

Media Release - Flat Earth Theatre

For more information contact

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Marketing Liaison

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Flat Earth Theatre navigates Ariel Dorfman's psychological dystopia *Reader*

For the June production in our 2014 season "Literature in Dystopia," Flat Earth Theatre tackles a cerebral edge-of-your-seat drama with *Reader* by Ariel Dorfman, author of the much renowned *Death and the Maiden*. *Reader* takes just as many twisted ventures, but unfolds in a more experimental setting that moves smoothly between subject and author, and between oppressed and oppressor.

In a dark dystopia reminiscent of the works of Ray Bradbury and George Orwell, the government's top censor, Daniel Lucas, is confronted with a manuscript that threatens to expose his darkest secrets. In his quest to uncover the story's author, he finds that not only do its words reveal the secrets of his past, but that they may also predict the details of his future. As the worlds of fiction and reality clash and combine, a nightmarish reality emerges where any one of us can be cut, recut, and redacted into oblivion, spotlighting the harsh consequences of bureaucratic control over the flow of information.

Chilean-American playwright Ariel Dorfman, having lived long spans of his life in exile, views the systematic control of a government through a fantastical lens that reflects on any society and its people. He says in a 1995 interview with the *LA Times*: "The play says that not all censorship comes from the state, but also from within individuals. It says that to suppress other people, you have to suppress a part of yourself. I am obsessed with people's need to tell their own stories." Building off of Dorfman's interweaving story, director Jake Scaltreto (*Bug, Copenhagen*) creates an ethereal space that will use lights, sounds, and imaginative staging to emphasize the fluidity of the show's progression into chaos.

Reader runs June 13th through 21st at the Arsenal Center for the Arts, Black Box Theater, 321 Arsenal Street, Watertown. Performances are at 8PM on Fridays and Saturdays, with a 2PM matinee on Sunday, June 15th. Tickets are \$20 when purchased in advance at flatearththeatre.com or by calling 1-800-838-3006, or \$25 (cash, check, or credit) at the door. Students with valid ID can purchase \$10 student-rush tickets at the theater starting one hour before the show, and there will be a Pay-What-You-Can performance on Thursday, June 19th at 8PM.

Flat Earth Theatre has been collaboratively crafting thought-provoking theatre in greater Boston since 2006. Featured productions include the world premier of *Pirate Lives! The Musical!*, the award-winning staging of *The Pillowman* with the IRNE-nominated shadow puppetry of Woellert&Clark, and last summer's dimension-traveling production of *Rocket Man*. *Reader* continues Flat Earth's 2014 season "Literature in Dystopia," which kicked off in March with Ann Marie Healy's *What Once We Felt*, and will conclude with George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion* in August. Learn more about Flat Earth and the season at flatearththeatre.com.

When

June 13th 8PM

June 14th 8PM

June 15th 2PM

June 19th 8PM

June 20th 8PM

June 21st 8PM

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Run time: 2 hours

Where

Arsenal Center for the Arts

Black Box Theatre

321 Arsenal Street

Watertown, MA

Tickets

\$20 General Admission in advance / \$25 at the door (cash, check, or credit accepted)

\$10 Student Rush tickets available 1 hour before show cash only at the door

Purchase online at flatearththeatre.com

By phone: (800) 838-3006

Group sales (10 or more) email tickets@flatearththeatre.com

Cast

Robin Gabrielli as Daniel Lucas / Don Alfonso Morales

James Hayward as Nick Lucas / Enrique Morales / David Malko

Rachel Sacks as Irene / Jacqueline

Sara Jones as Tanya Lucas / Sonia Malko

Samuel Frank as The Director

Matthew Zahnzinger as The Man

Production Staff

Producer: Kevin Mullins

Director: Jake Scaltreto

Stage Manager: Amy Lehrmitt

Set Designer: Niki DeSimini

Lighting Designer: Chris Bocchiaro

Sound Designer: Chris Larson

Costume Designer: Lindsay Eagle

Technical Director: Leigh Downes

Assistant Tech Director: Adam Teti

Build Crew: Becca Dunham

Poster Designer: Stewart Holmes

Marketing Liaison: Coriana Hunt Swartz

Violence Consultant: Cameron Beaty Gosselin