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DOWNTOWN ARTS CENTER

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DAC presents the for/word company's NORTH, A Story of Anne Morrow Lindbergh
New Theatre Group Makes Kentucky Debut

LEXINGTON, KY MARCH 23, 2011 - The for/word company brings *North*, its first original work, to Lexington for a one-week limited engagement run at the **Downtown Arts Center (DAC)** from **April 7 to 10, 2011**. Called "wistful, poetic, and wise" by *The Chicago Tribune* and given four stars by *Time Out Chicago*, *North* tells the story of a charged meeting between author/writer Anne Morrow Lindbergh, wife to aviator Charles, and Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, the man whom she felt best understood her work.

As Anne says in the play, "*This story is fiction and not biography.*" Yet, *North* is based in the historical record. In keeping with the for/word company's creative technique, *North* is constructed exclusively from Anne Morrow Lindbergh's prolific letters and journals (including *Hour of Gold/Hour of Lead*, *Locked Rooms and Open Doors*, *The Flower and the Nettle*, *War Within and Without*), poetic memoirs (*North to the Orient*, *Listen! The Wind*, *Steep Ascent*, *Gift from the Sea*), fiction and poetry (*Dearly Beloved* and *Bring Me a Unicorn*), and wartime polemics (*Wave of the Future*). It also draws from material written by her husband, Charles Lindbergh (*The Spirit of St. Louis*), and by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, including his poetic works on flight (*Flight to Arras*, *Night Flight*, *Wind, Sand, and Stars*), his journals and letters (*Wartime Writings*), and his famous children's book (*The Little Prince*).

"We see this project on one level as one of reclamation," author and director Jennifer Schlueter says. "Anne, Charles, and Saint-Exupéry were pioneers in aviation, but also in the writing about aviation, in analyzing how flight transformed the way humans would come to understand their world. Yet they have receded into the background of our historical imagination, with St-Ex really only known in the US for *The Little Prince*, though his books on flight and his continuing fight with the French resistance in WWII more properly express his concerns."

"The same is true for Charles and Anne," Schlueter continues. "Charles is remembered for his flight across the Atlantic in *The Spirit of St Louis*, and Anne for the notorious kidnapping and murder of her first-born child. But beyond those sensational stories, we tend to take a jaundiced view of them today, if we take a view at all, because of their alignment, during WWII, with the isolationists."

Anne Lindbergh has fascinated for/word company member, Christina Ritter, who proposed the project to Schlueter in London in 2005, and who plays Anne. Ritter recently moved to the Lexington area and is a new faculty member at the University of

Kentucky's Theatre Department. She continues, "We believe that Anne's questions about life, art, marriage, and love are very much ours today. Our play, then, is not about a rarified historical figure, but about an intelligent, introspective woman seeking a way to carve out a meaningful life."

WHAT: DAC presents the for/word company's **NORTH**

WHERE: Downtown Arts Center, 141 East Main Street, Lexington, KY

WHEN: April 7 – 10, 2011

Thursday thru Saturday at 7:30 PM

Saturday and Sunday Matinees at 2 PM

Sundays at 3 PM

WHO: PERFORMED BY: Christina Ritter, Christopher Roche, and Kalafatic Poole

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY: Jennifer Schlueter

CONCEIVED BY: Christina Ritter and Jennifer Schlueter

CO-PRODUCED BY: the DAC and the for/word company

PRESENTED BY: the DAC

TO PURCHASE TICKETS:

Tickets now on sale! \$18 adults, \$12 students and seniors

Online at <http://lexarts.tix.com>

By phone at 858-225-0370

In person at the DAC Box Office

Please visit www.for-word-company.net

About the for/word company:

the for/word company is dedicated to dynamic stagings and innovative interpretations of material from the historical record. We create our work by opening up the archive and the library, by discovering stories and chronicles that, in some way, resonate for us, and by building our performances exclusively out of the text we have unearthed. Sometimes, to make it easy, we call what we do "adaptation," but it's really something more like reimagining, remaking, reanimating, or recreating. So, we're not interested in historical reconstruction, documentary theatre, or biographical drama. We are finding a way to get beautiful words and the fascinating people who wrote them onstage in vibrant, physical, and textured ways. To do that, we work across traditional divides between actor and author and director and designer. Please visit www.for-word-company.net

About LexArts:

LexArts is a nonprofit community organization that works for the development of a strong and vibrant arts community as a means of enhancing the quality of life in central Kentucky. Through its annual *Fund for the Arts*, LexArts raises millions of dollars in support of local arts. In turn, LexArts underwrites the operating expenses for a variety of Partner Organizations, offers affordable exhibition and performance space for arts organizations, as well as competitive grants for community outreach projects. Visit LexArts website at www.lexarts.org. Major support for LexArts programs and services is provided by the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government. The Kentucky Arts Council, the state arts agency, supports LexArts with state tax dollars and federal funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.

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