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**MEDIA ALERT FOR THEATRE EDITORS AND REVIEWERS
AND CALENDAR LISTINGS**

FURIOUS THEATRE COMPANY ANNOUNCES ITS 2006 SEASON!

*Featuring two new American plays which take explosive looks
into our collective national paranoia and Christian Fundamentalism!*

PRIOR TO MAJOR RENOVATION OF ITS PASADENA PLAYHOUSE BALCONY SPACE

Be Brave. Be Different. Be Furious.

May 15, 2006...Pasadena...Furious Theatre Company is thrilled to announce its 2006 season of shows. In this, its second year in the Pasadena Playhouse Balcony Theatre, the adventurous theatre company will be presenting the Los Angeles premieres of two new American plays which both tackle immediate and politically explosive issues facing our national consciousness. **BACK OF THE THROAT** by Yussef El Guindi will open on Saturday, June 24, and run for six weeks through Saturday, July 29 (Previews: June 21 – 23) and **GRACE** by Craig Wright will open on Saturday, October 7, and run for six weeks through Saturday November 11 (Previews: October 4 – 6). Both plays will be directed by Dámaso Rodriguez. Both plays will perform at the Pasadena Playhouse Balcony Theatre, 39 S. El Molino Ave. in Pasadena.

The 2006 Furious Theatre Company Season:

Back of the Throat

Written by Yussef El Guindi

Directed by Dámaso Rodriguez

Opens Saturday, June 24, and runs through Saturday, July 29, 2006 (Previews June 21 – 23)
Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays at 8p.m., Sundays at 7:30 p.m.

Yussef El Guindi's dark comedy examines the paranoia permeating throughout America today. **BACK OF THE THROAT** begins with an innocuous Homeland Security investigation and quickly moves into a subversive discovery of racial profiling, civil liberties and what you should and shouldn't keep in your home. Following a heinous terrorist attack, Khaled, an Arab-American writer is visited by two government officials. What begins as a friendly inquiry soon devolves into a chilling, full-blown investigation of his presumed ties to terrorists. At times surreal and comic, **BACK OF THE THROAT** examines the way in which facts (or lies), evidence (like porn magazines!) and (mis)perceptions are used to distort the truth and how matters of race impact the relationship between the accusers and the accused.

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YUSSEF EL GUINDI (Playwright) is a playwright living in Seattle. His play *Back of the Throat* was winner of the 2004 Northwest Playwright's Competition. It was also nominated for the 2006 American Theater Critics Association's Steinberg/New Play Award, and was voted Best New Play of 2005 by the Seattle Times. It was first staged by San Francisco's Thick Description and Golden Thread Productions; then later presented by Theater Schmeater in Seattle, Manbites Dog Theater in Durham, North Carolina; the Eccentric Theater Co. in Anchorage, Alaska; and the Flea Theater in New York. His two-related one-acts, *Acts of Desire*, were staged by the Fountain Theatre in Los Angeles. Other recent productions: *Karima's City* (in San Francisco and as part of 2004's Cairo International Experimental Theater Festival, both presented by Golden Thread Productions), *Murder in the Mirror* (a radio play presented by Stage Shadows at the Museum of Television and Radio in New York), and *Men On Mars* (another radio play aired in 2004 by Shoestring Radio Theater in San Francisco). His adaptation of Chekhov's *A Marriage Proposal* into an Arab-American setting was staged by the Arab Theatrical Arts Guild in Dearborn, Michigan and was nominated for several awards including Outstanding Achievement in Original Play or Adaptation. His short film, *Love Stalks*, won an award for best short narrative film at the Seattle Underground Film Festival and was aired on KTEH. His short story *Ohio* was recently published in Mizna; and another short story, *Stage Directions for an Extended Conversation*, was published in *Dinarzad's Children*, an anthology of Arab-American fiction. Yussef holds an MFA from Carnegie-Mellon University and was playwright-in-residence at Duke University.

Grace

Written by Craig Wright

Directed by Dámaso Rodriguez

Opens Saturday, October 7, through Saturday, November 11, 2006 (Previews October 4 – 6)
Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays – 8 p.m., Sun 7:30 p.m.

An empty Florida condo, three dead bodies, police sirens blaring. Is this a shady crime scene or God's fateful hand at work? Perceptions keep changing as we deconstruct the marriage of an intensely Christian couple, their not so religious disfigured neighbor, a shaky business deal -- and the way religious ideas make sense, and sometimes nonsense, of life's events. In this darkly funny, sometimes hilarious, deadly serious and provocative new play from Craig Wright, writer of *Recent Tragic Events* and HBO's "Six Feet Under," things are never what they seem – and never were.

