

Loretta Greco | Artistic Director

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CONTACT: Pattie Lockard
415-515-8318
pattiel@magictheatre.org

Magic Theatre Presents Theresa Rebeck's *What We're Up Against* A World Premiere

Rebeck Returns To Magic After Her Hit Show *Mauritius*

February 2 through March 6, 2011 | Opening Night, February 9

SAN FRANCISCO, CA December 20, 2010----**Magic Theatre** presents the world premiere of Theresa Rebeck's *What We're Up Against* February 2nd through March 6, 2011. Ms. Rebeck is one of America's master playwrights and returns to Magic Theatre with *What We're Up Against*, her laugh-out-loud comedy about men, women, and survival in the workplace. The cast includes Rod Gnapp, James Wagner, Pamela Gaye Walker and Sarah Nealis. Magic Artistic Director, Loretta Greco will direct play.

"Working with Theresa Rebeck is a joy", says Greco. "Theresa never stops trying to get to the bottom of things that truly matter. She's a wonderful combination of strength, passion, and rage -- and she's funny... wickedly and unabashedly funny -- so it goes without saying that she is a perfect conjurer of theater that pulses with life. We are thrilled to have her back home at Magic and look forward to celebrating her new work *What We're Up Against* following our rich collaboration on *Mauritius* during my first season."

Magic's collaboration with Theresa Rebeck on her new play began after the successful 2009 run of *Mauritius*. Rebeck offered to hold an evening of readings of her short work to benefit the theater. During the reading of an eight-page play produced by Naked Angels in New York in 1992, the audience laughed themselves out of their seats. Everyone, staff and audience alike, believed they were hearing a finished work from Theresa's past, but they were wrong. The day she returned home, she began to think about a full-length play with Magic's audience and actors in mind. That play is *What We're Up Against*.

What We're Up Against is a National New Play Network World Premiere. The play has also been awarded this year's Rella Lossy Playwright's Award.

BIOGRAPHIES

THERESA REBECK-Playwright. The plays of master playwright Theresa Rebeck are produced widely throughout the United States and abroad. In 2010 she won the 2010 PEN/Laura Pels Foundation Award for an American Playwright in Mid-Career and was named Associate Artist at Roundabout Theatre Company. Past New York productions of her work include *Mauritius* at the Biltmore Theatre in a Manhattan Theater Club Production; *The Scene*, *The Water's Edge*, *Loose Knit*, *The Family of Mann* and *Spike Heels* at Second Stage; *Bad Dates*, *The Butterfly Collection* and *Our House* at Playwrights Horizons; and *View of the Dome* at New York

Theatre Workshop. *Omnium Gatherum* (co-written, finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 2003) was featured at the Humana Festival, and had a commercial run at the Variety Arts Theatre. *The Understudy* premiered at the 2008 Williamstown Theatre Festival and ran in New York at the Laura Pels Theater in a Roundabout Theatre Company production in the 2009 - 2010 season. *The Novelist* will open at the Mark Taper Forum next fall.

Magic Theatre introduced Theresa Rebeck's work to its audiences in 2009 with a sellout production of *Mauritius*. She returns in January to rehearse the play she developed with Magic in mind, *What We're Up Against*, which begins previews February 2nd, 2011 and runs through March 6. Magic shares the World Premiere of *What We're Up Against* with Victory Gardens in Chicago and The Alley in Houston in 2012.

Rebeck has published two novels, *Three Girls and Their Brother* and *Twelve Rooms With A View*. She is a prolific writer of work for television series, such as *NYPD Blue* and *Law & Order: Criminal Intent*. She holds an MFA in playwriting and a PHD in Victorian melodrama from Brandeis.

