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LOOKINGGLASS' 2007/08, 20TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON KICKS OFF WITH THE MIDWEST PREMIERE OF *NO CHILD*, THE RETURN OF CIRCUS-INFUSED *HEPHAESTUS*, TAKES AUDIENCES AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS, AND LOOKS BACK WITH *NELSON ALGREN: FOR KEEPS AND A SINGLE DAY*

CHICAGO, April 10, 2007 - Chicago's Lookingglass Theatre Company announced today an electrifying line-up of four must-see productions for its upcoming 2007/08 season.

Starting in October, Lookingglass kicks off its 20th anniversary season by presenting acclaimed actress Nilaja Sun in her one-woman tour de force ***No Child***, directed by Hal Brooks. Running for almost a year to sold out audiences in New York, Lookingglass patrons will be the first to see this remarkable exploration of the public school system, as seen through the eyes of a young, idealistic teaching artist.

In January, the world's elite circus performers, including veteran members of the Wallenda Family, Ringling Bros. and Cirque du Soleil, return to Chicago's Water Tower Water Works for ***Hephaestus: A Greek Mythology Circus Tale***, presented by Lookingglass Theatre Company in association with Silver Guy Entertainment. A world premiere hit for Lookingglass in 2005, ***Hephaestus***, the creation of Lookingglass Artistic Associate Tony Hernandez, story by Hernandez and Lookingglass Ensemble member Heidi Stillman, co-directed by Hernandez and Stillman - is a must-see circus theatre event. Evocative storytelling, amazing athleticism and the very highest levels of circus artistry bring the ancient Greek myth story of Hephaestus to the high wire in this death-defying circus retelling.

In April, Lookingglass audiences will travel ***Around the World in 80 Days***, when Ensemble member Laura Eason directs her world premiere adaptation of Jules Verne's grand adventure. Lookingglass' flexible theater space inside Chicago's historic Water Tower Water Works will morph into countless exotic foreign locales, as Eason, her cast and crew take audiences on a whirlwind tour around the world in this fast, fun new production for the entire family.

To conclude the season, Lookingglass will revive a company favorite, the 2000 sensation ***Nelson Algren: For Keeps and a Single Day***, for a summer run starting in July. This intimate multimedia portrait sets Algren's backstreet poetry to the pulse of a live, on-stage jazz combo, performed against a backdrop of the city as shown through the film imagery of

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Ensemble member and director John Musial. Ensemble member Thomas J. Cox will reprise his role as Algren, one of Chicago's most enduring literary figures.

"While selecting our 20th anniversary season, an umbrella theme of 'looking back' began to emerge," said Lookingglass Artistic Director David Catlin. "**No Child** reflects Lookingglass' unmatched commitment to bringing the arts to public school students, a core activity of our Education and Community Programs since our founding. **Hephaestus** is emblematic of our deep affinity with the circus arts and our commitment to making 'theatre without a net.'" **Around the World in 80 Days** gives Lookingglass the opportunity to adapt and stage another beloved literary classic – the core of our work for the last twenty years. **Nelson Algren** is classic Lookingglass – grainy and stylish film projections and grooving jazz backbeats score this adaptation of an important Chicago story."

Lookingglass Theatre Company is located in the heart of the Magnificent Mile shopping district inside Chicago's historic Water Tower Water Works, 821 N. Michigan Ave. at Pearson. Subscriptions to Lookingglass 2007/08 season are on sale now, starting at only \$68 for three plays – **No Child**, **Around the World in 80 Days** and **Nelson Algren: For Keeps and a Single Day**. **Hephaestus** is a special event, single tickets only.

Subscription benefits include savings of up to 25 percent on single tickets, pre-sale opportunities before single tickets go on sale to the general public, guaranteed best seats, special perks at an extensive list of restaurant partners including NoMI and RL/Ralph Lauren, ticket exchanges, discounted parking at nearby Olympia Centre Garage (161 E. Chicago Ave.), and courtesy performance date reminders via phone, email and mail. For season subscription and ticket information, call the Lookingglass Theater box office, **(312) 337-0665**.

