



**REAL LETTERS FROM AMERICANS TO PRESIDENT BUSH
TO BE PERFORMED IN OVER 25 THEATRES NATIONWIDE BEFORE THE ELECTION**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 5, 2004

West 50th Street Productions is proud to announce over two dozen theatres, from Alaska to Florida, and from California to Maine will be performing **Dear George: Letters to the President** in October. The performance piece is a compilation of Americans' open letters written to President George W. Bush during this election year from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The letters come from all 50 states, DC, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands as well as Americans overseas and cover a wide range of opinions on every major issue including the War in Iraq, the economy, gay marriage and 9/11. It will be performed in both "red" states (Alaska, Wyoming, Utah, Texas) and "blue" states (California, New York) as well as several "swing" states (Ohio, Florida, Maine, Pennsylvania, North Carolina).

Each theatre across the country has individually chosen to present this piece as a part of their season; this is not being presented or financed by any large group or organization. Some are nationally recognized professional theatres (The New Theatre in Coral Gables originated the 2003 Pulitzer-Prize winning *Anna in the Tropics*), others are community-based. A group in Lander, Wyoming was produced by workers at a Legal Aid group as a benefit for a local food bank. The multiple productions truly tap into the grassroots nature of the initial project concept: that everyone has a voice and deserves to be heard by the highest office of our nation. *Dear George: Letters to the President* is intentionally non-partisan – many sides of many issues are addressed, and often overlapped in the nature of a national debate.

Marcus Woollen, creator of *Dear George* states, "Public opinion of the President is so sharply divided that interpreting the division through binary polls does not do justice to the passion and intelligence of the American people. Our experiences are far too complex to be adequately reflected by sound bytes or approval ratings. The letters provide a fascinating and complex portrait of our nation today. By presenting individual voices, *Dear George* is an accessible, non-partisan alternative to the prescribed talking points that too often serve as political debate. What was fascinating in turning these letters into a theatrical piece is that the letters, as written, are far more substantive and issue-driven than anything seen so far in this year's campaign"

The initial public presentation of *Dear George* took place at the Freedom of Expression National Monument in Lower Manhattan, a giant red megaphone with a plaque that reads "You are cordially invited to step up and speak" opposite the United States Courthouse in Lower Manhattan. A final production in New York will take place October 31 and November 1, the last two days before the election, at the Culture Project at 45 Bleecker Street, a 299 seat off-Broadway theatre, with a high-profile cast of Broadway and screen actors of note. This performance will be directed by John Znidersic.

Additional information regarding West 50th Street Productions can be found at www.west50.com. A selection of the 1500 letters received for this project are on view at www.DearGeorgeLetters.com.

Participating Theatres:

Alaska

- **Out North**
Anchorage, Alaska
October 19 (Benefit for Alaska League of Conservation Voters)
October 26, 28, 29, 30, Nov. 1
Tickets: (907) 279-3800 or
www.TicketLeap.com

Arkansas

- **The Weekend Theater**
Little Rock, Arkansas
October 31
Tel: (501) 374-3761

California

- **Bus Barn Stage Company**
Los Altos, California
October 25, 27
Tel: (650) 941-0551
- **Interactive Asian Contemporary Theatre (InterACT)**
Sacramento, California
Dates to be announced
Tel: (916) 267-7280
- **Santa Monica**
Theatre Announcement Soon

Florida

- **The New Theatre**
Coral Gables, Florida
October 26, 27
Tel: (305) 443-5909

Indiana

- **Stage Actors' Workshop**
Indianapolis, Indiana
October 15, 16, 17
Tel: (317) 634-9063

Kansas

- **Lawrence Community Theatre**
Lawrence, Kansas
October 16-17
Tel: (785) 843-7469

Maine

- **Mad Horse Theatre Company**
Portland, Maine
October 20, 27
Tel: (207) 730-2389

Minnesota

- **Chopping Block**
at the Bryant-Lake Bowl Theater
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Dates to be announced
Tel: (612) 825-8949
- **Starting Gate Productions**
Loading Dock Theatre
St. Paul, Minnesota
October 27, 28 at 7:30 pm
Tel: (651) 645-3503

New Jersey

- **Center Players**
The Center Playhouse
Freehold, New Jersey
October 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, 31
Tel: (732) 462-9093

New York

- **The Culture Project at 45 Bleecker**
New York, New York
October 31, November 1
Tel: (212) 604-4620

North Carolina

- **Asheville**
Theatre Announcement Soon
- **Carolina Actors Studio Theatre**
Charlotte, North Carolina
Dates to be announced
Tel: (704) 455-8542
- **Curtain Call Productions**
Concord, North Carolina
Dates to be announced
- **Davidson College**
Duke Family Performance Hall
Davidson, North Carolina
October 30-31
Tel: (704) 894-7002
- **Theatre-on-a-Stick**
Hickory, North Carolina
October 8, 9
Tel: (828) 962-4766

Oklahoma

- **Stage Door Theatrical Company**
Moore, Oklahoma
October 16
Tel: (405) 701-0014

Ohio

- **Dublin Arts and Music Festival**
Emerald City Players
Dublin, Ohio
September 26
- **MadLab Theatre**
Columbus, Ohio
October 31, November 1, 2
Tel: (614) 470-2333

Pennsylvania

- **InterAct Theatre Company**
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Dates to be announced
Tel: (215) 568-8077
- **State College Community Theatre**
at **Webster's Bookstore Cafe**
State College, Pennsylvania
October 15
Tel: (814) 234-1507

Texas

- **Vortex Repertory Company**
Austin, Texas
October 18
Tel: (512) 478-5282

Utah

- **Plan-B Theatre Company**
Salt Lake City, Utah
October 31
Tel: (801) 201-9791

Virginia

- **Stage 4**
ShennanArts
Staunton, Virginia
October 23
Tel: (540) 248-1868

Wyoming

- **Global Cafe**
Lander, Wyoming
October 1
Tel: (307) 332-7900
Special food bank food drive:
\$5 or 5 cans of food

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