LORETTA GRECO – Director. The sixth Artistic Director in Magic's forty-four-year history, Loretta Greco assumed artistic leadership in April 2008. *What We're Up Against* the sixth Magic play she has directed and follows the acclaimed west coast premiere of Theresa Rebeck's *Mauritius* and world premiere of Luis Alfaro's *Oedipus El Rey*. Since her arrival, Ms. Greco has produced the work of many of the nation's important emerging and mid-career playwrights and directors, including Tripp Cullman, John Kolvenbach, Tarell Alvin McCraney, Octavio Solis, Lydia Stryk, Liz Duffy Adams and Lloyd Suh. Her Bay Area credits also include the critically acclaimed revival of David Mamet's *Speed-the-Plow* and the west coast premiere of David Harrower's *Blackbird* for ACT. Ms Greco's selected New York premieres include: Tracey Scott Wilson's *The Story* (Public Theater /Kesselring Prize/AUDELCO Nom); the Obie Award Winning *Lackawanna Blues* by Ruben Santiago Hudson (Public Theater); Katherine Walat's *Victoria Martin: Math Team Queen* (Women's Project); *Two Sisters and a Piano* by Pulitzer Prize Winner, Nilo Cruz (Public Theater/Kesselring Prize); Emily Mann's *Meshugah* (Naked Angels); Laura Cahill's *Mercy* (Vineyard); Karen Hartman's *Gum* (Women's Project); *A Park in our House* by Nilo Cruz (New York Theatre Workshop); and Toni Press Coffman's *Touch* (Women's Project). Ms Greco directed the national tour of Emily Mann's *Having Our Say* as well as the play's international premiere at the Market Theatre in Johannesburg, South Africa. Regional credits include: *Romeo and Juliet* and *Stop Kiss* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival) as well as productions at South Coast Repertory Theatre, Lajolla Playhouse, McCarter, Long Wharf, Intiman, Williamstown Theater Festival, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Repertory Theatre of St Louis, Coconut Grove Playhouse, Playmakers Repertory Company, and the Cleveland Play House. As a Producer, Ms. Greco developed and produced the work of a variety of distinguished contemporary writers including Athol Fugard, Joyce Carol Oates, Emily Mann, Nilo Cruz, Lynn Nottage, Neena Beeber, Diane Paulus, Rinne Groff, and Lisa D'Amour. Ms. Greco received her MFA from Catholic University and is the recipient of two Drama League Fellowships and a Princess Grace Award.

The **National New Play Network** is an alliance of leading nonprofit theaters that champion the development, production and continued life of new plays. Since its founding in 1998, NNPN has commissioned over a dozen playwrights, provided seven MFA graduates with paid residencies, and supported nearly 50 productions nationwide through its innovative Continued Life of New Plays Fund, which creates "rolling world premieres" of new plays. Through these activities and others, NNPN has granted nearly a half million dollars to theaters and artists in the past ten years. All told, hundreds of artists have gained employment through these efforts in the 24 regions of the country where NNPN member theaters are located.

The **Rella Lossy Playwright Award** was established with an endowment from Dr. Frank Lossy and his family after the death of Dr. Lossy's wife.

Calendar Editors

WORLD PREMIERE

What We're Up Against

By Theresa Rebeck

Directed by Loretta Greco

What happens when a group of architects are under the gun to design a new mall but can't figure out where to place the air ducts? Theresa Rebeck returns to Magic Theatre with a bold, laugh-out-loud world premiere.

Previews:

Feb 2, 3, 4, 5 @ 8P

Feb 6 @ 2:30P

Feb 8 @ 7P

Press/Opening Night: Wednesday Feb 9 @8P

Run:

Feb 10 thru March 6

Tuesdays @ 7P

Sat @ 2:30P & 8P

Sun @ 2:30P

All other evenings @ 8P (No performances on Mondays. Sunday matinee only)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Magic Theatre

Building D, Fort Mason Center, San Francisco, CA 94123

(parking lot entrance at Marina Blvd. and Buchanan St.)

Tickets

415-441-8822 or www.magictheatre.org.

Pricing

Previews: \$30

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays: \$44 – \$55

Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays: \$50 – \$60

Student & Under 30 Discount: \$20 Tickets Available To Students And People Under 30 Years Of Age With Valid ID, Side Sections Only.

Senior & Educator Discount: \$5 Discount Available To Seniors (62 And Over) and Educators With Valid ID.

PWYC performances:

TalkBACKs after every performance with Magic Theatre artistic staff and artists.

Preludes:

Introduction to the play. 7:00pm – 7:30pm in our Lounge. Free glass of wine served.

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