

New Route Theatre and Eaton Gallery presents:

2011 One Shot Deal Series

Second Wednesday of each month starting at 7 PM.

The *One Shot Deal Series* is an opportunity for the community to get to know New Route Theatre on a donation only basis. Surrounded by the creative energy and warmth of Eaton Gallery and Herb Eaton's art, audiences will experience new plays that are in workshop as well as established plays. Some will be readings and some will be fully mounted productions but all will meet New Route Theatre's mission to reflect the diversity of our community both onstage and in the audience.

June 8                      *Tapestries* by Irene Taylor                      Narrative Art

The One Shot Series' first play reading serves as the launching for New Route Wordweavers, a program which will take the reflections of local residents and present them in a performance setting. *Tapestries* is an original play taken from the oral histories of local residents. It will feature professors from Illinois State University, Wesleyan University, and members of the Young at Heartland theatre troupe.

July 13                      *Fabulation* by Lynn Nottage                      Growing

Lynn Nottage's *Fabulation; or, The Re-Education of Undine* is a riches-to-rags satire that follows the apparent decline of Undine from her high-profile job back to the projects where she grew up. Although she loses her status, wealth, and pride, she gains wisdom and self-knowledge that would have eluded her in her prior existence. Facing the people from her past, she must come to accept them and herself as she learns that one can never truly outrun the past.

August 10                      *My Name is Rachel Corrie*  
edited by Alan Rickman & Katharine Viner

On March 16, 2003, Rachel Corrie, a twenty-three-year-old American, was crushed to death by an Israeli Army bulldozer in Gaza as she was trying to prevent the demolition of a Palestinian home. *My Name is Rachel Corrie*, edited by Katharine Viner and Alan Rickman, is a one-woman play composed from Rachel's own journals, letters and emails—creating a portrait of a messy, articulate, Salvador Dali—loving chain-smoker (with a passion for the music of Pat Benatar), who left her home and school in Olympia, Washington, to work as an activist in the heart of Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"We are all born and someday we'll all die. Most likely to some degree alone.

"What if our aloneness isn't a tragedy? What if our aloneness is what allows us to speak the truth without being afraid? What if our aloneness is what allows us to adventure — to experience the world as a dynamic presence — as a changeable, interactive thing?"

September 14 *The Moon Diary* by Don Shandrow

The Mississippi River, the phases of the Moon and the power of the written word converge in a Romantic Comedy that explores natural forces and unpredictable outcomes.

October 12 *Colors* by Lasantho Rodrigo Coloring

"My name is Chethiya. In Sinhalese, the native language of Sri Lanka, it means temple. I had many dreams a few years ago. I don't have that many now, unfortunately. I live for the day. I like stories, though, so I will tell you my story. It's not very happy, I'm afraid, but... but... it's very colorful. Colors of the sunset, color of jasmines and coffee blossoms, blood red of the cement floor of my suburban home in Sri Lanka."

A semi-autobiographical play by Lasantha Rodrigo, an Illinois State University doctoral candidate that takes us from Sri Lanka to Normal, IL, displaying all of the emotional colors experienced along the way.

November 9 *Fat Jack's* by Kass Fleisher & Joe Amato Cloistering

Described as a "Full Length Fantasia in One Act," the local playwrights explain their inspiration for this exciting new play in their Author's notes.

"Actor and playwright Sam Shepard was arrested for speeding and driving under the influence at about 2 a.m. on January 2, 2009 in Normal, Illinois. Traveling with him in his 2007 Chevy Tahoe was a poodle. He had stopped for the night in the Twin Cities of Bloomington-Normal while journeying from the home of his partner, Jessica Lange, in Minnesota to his residence in Kentucky. He'd left Fat Jack's where he'd previously autographed a bottle of Woodford Reserve, and was on his way to the Best Western in Normal. He was pulled over by the Normal Police, one of the largest per-capita police forces in Illinois, in a town that had at the time been subjected to an inordinate number of bank robberies. According to local reports, Shepard had visited the bar several times in the past after befriending a bartender. Aside from these points, everything in this work is a fiction. Any resemblance to real persons is coincidental."

Cheers meets The Iceman Cometh.

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Past Productions – for booking information contact [dshandrow@gmail.com](mailto:dshandrow@gmail.com)

Feb 9                      *She Said* by Barbie Docksteider                      An Object of Beauty

"It has been said that if Shel Silverstein and Dorothy Parker had conceived a child, the result would have been Barbie Dockstader Angell. Razor wit and simple rhyming verse combine to create an innovative style." Barbie will be a recognizable name in the Bloomington-Normal Area. Her poetry is free, fresh and unrestrained making for a uniquely wonderful evening of theatre. The play will feature New Route Theatre Artistic Advisory Board members—Jennifer Rusk, Bridgette Richard and M. Irene Taylor. Directed by Phil Shaw.

March 9                      *I Too Sing America -- Poems of the Harlem Renaissance*

The Harlem Renaissance was successful in that it brought the African American experience clearly within the body of American cultural history and redefined how America, and the world, viewed the African-American population. The production, co-directed by Don Shandrow & Phil Shaw, and featuring Jennifer Rusk & Gregory Hicks with Gospel ensemble under the direction of Georgia Brook, focuses on the poetry of such writers as Langston Hughes and James Weldon Johnson.

April 13                      *Suppos'd to* by Irene Taylor                      The Figure

A 56 year old woman's veneer of civility and self deprecation starts to unravel as her anger with all of the "Suppos'd To's" in her life lead her and the audience on a journey of self discovery and empowerment in a new play by local playwright and actress, M. Irene Taylor. "It seems to me that everything I approach in life has a 'suppos'd to' attached. I'm not saying, for a moment, I expect it to be any other way. Well, rationally and logically, I don't expect it to be any other way. But, emotionally, I'm not so sure."

May 11                      *The Ladies* by Phil Shaw & Jennifer Rusk                      Images of Music

The music of iconic female African-American singers such as Bessie Smith, Billie Holiday and Mahalia Jackson is explored within their historical context. This entertaining and enlightening evening will feature the vocal talents of Jennifer Rusk accompanied by David Shields on piano.