



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***New Leaf Theatre announces its 2008-2009 Season:  
How do we build a future from a present we didn't expect?***

*CHICAGO, AUGUST 2008:* New Leaf Theatre is pleased to announce its 8<sup>th</sup> season of intimate, animate theatrical experiences that renew both artists and audience. This year the company uses their three-performance season to ask: *How do we build a future from a present we didn't expect?*

In the fall, New Leaf will present the Chicago premiere of ***Six Years*** by Sharr White. Featured at the 2006 Humana Festival at Actors Theatre of Louisville, ***Six Years*** follows a single couple through the most metamorphic years in our country's history. In 1949, Meredith and Phil Granger are picking up the pieces of their lives after the hardships of World War II. We return to them every six years until 1973, following them through prosperity and upheaval, hope and fear, love and loss. This play speaks to a question that faced our grandparents, our parents, one which we're still striving to answer: *how does our nation of families hold together through the push and pull of progress?*

***Touch*** by Toni Press-Coffman tells the story of Kyle, a reserved young astronomer in love with the night sky. When a run-of-the mill errand turns his life upside-down, he has to fight to find his footing in the void of this bewildering new existence. Moving from starkly honest storytelling to vivid reliving of key events, this play reminds us that even in the blackest parts of grief, there's always a bright flash of hope. ***Touch*** confronts the unexpected on a deeply personal level: *how do you move forward when your worst nightmare becomes your reality?*

Closing our season next spring New Leaf presents the World Premiere of ***The Long Count***, an original work devised by the company. This piece, still in development, will invite the company to embrace and celebrate the myriad possibilities built into the future we can't foresee. New Leaf is excited to use a variety of performative resources – movement, fable, sound, light, music, environment – to create something that speaks to us and through us about the uncertainties facing all of us. In response to this unexpected present, the company is delving into new artistic territory together. This collaboration is the answer to the question even as we ask it – *how do we build a future from a present we didn't expect?*

"This season will challenge us as individuals and as artists," said Artistic Director Jessica Hutchinson. "As we continue to evolve as an ensemble, it's important to continue our growth independently and as a group, and I'm excited about the possibilities that this season affords us to do just that. *Touch* and *Six Years* will present challenges on all fronts – from design to rehearsal to performance – that will propel us toward a greater connection with one another and our audiences. This is also the first time the company will devise an original piece as one ensemble – I can't wait to show our audience what we've been creating on that front as well."

MORE

New Leaf Theatre  
2008/2009 Season

***How do we build a future from a present we didn't expect?***

***Six Years***

by Sharr White  
directed by Jessica Hutchinson

at the Lincoln Park Cultural Center  
2045 N. Lincoln Park West  
Chicago, IL 60614

October 8, 2008 – November 22, 2008  
Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 8 PM  
Opening Night – Wednesday, October 8, 2008 at 8 PM  
\*\*There will be no performances October 22 – 24\*\*

***Touch***

by Toni Press-Coffman  
directed by Jessica Hutchinson

*Winter 2009*  
*dates TBA*

***The Long Count***

devised and directed by New Leaf Theatre

*Spring 2009*  
*dates TBA*

**About New Leaf Theatre**

New Leaf Theatre is a not-for-profit theatre, founded in 2001, which strives to create intimate, animate theatrical experiences that renew both artist and audience. Last fall's production of *The Dining Room* earned New Leaf two Non-Equity Joseph Jefferson Award nominations – Best Ensemble and Best Director – and was also featured on *Time Out Chicago's* "Ten Most Wanted 2007." Other highlights of the past seven years include Non-Equity Jeff Award nominations for *The Permanent Way* (2007 – Best Ensemble) and *As It Is in Heaven* (2005 – Best Ensemble), and mention in the "Top Ten Reasons to Take a Risk" in the *Chicago Tribune* (*The Permanent Way* – 2007). New Leaf has also been home to four world-premieres, the Chicago premiere of Morris Panych's *Girl in the Goldfish Bowl*, and the first United States production of David Hare's *The Permanent Way*. Please visit [www.newleaftheatre.org](http://www.newleaftheatre.org) for more about where we've been and where we're going.

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