MLK Project* (Writers' Theatre); *My Julliard, Kingdom and Eyes* (eta Creative Arts Foundation); *Teibele and Her Demon* (European Repertory Company); *Daughters of the Mock*, *Spunk*, *King of Coons*, and *The House that Jack Built* (Congo Square Theatre Company); and *Intimate Apparel* and *Harriet Jacobs* (Steppenwolf Theatre Company). Jocelyn has directed at the Bailiwick Repertory Directors Festival, The Movement Theatre Company, Around the Coyote Art Festival, and 20 Percent Theatre, and has assisted Mary Zimmerman on *Mirror of the Invisible World* (The Goodman Theatre), Eric Rosen on *Wedding Play* (About Face Theatre), and Hallie Gordon on *The Bluest Eye* (Steppenwolf). Jocelyn is an Artistic Associate at Victory Gardens Theater in Chicago and a Co-Founding Artistic Director of NYC's The New Black Fest. Her social justice and political work includes positions with the YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago and Obama for America. She holds a MA in Performance Studies from

Northwestern University and has written for *TimeOut Chicago*, *TimeOut New York*, *The Chicago Reporter*, and *African American Review*.

### **Mr. Burns, a post-electric play Connectivity Initiatives:**

#### Lobby Design

#### **A Post-Electric World: Viewpoints from Visual Artists**

##### *Upper Lobby*

Woolly has commissioned three DC visual artists to envision a post-apocalyptic society. What if all our infrastructure—water, electricity, and architecture broke down? The work of these artists will mirror the timeline of **Mr. Burns**, and be divided into three sections—tomorrow, seven years later, and 75 years later. It will share perspectives from the artists about the world playwright Anne Washburn has imagined. Featured are local artists **Gregg Deal**, **Dafna Steinburg**, and **Kelly Towles**.

**Gregg Deal**, a 13-year resident of the DC area, is an artist that is constantly pushing his art through contemporary mediums. From his time immersed in the 90's as a graffiti and street artist, to his training as a fine art painter, Gregg marries all of his experience into an incredibly self informed work that is humorous, insightful and comments on the social aspects of the world he lives. Working primarily in paint on surfaces from wood to canvas to glass like acrylic, he is a master at portraiture, while his work takes on a roll of irony and humor, it has a sense of drama and social commentary that can't be missed.

**Dafna Steinburg** is a native of Washington, DC. A graduate of Hampshire College, the International Center of Photography, and Goldsmiths, University of London, she has exhibited in and curated challenging thematic shows in both in the United States and overseas. Though her background is in photography, she also works in mixed media, video and collage. Her collages are inspired from dreams, the media and how she sees the world. They are puzzles that come together organically from bits and pieces of magazine cut outs, vintage postcards and photographs of people she has never met.

**Kelly Towles** is one of Washington, DC's emerging artists. Towles has had numerous shows, including critically-acclaimed shows at DC's David Adamson Gallery. He has painted interiors of Toki Underground, Rouge 24 and Graffiato. A few more projects coming out include limited edition bottles with DC Brau and a new snowboard line with Monument snowboard. He depicts people dealing with the society in which they live and the emotional arsenal with which each person is equipped. He resides in DC and loves DC to its core. He is also amazing at writing in third person.

#### **Nostalgia Board: What's that Reference?**

##### *Lower Lobby*

Can you name that reference? **Mr. Burns, a post-electric play** by Anne Washburn references *The Simpsons'* "Cape Feare" episode, which is a spoof of the 1962 film *Cape Fear* and its 1991 remake. With a nod to *The Simpsons'* opening credits, during which Bart always writes lines on a chalkboard, we'll be asking our patrons grab their own piece of chalk. List the references from contemporary cultural items like cartoons, novels, and music videos. Where does your nostalgia take you?

#### Post Show Discussions

Discussions will be 20-30 minutes long and take place in the theatre directly following the performance:

**Wednesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>** following the 8pm performance:

**Mammoth Forum on Speculating an Apocalypse:** Town-hall style discussion featuring a panel of guests who will share their insights and explore what would happen to the earth and our society if an



apocalyptic event hit DC tomorrow. Panelists include Robert Stewart from the Potomac Electric Power Co. (Pepco) and Jon Tung from Keast and Hood, Inc., a structural engineering firm.

**Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup>** following the 2pm performance:

**Audience Exchange on Pop Culture:** An invited guest joins Woolly Connectivity Director Jocelyn Prince on stage immediately after the performance to jump-start an audience-wide conversation by sharing their personal reflections on the role of pop culture in their everyday lives.

**Thursday, June 14<sup>th</sup>** following the 8pm performance:

**The Making of *Mr. Burns, a post-electric play*:** Q & A with Production Dramaturg and Woolly's Director of Artistic Development Miriam Weisfeld, and members of the cast.

