



PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Contact: Julia McHugh,

(805) 569-3303 or juliapr@west.net

Tickets: (805) 963-0408 or www.centerstagetheater.org

2010 LIT MOON WORLD THEATRE FESTIVAL

FUSION OF PLAYS, DANCE AND MUSIC FROM SANTA BARBARA PERFORMS

- September 10 – 18, 2010 at Center Stage Theater
- World Premiere: "The Wonderful Adventures of Nils" by Lit Moon
- Local Debuts of Ratatat Theater Group in "Body/Bach-Min/Max" and Otiliana Rolandson in "I Was Greta Garbo"
- CD Premiere and Concert by Gove County String Quartet
- Local Choreographers Meld Dance, Film & Puppetry in "Fusion 5.0"
- Tickets to Each Show \$15, \$12 for Students, On Sale at Center Stage

Santa Barbara, CA, August 30, 2010 – Lit Moon Theatre Company, celebrating its 19th Santa Barbara season, hosts its 12th theatre festival which this year showcases some of the city's most progressive artists in theater, dance, music and dance theater, and features a world premiere and several local debuts. Many of the shows are appropriate for children and families, and several have free discussions with the artists associated with the productions.

The plot lines of the plays are diverse: a young boy flies on the back of a goose, Bach's music is the soundtrack for a theatrical celebration of the human body, three brides woo a silent groom, and an enigmatic Swedish star shares her secrets. But uniting the works is a commitment to the innovative, the re-imagined and the physicality of contemporary theatre. Music, dance and open discussions are also integral elements of the 2010 Lit Moon World Theatre Festival, held from September 10 through 18 at the Center Stage Theater.

"These are progressive artists who understand and share Lit Moon's theatrical language, be they actors, dancers, choreographers or musicians," says Lit Moon Artistic Director John Blondell. "We have a new work by Lit Moon plus one from our repertory, and news works by some of Santa Barbara's most interesting artists, making for a dynamic fusion of performing arts."

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for students and are available at the Center Stage Theatre Box Office, (805) 963-0408 or www.centerstagetheater.org. Follow Lit Moon on Facebook and at www.litmoon.com.

2010 Lit Moon World Theater Festival Schedule

All Plays Performed at Center Stage Theater



***The Wonderful Adventures of Nils* - WORLD PREMIERE**

Friday, Sept. 10 at 8 p.m.; Sat., Sept. 11 at 4 p.m.; and Sun., Sept. 12 at 4 p.m.

Enchantment, magic, and friendship for the entire family! Charmed by an elf, the ne'er-do-well flies toward Lapland on the back of a goose. Directed by John Blondell, written by Naomi Iizuka (*36 Views*, *Polaroid Stories*) and co-produced with Finland's Tampereen Teatteri, this is a new adaptation of the famous Swedish story by Nobel Laureate Selma Lagerlof.



It's Only Gravity That Makes Wearing a Crown Painful

Saturday, September 11 at 8 p.m.

Wild, exuberant music performed by some of Santa Barbara's best musicians! Gove County String Quartet (Jim Connolly, Sally Barr, Nick Coventry, and Laura Hackstein) are joined by Anna Abbey to premiere music from their new CD including pieces for quartet, toy piano, and melodica, double surprises, and other surprises.



***Body/Bach - Min/Max* - WORLD PREMIERE**

Sunday, September 12 at 7 p.m.

Ratatat Theater Group, a new local group, explores of the smallest lines of the body, the widest chasms of the mind, the exposure of film, the intimacy of theater, and the far limits of human thought – woven together with Johann Sebastian Bach's classic cello music... and silly jokes.



I Was Greta Garbo

Friday, September 17 at 9 p.m.

Swedish actress Otiliana Rolandson (who lives in Santa Barbara) is enigmatic Swedish film icon Greta Garbo in this fascinating theatrical portrait about one of the screen's most mysterious personalities. Adored by millions, she walked away from it all... Directed by Finola Hughes. In English.



Fusion 5.0

Saturday, September 18 at 7 p.m.

