



For Immediate Release
September 12, 2011
Contact: Brooke Miller
Press and Digital Content Manager
202-312-5263 brooke@woollymammoth.net

*THIS RELEASE HAS BEEN UPDATED ON 9/30/11 TO REFLECT CHANGES TO THE WOOLLY MAMMOTH COMPANY

WOOLLY MAMMOTH THEATRE COMPANY KICKS OFF ITS 32ND SEASON WITH OBIE-AWARD WINNING PLAY *A BRIGHT NEW BOISE*

FIRST PLAY OF A SEASON-LONG JOURNEY THROUGH APOCALYPTIC THEMES

(Washington, DC) – Earthquakes! Hurricanes! Woolly’s apocalyptic 2011-12 season is already off to quite a start! Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company begins its 32nd Season with *A Bright New Boise* written by **Samuel D. Hunter** in his Woolly debut, and directed by Company Member **John Vreeke** (*Gruesome Playground Injuries*, *Boom*). *A Bright New Boise* was the recipient of the 2011 OBIE Award for Playwriting and also received a 2011 Drama Desk Nomination for Best Play following its critically acclaimed premiere at Partial Comfort Productions in New York. *A Bright New Boise* runs at Woolly October 10–November 6; Wednesdays–Fridays at 8pm, Saturdays at 3pm and 8pm, and Sundays at 2pm and 7pm.

Prepare yourself: in the parking lot of a mega craft store in Idaho, someone is summoning The Rapture. **Samuel D. Hunter**'s heartbreakingly funny reckoning between a father and son will shatter your preconceptions about the sacred, the profane, and the secret lives of big-box retailers.

A native of northern Idaho, **Samuel D. Hunter** is a member of Partial Comfort Productions and is an alumnus of Ars Nova’s Playgroup. In addition to his OBIE Award for Playwriting, he is the recipient of the 2011 Sky Cooper Prize, a 2008-2009 PONY Fellowship from the Lark, and two Lincoln Center Le Compte du Nuoy Awards among other honors.

“With Sam Hunter’s lovingly idiosyncratic play, *A Bright New Boise*, we launch a season of daring new works on apocalyptic themes,” says Artistic Director **Howard Shalwitz**. Set in a Hobby Lobby craft store in the heartland, the play offers a rare glimpse into a part of America we don’t often see on stage, and dramatizes the challenge of reconciling our beliefs with the reality of our lives and relationships. Surprisingly, the central character—a father attempting to re-unite with his son—actually longs for the apocalypse as a means of deliverance! It’s a thrill to introduce Sam’s award-winning play to Washington in a production featuring several of Woolly’s gifted company artists.”

A Bright New Boise will feature Company Members **Kimberly Gilbert** (*Clybourne Park*, *In the Next Room or the vibrator play*, *Fever/Dream*), **Michael Russotto** (*House of Gold*, *Full Circle*, *She Stoops to Comedy*), **Emily Townley** (*House of Gold*, *Maria/Stuart*), and **Michael Willis** (*Full Circle*, *Fever/Dream*) with **Felipe Cabezas**, **Michael Glenn** (*Clybourne Park*), and **Joshua Morgan**.

A Bright New Boise will feature set design by Company Member **Misha Kachman**, costume design by **Ivania Stack**, lighting design by Company Member **Colin K. Bills**, sound design composition by **Chris Baine**, and video design by **Aaron Fisher**.

cont.

A Bright New Boise
Written by Samuel D. Hunter
Directed by John Vreeke

CAST (in order of appearance)

Will.....Michael Russotto*
Pauline.....Emily Townley*
Alex.....Joshua Morgan
Anna.....Kimberly Gilbert*
Leroy.....Felipe Cabezas
Hobby Lobby Personality.....Michael Willis*
Hobby Lobby Personality.....Michael Glenn

*denotes Woolly Mammoth Company Member

CREATIVE TEAM

Playwright.....Samuel D. Hunter
Director.....John Vreeke*
Set Designer.....Misha Kachman*
Costume Designer.....Ivania Stack
Lighting Designer.....Colin K. Bills*
Sound Designer/Composer.....Chris Bane
Video Designer.....Aaron Fisher
Properties.....Jennifer Sheetz
Dramaturg.....John M. Baker

*denotes Woolly Mammoth Company Member

This production of ***A Bright New Boise*** is supported in part by a generous gift from Joan and David Maxwell.

A Bright New Boise catering sponsor: Well Dunn Catering

A Bright New Boise restaurant sponsor: 701 Restaurant

cont.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Samuel D. Hunter's recent plays include *The Whale* (upcoming production at Denver Center in 2012), *Norway* (Phoenix Theatre of Indianapolis; Boise Contemporary Theater), *Jack's Precious Moment* (Page 73 Productions at 59E59), *Five Genocides* (Clubbed Thumb at the Ohio Theatre), and *I Am Montana* (Arcola Theatre, London; Mortar Theatre, Chicago). His newest play, *When You're Here*, was recently workshopped at the Williamstown Theatre Festival, and he is a contributing writer to Headlong Theatre's *Decade* which is currently running at London's National Theatre.