## Community Events

### **Simpson's Trivia Nights**

*The Simpsons* is the longest-running American sitcom, the longest-running American animated program, and a big inspiration for Anne Washburn's *Mr. Burns, a post-electric play*. Join **Woolly and Trivia Kings** at bars around town in May and test your knowledge of this iconic cartoon series! Winners receive free pairs of tickets to the show.

### **Monday, May 21**

- Union Jack's Ballston in Ballston at 8pm
- Madhatter in Dupont Circle at 7pm
- Crystal City Sports Pub in Crystal City at 8pm
- Star and Shamrock in H Street Corridor at 8pm

### **Wednesday, May 23**

- Molly Malone's in Barracks Row at 7:30pm
- Clarendon Grill in Clarendon at 8pm
- Meridian Pint in Columbia Heights at 8pm
- Fire Station 1 in Downtown Silver Spring at 8pm
- P. J. Skidoos in Fairfax at 8:30pm
- Grevey's Sports Bar in Merrifield at 8pm
- Duffy's Irish Pub in U Street Corridor at 8pm

### **Sunday, May 27**

- Sine Irish Pub Arlington in Pentagon Row at 7pm

### **Tuesday, May 29**

- Union Jack's Bethesda in Bethesda at 8pm
- Union Jack's Columbia in Columbia Town Center at 8pm
- Old Glory in Georgetown at 8pm
- Old Dominion Brewhouse in Mount Vernon Square at 7:30pm
- Growlers in Olde Town Gaithersburg at 8pm
- Public House No. 7 in Seven Corners at 8pm
- Limerick Pub in Downtown Wheaton at 8pm
- Trusty's in East Hill at 8pm
- Samuel Beckett's in Shirlington at 7:30pm
- Irish Channel in Chinatown at 7pm

## Thursday, May 31

- Rock & Roll Hotel in H Street Corridor at 7:30pm

### **ABOUT *Mr. Burns, a post-electric play*:**

Armageddon has struck and the grid is down: no TV, no radio, no internet—*how will life go on?* For one group of tenacious survivors, sitting around a fire and reminiscing about *The Simpsons* proves to be the greatest escape from despair. Miraculously, from their collective memories, a new industry struggles to be born: a crude theatrical re-creation of the digital culture we can't possibly live without.

From *The Simpsons* to the pop hits of the last ten years, ***Mr. Burns, a post-electric play*** is a rocking, rollicking, scary good time that leaves you questioning how you'd make sense of the world if all your gizmos were gone.

***Mr. Burns, a post-electric play*** is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, and the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities' Community Arts Grant program.

### **PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE**

***Mr. Burns, a post-electric play*** runs May 28–July 1; Wednesdays–Fridays at 8pm, Saturdays at 3pm and 8pm, and Sundays at 2pm and 7pm. \*Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> no 2pm performance. **There will be Pay-What-You-Can performances on Monday, May 28<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, May 29<sup>th</sup> at 8pm. Sunday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm will be a Cheap Date Night performance: all tickets \$20.**

### **TICKETS**

Tickets for ***Mr. Burns, a post-electric play*** start at \$35 and can be purchased through the Woolly Mammoth Box Office at 202-393-3939, online at [www.woollymammoth.net](http://www.woollymammoth.net), or in person at the Box Office located at 641 D Street, NW (7<sup>th</sup> & D). For directions and parking information, please visit [www.woollymammoth.net](http://www.woollymammoth.net).

### **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 13), 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).

[www.woollymammoth.net](http://www.woollymammoth.net)

###



For Immediate Release  
May 17, 2012  
Contact: Brooke Miller  
Press and Digital Content Manager  
202-312-5263 [brooke@woollymammoth.net](mailto:brooke@woollymammoth.net)

## WOOLLY MAMMOTH THEATRE COMPANY ANNOUNCES READING OF DUSTIN LANCE BLACK'S NEW PLAY **8** ON JUNE 4<sup>th</sup>

### WOOLLY JOINS NATIONWIDE PRODUCTIONS OF LANDMARK MARRIAGE EQUALITY PLAY BY ACADEMY AWARD-WINNING SCREENWRITER OF *MILK* AND *J. EDGAR*

(Washington, DC) – Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, with license from the **American Foundation for Equal Rights (AFER)** and **Broadway Impact**, is proud to announce a one-night-only reading of **8**, a play chronicling the historic trial in the federal constitutional challenge to California's Proposition 8, written by Academy Award-winning screenwriter and AFER Founding Board Member **Dustin Lance Black**. Coinciding with Capital Pride 2012, the reading will take place on **Monday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**, with **all tickets \$5**. Tickets may be purchased online at [www.woollymammoth.net](http://www.woollymammoth.net), over the phone at 202-393-3939, or in person at the Box Office located at 641 D Street, NW.

