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Rabbit Hole
ENSEMBLE
Audience. Actor. Space.

Rabbit Hole Ensemble premieres CANDIDE AMERICANA Voltaire's classic set in Present-Day USA at FringeNYC this August

RABBIT HOLE ENSEMBLE, called "one of the best ensemble performances in town" by nytheatre.com, is pleased to announce the world premiere of **CANDIDE AMERICANA** by Stanton Wood, based on Voltaire's classic satire. **CANDIDE AMERICANA** is Rabbit Hole Ensemble's newest collaboration between **NYIT nominated playwright STANTON WOOD** (**THE NIGHT OF NOSFERATU**) and **NYIT Outstanding Director Award Winner EDWARD ELEFTERION**. The production is part of this summer's **NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL FRINGE FESTIVAL** (FringeNYC) from **AUGUST 14 through the 30**. Venue #2: **FLAMBOYAN THEATER**, CSV Cultural and Educational Center, 107 Suffolk Street.

The newly emigrated Candide has his illusion of living in the best of all possible worlds challenged by what he experiences in his new home, the USA. While pursuing his true love, Candide is fortunate enough to be in NYC on 9/11, New Orleans during Katrina, have a run-in with white supremacists in the Bible belt, find employment at a bomb-threatened abortion clinic, and get hijacked on his first plane ride.

CANDIDE AMERICANA reunites frequent collaborators Edward Elefterion, Stanton Wood, and Arthur Aulisi (playing the role of Pangloss) who have been working together on the NY Indie Theatre scene for over 15 years. Director **EDWARD ELEFTERION** is the Artistic Director of Rabbit Hole Ensemble and the recipient of the **2008 New York Innovative Theatre Award for Outstanding Director**. Among his credits: nine collaborations with playwright Stanton Wood, including the world premiere of the award-winning **THE NIGHT OF NOSFERATU**, **BIG THICK ROD** (FringeNYC 2008). Other acclaimed productions include **SHADOW OF HIMSELF** by **NEAL BELL** (called "riveting" by the **Village Voice**) **THE TRANSFORMATION OF DR. JEKYLL** (FringeNYC 2006), **THE SIBLINGS** (MITF 2006), and acclaimed productions of **IN THE JUNGLE OF CITIES**, **MACBETH**, and **THE MISANTHROPE**. He currently teaches acting at Hofstra University.

The cast: **ARTHUR AULISI** (named Person of the Year 2008 by nytheatre.com), **AMANDA BROOMELL** (Juliet in off Broadway's **ROMEO AND JULIET** at Classic Stage Company), **LORA CHIO** (365 PLAYS/365 DAYS at The Public Theater), **EMILY HARTFORD** (off Broadway's **THE CONTRAST** at Mirror Repertory Company), **LAUREN MURPHY** (off Broadway's **ROMEO AND JULIET** at Classic Stage Company), **DAMON POOSER** (off Broadway's **RICHARD WRIGHT: CONVERSATIONS** at Urban Stages), **JOSH SAURERMAN** (Romeo in off Broadway's **ROMEO AND JULIET** at Classic Stage Company).

RABBIT HOLE ENSEMBLE, formed in 2005, is a Brooklyn-based theatre company that engages the imagination of audiences by using the power of the performer to create atmosphere and story. Performers use their bodies and voices to create environments and sound design. Their distinctly minimalist aesthetic has been recognized by critics, among them **THE NEW YORK TIMES** ("[for those] who enjoy something experimentally interesting...an intriguing production," 2009), **THE VILLAGE VOICE** ("riveting...not to be missed," 2009), **TIME OUT** ("Four Stars—Critic's Pick," 2008), **NYTHEATRE.COM** ("spectacular" 2007), **BROADWAY WORLD** ("a grand and spine-tingling production," 2007), **TALKIN' BROADWAY** ("a fully conceived and flawlessly executed piece of theatre," 2006). The company received **TWO NYIT AWARDS** (2008) for their work on **THE NIGHT OF NOSFERATU**, Edward Elefterion for Outstanding Director and Kevin Hardy for Outstanding Lighting Design.

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