Lookingglass Theater Company's 20th Anniversary Season: A Closer Look

Midwest premiere

No Child

Directed by Hal Brooks

Written and Performed by Nilaja Sun

October-November 2007

Acclaimed actress Nilaja Sun embodies multiple characters in her touching and riotous tour-de-force exploration of the public school system seen through the eyes of a young and idealistic teaching artist. Running for almost a year to sold out audiences in New York, Lookingglass patrons will be the first to see this remarkable production outside of the Big Apple. "A marvelous performance. Touching and funny" *New York Times*

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Back by Popular Demand!

Hephaestus: A Greek Mythology Circus Tale

Created by Lookingglass Artistic Associate Tony Hernandez

Story by Tony Hernandez and Lookingglass Ensemble member Heidi Stillman

Co-directed by Hernandez and Stillman

Presented in association with Silver Guy Entertainment

January-February 2008

The world's elite circus performers, including veteran members of the Wallenda Family, Ringling Bros. and Cirque du Soleil, return to Chicago's Water Tower Water Works for ***Hephaestus: A Greek Mythology Circus Tale***. A world premiere hit for Lookingglass in 2005, ***Hephaestus*** is a must-see circus theatre event. Evocative storytelling, amazing athleticism and the very highest levels of circus artistry bring the ancient Greek myth story of Hephaestus to the high wire in this death-defying circus retelling. The *Chicago Tribune* called it "a top-drawer, post-modern, intimate circus show," the *Chicago Sun-Times* called it a "seamless, ingenious and altogether stunning mix of circus arts, music and theatrical storytelling - Highly Recommended" and *Time Out Chicago* raved "this is a show for all to see."

World Premiere

Around the World in 80 Days

Written by Jules Verne

Adapted and Directed by Lookingglass Ensemble member Laura Eason

April-May 2008

A new adaptation by Lookingglass Ensemble member Laura Eason of this classic adventure tale by Jules Verne. Join Englishman Phileas Fogg as he wagers his fortune to travel the world in 80 days. Armed with an utterly distinctive English sensibility, he finds on his journey that not all can be known of the world from the pages of National Geographic. A bold story, ***Around the World in 80 Days*** will be told in a way that only Lookingglass can. Fun for the family too!

Nelson Algren: For Keeps and a Single Day

The words of Nelson Algren with film and original music

Adapted and directed by Ensemble member John Musial

Films by John Musial

Featuring Ensemble member Thomas J. Cox as Algren

July-August 2008

This intimate multimedia production sets Chicago based Nelson Algren's backstreet poetry to the pulse of a live, onstage jazz combo, performed against a backdrop of the city of Chicago as shown through indelible film imagery by Ensemble Member John Musial. Jeff-nominated Ensemble member Thomas J. Cox will reprise his role as one of Chicago's most enduring literary figures.

The return of a Lookingglass favorite!

Please note: Lookingglass is establishing a new weekly performance schedule next season that eliminates Tuesday evening performances, introduces Sunday evening performances, and with more uniform performance times: Wednesday through Friday at 7:30 pm, Saturday and Sunday at 3 pm and 7:30 pm.

About Lookingglass Theatre Company

Inventive. Collaborative. Transformative. Lookingglass Theatre Company was founded in 1988 by eight Northwestern University students. Now entering their 20th anniversary season in 2007/08, Lookingglass is home to a multi-disciplined ensemble of artists who create story-centered theatrical work that is physical, aurally rich and visually metaphoric. Lookingglass has staged nearly 50 world premieres at 23 venues across Chicago, and garnered 37 Joseph Jefferson Awards and Citations. Its work has toured to New York, Los Angeles, Seattle, Berkeley, Philadelphia, Princeton, Hartford and St. Louis. The Lookingglass Theatre in Chicago's landmark Water Tower Water Works opened in June 2003. In addition to developing and presenting ensemble work, Lookingglass Education and Community programs encourage creativity, teamwork and confidence with more than 15,000 students each year.

Lookingglass Theatre Company continues to expand its artistic, financial and institutional boundaries under the guidance of Artistic Director David Catlin, Executive Director Rachel Kraft, Producing Artistic Director Philip R. Smith, Artistic Director of New Work Heidi Stillman, a 21-member artistic ensemble and administrative staff. Board Chairman Lisa Green leads a dedicated board of directors. For more information, visit **lookingglasstheatre.org**.

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