His plays have been developed at the O'Neill Playwrights Conference, Bay Area Playwrights Festival, PlayPenn, Ojai Playwrights Conference, the Lark Playwrights Workshop, Juilliard, LAByrinth, Rattlestick, Seven Devils Playwrights Conference, 24Seven Lab, and elsewhere. Internationally, his work has been translated into Spanish and presented in Mexico City and Monterrey, and he has worked in the West Bank with Ashtar Theatre of Ramallah and Ayyam al-Masrah of Hebron. At Ashtar, he co-wrote *The Era of Whales* which was performed in Ramallah and Istanbul.

He is a member of Partial Comfort Productions and is an alumnus of Ars Nova's Playgroup. A native of northern Idaho, Samuel lives in New York City and holds degrees in playwriting from NYU, The Iowa Playwrights Workshop, and Juilliard. He has taught at Fordham University, Rutgers University, Marymount Manhattan College, and The University of Iowa.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

John Vreeke's Woolly Mammoth directing credits include *Gruesome Playground Injuries* by Rajiv Joseph, *Boom* by Peter Sinn-Nachtrieb, *Homebody/Kabul* by Tony Kushner, *Our Lady of 121ST Street* by Stephen Adley Guirgis, *Martha, Josie and the Chinese Elvis* by Charlotte Jones, and *The K of D* by Laura Shellhardt.

In the DC area he has worked at Theater J, Washington Shakespeare Company, Metro Stage, Everyman Theatre, Olney Theatre, Forum Theatre, H Street Theatre, Source Theatre Festival, Charter Theatre, Theater Alliance, Kennedy Center Theater for Young Audiences, Imagination Stage, and the Helen Hayes Awards Society.

He has received four Helen Hayes Awards nominations for Best Director.

Other regional theatre credits include the Alley Theatre in Houston, Arkansas Repertory Theatre, Attic Theatre in LA, Salt Lake Acting Company, and First Stage in Milwaukee. In Seattle: Book-It Repertory Theatre, Annex Theatre, Alice B. Theatre, Arts West Playhouse, Seattle Public Theatre, Balagan Theatre, Center Stage, and Stone Soup Theatre.

His television credits include Associate Producer and Casting Associate for the CBS TV Series: *Northern Exposure*.

For detailed biographical information about the cast and creative team of ***A Bright New Boise***, please visit www.woollymammoth.net.

cont.

BLOGS AND PODCASTS

Beginning Tuesday, September 13th, Woolly will produce a bi-weekly series of blogs exploring the themes inherent in ***A Bright New Boise***, such as the 2012 election politics and religion, stories of retail workers, and exploring faith in regards to education, internal clashes within religious traditions, and fundamentalism. Blogs will be posted every Tuesday and Friday and can be found at woollymammothblog.com. Radio Woolly podcasts will be posted every other Wednesday and can be downloaded for free on iTunes.

CONNECTIVITY EVENTS

Discussions

How do you negotiate your worldview with the world at large? What are the realities of believing, especially in a capital city where so many worldviews collide? Will your beliefs survive? Over the course of the run of ***A Bright New Boise***, Woolly will be hosting several short post-show discussions led by actors and other members of the show's creative team. During these discussions, artists and audiences will explore together issues of faith and belief that the play cracks open.

Tuesday, October 11 following the 8pm Pay-What-You-Can performance:
Featuring playwright Samuel D. Hunter, production dramaturg John M. Baker, and Connectivity Director Rachel Grossman.

Thursday, October 13 following the 8pm performance:
Featuring lighting designer Colin K. Bills and set designer Misha Kachman.

Wednesday, October 19 following the 8pm performance:
Featuring members of the cast.

Sunday, October 23 following the 3pm performance:
Featuring members of the cast.

Thursday, October 27 following the 8pm performance:
Featuring members of the cast.

Lobby Design

There will be an interactive lobby design for ***A Bright New Boise***, details will be posted at a later date at www.woollymammoth.net.

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

A Bright New Boise runs October 10–November 6; Wednesdays–Fridays at 8pm, Saturdays at 3pm and 8pm, and Sundays at 2pm and 7pm. *Saturday, October 15th at 8pm (no 3pm performance); Sunday, October 16th at 7pm (no 2pm performance). There will be Pay-What-You-Can performances Monday, October 10th and Tuesday, October 11th both at 8pm.

TICKETS

Tickets for ***A Bright New Boise*** start at \$30 and can be purchased through the Woolly Mammoth Box Office at 202-393-3939, online at www.woollymammoth.net, or in person at the Box Office located at 641 D Street, NW (7th & D). For directions and parking information, please visit www.woollymammoth.net.

cont.

ABOUT WOOLLY

Now in its 32nd Season, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company continues to hold its place at the leading edge of American theatre. Acknowledged as “the hottest theatre company in town” (*The Washington Post*), “known for its productions of innovative new plays” (*The New York Times*), Woolly Mammoth is a national leader in the development of new plays, and one of the best known and most influential mid-sized theatres in America.

Woolly’s 32nd Season features five works that relate to the question, “Does our civilization have an expiration date?” They include Samuel D. Hunter’s ***A Bright New Boise*** (Oct 10-Nov 6), The Second City’s *Spoiler Alert: Everybody Dies* (Dec 6-Jan 8), Jason Grote’s *Civilization (all you can eat)* (Feb 13-Mar 11), Joey Arias and Basil Twist’s *Arias with a Twist** (Apr 4-May 6), and Anne Washburn’s *Mr. Burns, a post-electric play* (May 28-July 1).

*This tour of Basil Twist is made possible by a grant from Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation with support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

www.woollymammoth.net

#