The reading of **8** at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company will be directed by **Alan Paul**, Associate Director of Shakespeare Theatre Company and will feature Woolly Company Members **Jessica Frances Dukes, Rick Foucheux, Jennifer Mendenhall, Eric Sutton**, and **Emily Townley** with other prominent actors from the DC theatre community.

Following the reading, Woolly will host a town-hall style discussion with the Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force **Rea Carey**, Maryland State Senator **Richard S. Madaleno Jr.**, Human Rights Campaign's Legal Director **Brian Moulton**, and **Matt Nosanchuk** from the US Department of Justice Civil Rights Division. The discussion will be livestreamed on #NewPlay TV ([www.livestream.com/newplay](http://www.livestream.com/newplay)).

In addition, Woolly and local organizations will collaborate to host **T8KE ACTION**—an LGBTQ Activism Fair. The fair will be held in Woolly's lower lobby beginning at 6pm on June 4<sup>th</sup>, and will be free and open to the public until 10pm. Visitors can learn about ways to get involved with important issues affecting the LGBTQ community here in DC. Participating organizations include the **ACLU**, the **Community Education Group**, **Human Rights Campaign**, **Metro Teen AIDS**, **National Gay and Lesbian Task Force**, **SMYAL**, **PFLAG DC** and the **DC Center for the LGBT Community**.

#### ABOUT **8**:

**8** is an unprecedented account of the Federal District Court trial in *Perry v. Schwarzenegger* (now *Perry v. Brown*), the case filed by AFER to overturn Proposition 8, which stripped gay and lesbian Californians of the freedom to marry. **Black**, who penned the Academy Award-winning feature film *Milk* and the film *J. Edgar*, based **8** on the actual words of the trial transcripts, first-hand observations of the courtroom drama and interviews with the plaintiffs and their families.

**8** had its much-heralded Broadway World Premiere on September 19, 2011, at the sold-out Eugene O'Neill Theatre in New York City. The production brought in over \$1 million to support AFER's efforts to achieve full federal marriage equality. **8** had its West Coast premiere reading at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre on Saturday, March 3, 2012, in Los Angeles. The West Coast premiere reading of **8** featured an all-star cast led by Brad Pitt, George Clooney, Martin Sheen, and Theodore B. Olson. The benefit reading was directed by AFER Founding Board Member Rob Reiner, and raised more than \$2 million for the fight to secure full federal marriage equality.

Throughout 2012, AFER and Broadway Impact are licensing **8** for free to colleges and community theatres nationwide in order to spur action, dialogue and understanding. Most productions will be followed by a talkback where cast and audience members can discuss the issues presented in the *Perry v. Schwarzenegger* trial.

For information about **8** visit: [www.8theplay.com](http://www.8theplay.com), follow @8theplay on Twitter, or like their Facebook page at [facebook.com/8theplay](https://www.facebook.com/8theplay).

To follow the Woolly Mammoth Production of **8** on social media:

[Facebook.com/woollymammothtc](https://www.facebook.com/woollymammothtc)

[#Woolly8](https://twitter.com/woollymammothtc)

[Woollymammothblog.com](http://woollymammothblog.com)

Radio Woolly podcasts: <http://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/radio-woolly/id359206232>

## **ABOUT THE AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR EQUAL RIGHTS:**

The American Foundation for Equal Rights is the sole sponsor of *Perry v. Brown*, the federal constitutional challenge to California's Proposition 8. After bringing together Theodore B. Olson and David Boies to lead its legal team, AFER successfully advanced the Perry case through Federal District Court and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. The Foundation is committed to achieving full federal marriage equality for all Americans. [www.fer.org](http://www.fer.org)

## **ABOUT BROADWAY IMPACT**

Broadway Impact is a grassroots organization of the theatre community and its fans mobilized in support of marriage equality. In direct response to the passage of California's Proposition 8 in November 2008, Tony Award-nominees Rory O'Malley (*The Book of Mormon*) and Gavin Creel (*HAIR*) and Production Coordinator Jenny Kanelos founded Broadway Impact to engage the theatre community in the fight for marriage equality. Recent initiatives include: contributing to phone bank efforts to win marriage equality in New York State; creating an awareness program that led to a 3,000 piece letter writing campaign; facilitating the attendance of 1,400 supporters to the National Equality March in Washington, DC; and producing a rally for over 5,000 attendees in Midtown Manhattan. Broadway Impact is now committed to bringing **8**, a play about Proposition 8 written by Academy Award-winner Dustin Lance Black, to university and community theatres across the country in order to inspire dialogue, understanding and action concerning marriage equality. Broadway Impact was the recipient of the 2009 Human Rights Campaign Community Award and proudly operates under the entity of Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. [www.broadwayimpact.com](http://www.broadwayimpact.com)

## **ABOUT WOOLLY**

Now in its 32<sup>nd</sup> 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 32<sup>nd</sup> 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 13), 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).