Santa Barbara choreographers Robin Bisio, Victoria Finlayson, Christina McCarthy, and Jeff Mills perform in and present pieces that celebrate modern choreography, and contemporary fusions of dance, film, and puppetry.



The Wedding: A Matrimonial Musical Fantasy

Friday, September 17 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, September 18 at 9 p.m.

Lit Moon's pop musical smash about the perils and pitfall of getting married was inspired by *Marriage* by Nikolai Gogol and had its world premiere in Legnica, Poland. Directed by John Blondell, original musical score by Jim Connolly and Anna Abbey. "Jubilant passion," says Charles Donelan, "Santa Barbara Independent."

Free Artists Discussions

All Talks Held at Faulkner Gallery, Santa Barbara Main Public Library

Flying to Lapland: Development of The Wonderful Adventures of Nils

Saturday, September 11 at 10 a.m.

Presentation and discussion about Swedish Nobel Laureate Selma Lagerlof's famous children's story, and its development into a new play. A fascinating peek into the process of new play development and performance.

Think Global, Act Local

Saturday, September 18 at 10 a.m.

Santa Barbara artists discuss the unique opportunities and challenges of living and working in Santa Barbara. A spirited, freewheeling discussion about our city's performing arts scene.

CHRONOLOGICAL LISTINGS:

Friday, September 10

8 p.m. *The Wonderful Adventures of Nils*

Saturday, September 11

10 a.m. *Flying to Lapland* (Free Artists Discussion, Santa Barbara Main Public Library)

4 p.m. *The Wonderful Adventures of Nils*

7 p.m. *It's Only Gravity That Makes Wearing a Crown Painful*

Sunday, September 12

4 p.m. *The Wonderful Adventures of Nils*

7 p.m. *Body/Bach – Min/Max*

Friday, September 17

7 p.m. *The Wedding*

9 p.m. *I Was Greta Garbo*

Saturday, September 18

10 a.m. *Think Global, Act Local* (Free Artists Discussion, Santa Barbara Main Public Library)

7 p.m. *Fusion 5.0*

9 p.m. *The Wedding*

Lit Moon's Season Continues

Lit Moon debuts *Season of Ice*, a Midwinter nativity allegory, adapted freely from ancient Scottish sources called *Carmina Gadelica*. A haunting ritual celebration celebrating the longest night of the year. Performed December 21 at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m., Trinity Episcopal Church, 1500 State Street, Santa Barbara.

About Lit Moon

Lit Moon Theatre Company is a collective of theatre artists founded in Santa Barbara 1991. Long regarded as Santa Barbara's most innovative theatre company, the company is recognized both here and

abroad for its visual, image-oriented brand of theatre-making. This independent, laboratory theatre company integrates aesthetic experimentation with cross-cultural interaction and understanding.

Lit Moon creates new productions with international collaborators, presents them at home and abroad, and produces alternating bi-annual international theater festivals in Santa Barbara. To date, Lit Moon has produced 25 original productions, six artistic residencies with artists from six different European countries, and 12 international theater festivals.

Lit Moon's festivals have featured 42 productions from 13 different countries, including Theatre Credo, Sofia (1998 and 2001), Do-Theatre St. Petersburg (2000, 2001, and 2004), the Market Theatre of Johannesburg (2003), the Bulgarian National Theatre, Sofia (2006), and the Georgian State Theatre, Tbilisi (2008). To that list, add four companies from the Czech Republic for the recent Lit Moon World Theatre Festival, held in October 2009.

Lit Moon's own touring has taken the company to Bulgaria, Scotland, Quebec, the Czech Republic, Poland (three occasions), Montenegro, and Macedonia. Recent invitations include festivals in China, Bulgaria, Albania, and the European Republic of Georgia.

#

Festival Sponsors Include: Organizational Development Grant Program, using funds provided by the City of Santa Barbara in partnership with the Santa Barbara Arts Commission; Westmont College; Daly Law Office; Santa Barbara Independent; Santa Barbara News Press; Apulia Region; Teatro Pubblico Pugliese; and European Union.