FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 9, 2013

NATIONAL NEW PLAY NETWORK
c/o Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company
641 D Street NW
Washington, DC 20004
www.nnpn.org

Contact:
Jojo Ruf
Associate Executive Director
202-349-1283
jojo@nnpn.org

SIX SCRIPTS SELECTED FOR 11th ANNUAL NATIONAL SHOWCASE OF NEW PLAYS
PLAYS TO GET READINGS DECEMBER 6 – 8 IN SAN DIEGO, CA

WASHINGTON, DC - The NATIONAL NEW PLAY NETWORK (NNPN), the country’s alliance of non-profit theatres that champions the development, production, and continued life of new plays, will produce six new plays in staged reading format at its National Showcase of New Plays, hosted December 6 – 8 in San Diego, CA by San Diego REP. A committee of artistic, managing and literary leaders from across the country selected plays by Nathan Alan Davis, Diana Grisanti, Reina Hardy, James Ijames, Stephen Spotswood, and David Wells for the eleventh installment of the Showcase.

ABOUT THE SELECTED PLAYS

Dontrell, Who Kissed the Sea by Nathan Alan Davis, submitted by CENTERSTAGE. Eighteen-year-old Dontrell Jones the Third decides that it is his duty and destiny to venture into the Atlantic Ocean in search of an ancestor lost during the Middle Passage. But his family is not at all ready to abandon its prized son to the waters of a mysterious and haunting past. Blending poetry, humor, wordplay and ritual, Dontrell, Who Kissed the Sea explores the lengths and depths we must go in order to free ourselves from history’s wrongs.

River City by Diana Grisanti, submitted by Actor’s Theatre of Charlotte. Shaken by her father's death, Mary sets off to uncover three generations' worth of secrets buried in the West End of Louisville, Kentucky. River City charts Mary’s discoveries, which span four decades, and investigate race, memory, and the ghosts that haunt one American family. River City will receive its world premiere production at Actor’s Theatre of Charlotte in the fall of 2014.

The Claire Play by Reina Hardy, nominated from the MFA Playwrights Workshop. Claire Leverrier, a poet haunted by the death of her childhood crush, reveals the secrets of the universe using a bicycle light and puppets. The Claire Play is a romance. Or is it a metaphor? Either way, Claire might never recover once a star steps from the sky and invites her to a party.

The Most Spectacularly Lamentable Trial of Miz Martha Washington by James Ijames, submitted by PlayPenn. Christmas Eve, 1800. Martha Washington, widow to the first president, is ailing and surrounded by a group of faithful slaves who are all too aware that upon her death they will be emancipated. Drifting off into a fever dream, Martha is taken by a cross section of historical characters through America’s past and into its future, played out like a three ring circus by those whose freedom depends upon her end.
Skin and the November Sky by Stephen Spotswood, submitted by Forum Theatre. Harry has spent his entire life retreating from society and immersing himself in his paintings. Gwen, his latest model, lost the use of her legs as a child. Newly arrived in the city, this is her first and possibly only chance to create an autonomous life for herself. Both are damaged and lonely, and struggling to flourish in a world that hasn’t been designed with them in mind. From their disastrous last meeting to their unlikely first, this play peels back the layers of a strange and surprising friendship.

County Line by David Wells, submitted by Performance Network Theatre. County Line is the whimsical and profound story of a17-year-old’s journey after the arrest of her father. Sentenced to the strict confines of a foster home run by Tanya – who owns the County Line Truck Stop & Travel Center and isn’t your typical legal guardian – Lois encounters her first look at the subtle terrors one human can inflict on another, and discovers a lifeline that will ultimately save her. County Line will receive its world premiere production at Performance Network in January of 2014.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL SHOWCASE OF NEW PLAYS
The National Showcase of New Plays is a traveling new-play festival that presents the country’s best unproduced plays in staged reading format to an intimate gathering of theatre professionals. With artistic leadership from most of our 27 Core Member and 32 Associate Member Theaters in attendance, the Showcase creates a unique, invaluable opportunity for production-ready scripts to be heard by the people most willing to produce them. In addition to artistic and managing directors, we invite a group of 100 playwrights, literary managers, playwright agents, and other colleagues from around the country to network with us on behalf of the plays and playwrights we present. The vast majority of the scripts read at the Showcase go on to professional productions within and outside the Network.

There is no charge to attend the Showcase, but it is by invitation only. To request an invitation, please email NNPN Associate Executive Director Jojo Ruf at Jojo@nnpn.org.

ABOUT SAN DIEGO REP
San Diego Repertory Theatre was founded in 1976 by Sam Woodhouse and D.W. Jacobs and is downtown San Diego’s resident professional theatre—celebrating year-round on three stages and in the lobby’s art gallery the diversity and creativity of the community. San Diego REP has produced over 40 mainstage works by Latino/a playwrights and produced 43 world premieres. The mission of the company is informed by a commitment to artistic virtuosity, partnerships with singular artists and inquisitive neighbors, and lively conversations about the role as citizens in the bi-national region San Diego REP calls home. The mission: "San Diego Repertory Theatre produces intimate, exotic, provocative theatre. We promote a more inclusive community through vivid works that nourish progressive political and social values and celebrate the multiple voices of our region. San Diego REPertory Theatre feeds the curious soul."

ABOUT NNPN
The National New Play Network (NNPN) is the country’s alliance of non-profit professional theatres that champions the development, production, and continued life of new plays. Since its founding in 1998, NNPN has commissioned eighteen playwrights, provided nearly twenty MFA graduates with paid residencies, and supported over 100 productions nationwide through its innovative Continued Life of New Plays Fund, which creates “Rolling World Premieres” of new plays. Hundreds of artists have gained employment through these efforts all over the country where NNPN Member Theatres are located. In addition to The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, NNPN receives support from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust, the Shubert Foundation, and the National
Endowment for the Arts. The Network is comprised of a relatively small group of Core Members, who pioneer and implement collaborative new play strategies, and a growing group of Associate Members, who disseminate the Network's programs and strategies nationwide. Visit www.nnpn.org.

**NNPN's Core Member theatres are:** Actor's Express Theatre (Atlanta), Actor's Theatre of Charlotte (Charlotte, NC), Borderlands Theater (Tucson), Contemporary American Theater Festival (Shepherdstown, WV), Curious Theatre Company (Denver), Florida Studio Theatre (Sarasota), Fountain Theatre (LA), Horizon Theatre Company (Atlanta), InterAct Theatre Company (Philadelphia), Kitchen Dog Theater (Dallas), Magic Theatre (San Francisco), Marin Theatre Company (Mill Valley, CA), Mixed Blood Theatre Company (Minneapolis), New Jersey Repertory Company (Long Branch), New Repertory Theatre (Watertown, MA), New Theatre (Coral Gables, FL), Orlando Shakespeare Theater (Orlando), Performance Network Theatre (Ann Arbor, MI), Phoenix Theatre (Indianapolis), Playwright’s Theatre of New Jersey (Madison), Prop Thtr Group (Chicago), Riverside Theatre (Iowa City, IA), Salt Lake Acting Company (Salt Lake City), San Diego REP (San Diego), Southern Rep (New Orleans), Unicorn Theatre (Kansas City, MO), and Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company (Washington, DC).

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