[www.woollymammoth.net](http://www.woollymammoth.net)

# # #



**For Immediate Release**

May 8, 2012

Contact: Brooke Miller

Press and Digital Content Manager

202-312-5263 [brooke@woollymammoth.net](mailto:brooke@woollymammoth.net)

## **WOOLLY MAMMOTH THEATRE COMPANY LAUNCHES “FREE THE BEAST”**

### **\$4 MILLION CAMPAIGN SUPPORTS THE PRODUCTION OF 25 NEW PLAYS OVER A TEN YEAR PERIOD**

(Washington, DC) – Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company announces the public launch of its fundraising campaign **Free the Beast**, an innovative effort that will support the production of 25 new plays starting 2012 through 2022. These plays will be given the time and tending they require to reach maturity, drawing from a menu of support including new commissioning models, comprehensive research, readings and workshops, larger casts, extra rehearsals, increased technical resources, and the expertise of Woolly’s Company of Artists. Most importantly, all will receive full productions on Woolly Mammoth’s stage.

“**Free the Beast** is a game-changer for Woolly Mammoth’s future,” says Artistic Director **Howard Shalwitz**. “Funds from the campaign will dramatically increase what we can spend on 25 ambitious new plays, and by raising these funds in advance we’re able to commit to multi-year projects for the first time, creating a pipeline of new work for our stage. Most significantly, **Free the Beast** will support new kinds of collaborations among the brilliant playwrights, actors, directors, and designers in our growing resident company, together with outstanding guest artists. I want to thank all the generous supporters who have helped us pass the halfway point of this landmark effort. And I especially want to thank Arlene and Robert Kogod, who have long recognized the uniqueness of Woolly’s mission to create challenging new theatre, and whose generosity has provided the cornerstone for **Free the Beast**.”

Two plays in Woolly Mammoth’s 2012-2013 Season will be supported by **Free The Beast** funding—the World Premieres of *You for Me for You* by Mia Chung and *Stupid Fucking Bird* by Aaron Posner. In addition, **Free the Beast** will support the World Premiere of *Zombie: The American* by Robert O’Hara, tentatively planned for 2014.

Planned **Free the Beast** projects:

#### ***You for Me for You* by Mia Chung**

Korean-American playwright Mia Chung is one of the most imaginative young writers of her generation, and Woolly is honored to launch her first major production: a play about two North Korean sisters who make a bargain with a smuggler to flee to the United States. With brilliant Russian director Yury Urnov at the helm, this delicate story shatters our conception of life inside and outside the rigid borders of an ominous regime.

**Free the Beast** will support:

- Completion commission for playwright
- Three-day workshop at Woolly

- Four-week workshop production with Drama Desk and Obie Award-winning Ma-Yi Theater Company in New York City
- World Premiere at Woolly in fall 2012, in association with Ma-Yi's network of Asian-American artists

### ***Stupid Fucking Bird* by Aaron Posner**

Aaron Posner is one of DC's foremost directors and adapters, and the idea for this play emerged when Aaron was rehearsing Sarah Ruhl's *In the Next Room or the vibrator play* at Woolly. In this contemporary and irreverent musical riff on Chekhov's *The Seagull*, everyone discovers just how disappointing love, art, and growing up can be.

**Free the Beast** will support:

- Completion commission for playwright
- Funding for composer and musical director of original score
- Three-day workshop at Woolly Mammoth
- One-week workshop at Lake George Theater Lab in upstate New York
- An extra week of rehearsals with director Howard Shalwitz
- World Premiere at Woolly in spring 2013

### ***Zombie: The American* by Robert O'Hara.**

Woolly Company Member Robert O'Hara directed Danai Gurira's *In the Continuum*, wrote *Antebellum*, and drew a record number of new audiences to Woolly with *Bootycandy*, which he both wrote and directed. We've been dreaming of commissioning Robert to create a brand new play for his fellow Company Members, and this is it: a futuristic thriller about a White House literally haunted by America's past.

**Free the Beast** will support:

- Commissioning fee for playwright
- Two research visits to explore DC architecture and history
- Two workshops at Woolly
- Further production development steps
- World Premiere at Woolly, tentatively planned for 2014

## **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 13), 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).

[www.woollymammoth.net](http://www.woollymammoth.net)

# # #