CRAIG WRIGHT's (Playwright) play **GRACE** premiered at Woolly Mammoth theatre where it was nominated for the Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding New Play. It also was recently staged in a critically acclaimed production at Northlight Theater. *Recent Tragic Events* also debuted at Woolly and was subsequently produced by Playwrights Horizons with Heather Graham in the lead. *Melissa Arctic*, a contemporary adaptation of "The Winter's Tale," premiered at the Folger Theatre and won the 2005 Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding New Play. *Main Street*, adapted from the Sinclair Lewis novel, was commissioned and premiered by the Great American History Theatre. *Orange Flower Water* has been produced around the country, including the Steppenwolf in an extended engagement that led the Chicago Sun-Times to name it one of the Best of the Year as well as a Los Angeles Times Critics' Choice production currently running at the Victory Theatre.

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It was seen in New York last spring at the Edge Theatre. *Molly's Delicious* had its debut at the Arden Theatre. *The Pavilion* has received dozens of productions around the country including a recent extended run at Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre in New York. He is currently writing two new plays as commissions from Actors Theatre of Louisville and Hartford Stage Company.

He has received fellowships in playwriting from the McKnight Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts and the Minnesota State Arts Board; a Pew Charitable Trust/Playwrights' Center Collaboration Grant in 1995, 1996 and 1998; a Jerome Fellowship in 1989 and 1991; and a Barrymore Award for Excellence in Theatre nomination for Best New Play for *Molly's Delicious*. *Recent Tragic Events* was a finalist for the American Theatre Critics New Play Award and the Helen Hayes Charles MacArthur Award for Outstanding New Play.

Mr. Wright received an Emmy nomination for his "Six Feet Under" episode "Twilight" and a WGA nomination for his episode "Falling Into Place". He is currently writing for the JJ Abrams series "Lost". He was also nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for "The Pavilion".

DÁMASO RODRIGUEZ (Director) is the resident director for the Furious Theatre Company and also an NAACP Award winner for best directing. Recent Furious production credits include: *The Fair Maid of the West Parts I & II* (director & co-adaptor), *The God Botherers* (director), *The Shape of Things* (director), *Scenes from the Big Picture* (director), *Chimps* (director), *Saturday Night at the Palace* (director), *The Playboy of the Western World* (director), *Improv Stunt Show Spectacular* (director). With other theatres: *Private Lives* (assistant director), *Star Quality* (assistant director) at the Pasadena Playhouse, *Another Part of the Forest* (director) at the Pasadena Playhouse Hothouse Summer Reading Series, *Hay Fever* (assistant director/dramaturg), *Pericles* (assistant director/dramaturg), *Life is a Dream*, *A Christmas Carol* and *The Skin of our Teeth at A Noise Within*; *Daedalus* (assistant director) at South Coast Repertory; *Ramblers*, *The Harold* at Improv Olympic, *The Zoo Story*, *Freudian Slip Improvisational Comedy* (co-founder/director).

Pasadena Playhouse will begin renovation of the Balcony Theatre in late 2006/early 2007. The renovation plans provide much needed audience accessibility improvements and technology upgrades to the space which is scheduled to re-open in late 2007 as the CARRIE HAMILTON THEATRE named for Carol Burnett's late daughter. Furious Theatre Company will continue its partnership with the Pasadena Playhouse as the primary producer and resident artist in the space after the renovations are complete.

Tickets go on sale Thursday, June 1, and can be purchased online at www.furioustheatre.org or at the Pasadena Playhouse Customer Service Center (open from 12 p.m. until curtain on performance days, and 12 p.m. – 6 p.m. on Mondays) or by calling the box office at 626-356-PLAY. Single ticket prices are \$15 - \$24; Students \$5 rush; Previews are \$12.

Should you have any questions or need additional press information, please contact David Elzer at 818/508-1754 or by e-mail at ELZERD@aol.com or visit www.demandpr.com.

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*Furious Theatre Company debuted in April 2002 and rapidly produced five critically-acclaimed plays in 12 months at the Armory Northwest in Pasadena. These productions earned 6 NAACP Theatre Award nominations (winner Best Supporting Actor, Best Director), two LA Weekly Award nominations, and numerous critic's picks from the Los Angeles media. The company also received the Pasadena Arts Councils' Gold Crown Award and a special "Debut" award from Back Stage West. In September 2003, the City of Pasadena reclaimed the Armory Northwest leaving Furious without a performance home. After a 13-month search for a new home, the [Pasadena Playhouse](#) granted Furious a 4-year residency at the Balcony Theatre, the Playhouse's 99-seat second stage. Furious Theatre Company's inaugural season in residence at the Pasadena Playhouse Balcony Theatre included the Los Angeles Premiere of *The Shape of Things* by Neil LaBute, the West Coast Premiere of *The God Botherers* by Richard Bean, the U.S. Premiere of *Tearing the Loom* by Gary Mitchell, the U.S. Premiere of *Scenes from the Big Picture* by Owen McCafferty and the World Premiere Adaptation of the swashbuckler hit, *The Fair Maid of the West, Parts I & II* by Thomas Heywood. Furious Theatre Company is led by the six co-founders and Artistic Council members: Sara Hennessy, Shawn Lee, Vonessa Martin, Eric Pargac, Brad Price and Dámaso Rodriguez. For more information, please call 626-356-play or visit www.furioustheatre.org.*