

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**HEARTLAND
ACTORS'
REPERTORY
THEATRE**



**Indiana Premiere of *In A Dark Dark House* to take IndyFringe Stage
HART teams with Prevent Child Abuse Indiana leading up to
National Child Abuse Prevention Month
Sponsored by The Christel DeHaan Family Foundation**

Indianapolis, IN -- **Heartland Actors' Repertory Theatre** (HART) will present the Indiana premiere of *In A Dark Dark House* by Neil LaBute at the new **Indianapolis Fringe Festival Theatre** for a limited engagement beginning March 20. The production is being done in partnership with **Prevent Child Abuse** Indiana (PCAI) and is sponsored by generous support from **The Christel DeHaan Family Foundation**.

Production: *In A Dark Dark House*

By: Neil LaBute

Adult Content (strong language including sexual references) Parental Discretion Advised.

Location: The Indianapolis Fringe Festival Theatre - 719 E. St. Clair St.
on the corner of College Ave. and St. Clair St.

Dates: LIMITED ENGAGEMENT -- Six (6) shows only: March 20, 21, 27, 28, April 3, 4.
(Fridays and Saturdays only March 20 - April 4)

Time: All showtimes at 8 pm

Ticket information: \$20 - available at www.heartlandactors.org or by calling the box office at 317-796-2222. **Special discounts:** Students and groups of ten (10): \$15/ticket. All tickets purchased by March 13th are \$15.

About the play:

On the grounds of a private psychiatric facility, two brothers come to grips with and begin to understand the legacy of abuse both within and outside of their family home in this glibly vicious story full of tension, secrets, and revenge. Two HART company members will star as the brothers. **Ryan Artzberger*** plays older brother Terry. Artzberger played Bassanio in last summer's *The Merchant of Venice*, and recently returned to Indianapolis after appearing in Mary Zimmerman's *Arabian Nights* at Berkeley Repertory Theatre and Kansas City Repertory Theatre. **Matthew Roland**, who has been featured with HART in several readings as well as playing Old Gobbo in *The Merchant of Venice*, plays the younger Drew. The cast is rounded out by **Rebecca Masur**, who is also back to work with HART after playing Portia last summer in *The Merchant of Venice*. The show is directed by company co-founder and Artistic Director **Michael Shelton** (*The Merchant of Venice*, *Midwestern Hemisphere*).

"We're excited to share this script with Indianapolis," stated Michael Shelton. "It is an intense and powerful show dealing with an important issue, childhood sexual abuse. The timing was right, both to

get the spectacular cast and because of the time of year - April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. This show can help shed needed attention on the ramifications of the devastating abuse cycle.”

About the Partnership:

To help HART better serve the needs of the cause, it teamed up with **Prevent Child Abuse Indiana** (www.pcaain.org). As a Division of The Villages, **Prevent Child Abuse Indiana** serves as a catalyst for preventing child abuse in all its forms and thereby enhancing the quality of life for children and families in Indiana. PCAI will be on-hand at the performances to help facilitate post show discussions and provide literature about breaking the cycle of violence and avenues of help for abuse victims. HART will donate 50% of the proceeds from ticket sales back to **Prevent Child Abuse Indiana** to aid in their efforts.

Special thanks to **The Christel DeHaan Family Foundation** for sponsoring *In A Dark Dark House*. Christel DeHaan Family Foundation is dedicated to meaningfully preserving and enhancing for future generations the rich artistic and cultural fabric of the Indianapolis community.

Tickets:

Tickets are \$20 for adults and can be purchased online at www.heartlandactors.com or by calling the box office at 317-796-2222. High school and college students can purchase tickets for \$15 with valid student ID. Groups of ten or more can also take advantage of \$15 tickets by calling the box office. As a special incentive to get your tickets early, all tickets purchased by March 13th will be \$15.

Background information:

In A Dark Dark House premiered in New York City in 2007 at the Lucille Lortel Theater produced by MCC Theater with subsequent productions in London and Chicago. **Neil LaBute** has become one of the most prolific, produced, and provocative playwrights of our generation both for stage and film. While teaching at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne, LaBute turned his first play *In the Company of Men* into a movie starring Aaron Eckhart, a frequent collaborator. Some of his other plays include: *The Shape of Things*, *Bash*, *Fat Pig*, and *This is How It Goes*. His films include: *The Wicker Man*, and *The Shape of Things*, as well as directing *Nurse Betty* and *Lakeview Terrace* starring Samuel L. Jackson.

Heartland Actors' Repertory Theatre, a fully professional company, is a powerful force in the Indianapolis theatre community. HART has blazed a new trail, daring to stage works in new and unique places. For this very reason the company was featured in the April 2008 issue of **American Theatre Magazine** highlighting its world premiere production of *Midwestern Hemisphere* by Lou Harry and Eric Pfeffinger in the Indianapolis Artsgarden. In the summer of 2008, HART restored professional outdoor Shakespeare in Indianapolis with *The Merchant of Venice* in White River State Park which attracted over 1,200 people. Other past productions include the critically acclaimed *Death and the Maiden* at the Wheeler Arts Center and readings of *Happy Birthday*, *Wanda June* (part of the Year of Vonnegut celebration) and *An Evening of Edgar Allan Poe* (twice) and David Mamet's *The Duck Variations*.

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