



**Theatre Engaged**

**For Immediate Release**

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**Stage Left Theatre's  
25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season begins  
with the World Premiere of  
*In Times of War*  
by David Alan Moore**

*Chicago, September 5, 2006* – Stage Left Theatre (SLT) begins its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season with the world premiere of the award-winning play ***In Times of War*** by burgeoning playwright David Alan Moore. This piercing drama is based on a true story of a secret commission ordered by President Roosevelt during World War II to try and convict German saboteurs captured in Manhattan.

**Press Opening is Tuesday, October 3, 2006 at 7:30 PM.** Performances continue on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 PM and Sundays at 3:00 PM through November 11, 2006.

Founded in 1982, Stage Left Theatre is committed to nurturing voices for the American theatre by developing and producing plays that bring fresh perspective to the stories of today's world. ***In Times of War*** was developed through Stage Left's new play development program *Downstage Left*. Now in its twelfth year, *Downstage Left* has produced five Joseph Jefferson nominees and three recipients for Best New Work in the last five years.

**The Play**

In 1942, German saboteurs land a U-boat on Long Island and, armed with explosives, blend into American society with the intent to wreak havoc. When their leader voluntarily surrenders to the FBI, President Roosevelt creates a special commission specifically ordered to try and convict the eight men. Their defense rests in the hands of a Jewish lawyer who faces an impossible pursuit of justice. ***In Times of War*** was a first-place winner of the Arch and Bruce Brown Foundation Playwriting Competition, and was a semi-finalist in the Eugene O'Neill Playwriting Competition.

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## **The People**

**David Alan Moore** (playwright) is a playwright and freelance writer based in Chicago, Illinois. In addition to its inclusion in LeapFest 2, Stage Left Theatre's annual new-play festival, *In Times of War* was named a Semi-Finalist for the 2006 National Playwrights Conference at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, won Honorable Mention at Stage 3 Theatre's (Sonora, CA) 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of New Plays and received a staged reading as part of Chicago Dramatists' Saturday Series. Mr. Moore's short plays, *Dinner Redux* and *These Things*, were published in the Spring 2006 issue of the literary journal, *Crawdad*, and were both given staged readings at Chicago Dramatists. Mr. Moore's screenplay for the short film, *Feeling 18?*, was selected, produced and distributed by Chicago Filmmakers as the trailer for the 18<sup>th</sup> Chicago Lesbian and Gay International Film Festival. Mr. Moore is a member of the Dramatists Guild, a Network Playwright at Chicago Dramatists and co-founder of the The Hermits' Tea Party, a Chicago-based playwrights group.

**Ann Filmer** (director) is a director/choreographer with a passion for new work. Ms. Filmer was the recipient of the 2004-05 Michael Maggio Directing Fellowship at The Goodman, where last season she directed *Almost Done*, *Reunion* and *Dark Pony* for the David Mamet Festival. Her directing credits include the critically acclaimed *The House of Blue Leaves* by John Guare (Shattered Globe), Brett Neveu's *Eric LaRue* (A Red Orchid) and *The Last Barbecue* (The Aardvark), Susan Hanh's *Golf* (Circle), Susan Lieberman's *Arrangement for Two Violas* (Visions & Voices, LeapFest 1), Steve Martin's *WASP* and *Excerpts from Cruel Shoes* (The Aardvark) and *Charlotte's Web* (Emerald City). As Producing Director of Chicago Dramatists from 2000-2004, she directed four world premieres including the Jeff-Award-winning *The Liquid Moon* by John Green, for which she received an After Dark Award for Direction. She also has directed for American Theater Company, Live Bait, Collaboraction, Theatre on the Lake, Porchlight, Prop Thtr, Northwestern University, and 29th Street Rep in New York. Other playwrights whose work she has directed include Ifa Bayeza, Andy Cobb, Lisa Dillman, Sharon Evans, Keith Huff, Rebecca Gilman, Sean Graney, Mark Guarino, Quiara Alegria Hudes, Susan Nussbaum, Tom Patrick, Eric Pfeffinger and Sarah Ruhl. Next she will direct Joseph Fisher's *Thunderbird* for UIC. Ann is co-editor of Chicago's first play anthology [New Plays from Chicago](#) and creator/co-Artistic Director of *Estrogen Fest*.

The cast features SLT ensemble member Don Tieri (Colonel Warren) with guest artists Paul Dunckel (David Solomon) and Jeremy Sher (Georg Dietze).

The production team includes SLT literary manager LaRonika Thomas (dramaturgy), with guest artists John Kohn III (lighting design), Ashley Pausig (costume design), Edward Reardon (sound design/original music), Kurt Sharp (set design), Jenniffer Thusing (properties design) and Chelsey Wagemaker (production stage management). SLT producing artistic director Kevin Heckman and director of new play development John Sanders are producers.

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## **Tickets & Information**

***In Times of War*** runs Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 PM, Sundays at 3 PM through 11/11. Tickets are \$18 on Thursdays; \$20 on Fridays and Sundays; and \$22 on Saturdays. Previews are on 9/23, 9/28, 9/29, 9/30 & 10/2 at 8 PM, and 9/24 at 3 PM; \$10 tickets for previews (previews are free to industry with resume/headshot/business card), and \$5 tickets for industry performances on 10/5 at 8 PM and 10/12 at 3 PM. Student tickets are 50% off any remaining tickets ten minutes before show (if available), and senior and group discounts are also available. Tickets may be purchased by calling the box office at (773) 883-8830 or online at [www.stagelefttheatre.com](http://www.stagelefttheatre.com).

Street, metered and paid lot parking is available - *please check Cubs schedule*. The theatre is handicapped and CTA accessible via the Belmont El (Red & Brown) & Addison El (Red) stops. Media comps, photos, videos and interviews are available from 773.883.8830 or [john@stagelefttheatre.com](mailto:john@stagelefttheatre.com). Streaming video will be available at [www.stagechannel.com](http://www.stagechannel.com) and [www.metromix.com](http://www.metromix.com).

## **Upcoming Shows**

***Any Day Now*** by David Rush  
February 27 – April 7, 2007

The latest effort from Jeff Citation Winner and SLT ensemble member David Rush (*Prairie Lights, Police Deaf Near Far*) entitled ***Any Day Now*** is the story of a university professor who uses Nazi propagandea as a classroom teaching tool and is accused of racism and bigotry. This funny and poignant new play is a very personal story about the limits of free speech. SLT ensemble member Drew Martin will direct.

***Live Girls*** by Victoria Stewart  
April 24 – June 2, 2007

Playwright Victoria Stewart has had a string of recent successes, including work with South Coast Rep, the Public Theater, Seattle Repertory Theater, Actors Theatre of Louisville and the Guthrie Theater. Stage Left is proud to bring her evocative new play, ***Live Girls***, to Chicago for its Midwest Premiere. While interviewing a self-described porn star for a piece on injustice, an African-American performance artist has her preconceptions of art, sex and truth shattered. This evocative new play takes a highly critical look at the point at which art ends and exploitation begins. SLT producing artistic director Kevin Heckman will direct.

***LeapFest 4*** – Our annual festival of new works  
June 12 – June 30, 2007

Stage Left Theatre teams up with the Department of Cultural Affairs to bring audiences an expanded version of Chicago's most compelling festival of new plays. This is the culmination of the *Downstage Left* new play development program, as new works-in-progress *take the leap* in development. The festival will feature the very first *Bad Play Benefit*. Stage Left will conduct a national contest for the worst ten-minute play, and present the finalists at the Chicago Cultural Center's Studio Theatre.

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