

NEW VILLAGE ARTS: THOM PAIN (based on nothing)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: NEW VILLAGE ARTS PRESENTS THE SAN DIEGO PREMIERE OF AWARD-WINNING PLAYWRIGHT WILL ENO'S THOM PAIN (based on nothing).

"Does it scare you? Being face to face with the modern mind? It should. There is no reason for you not to be afraid. None."

– Thom Pain

"What if you only had one day to live? What would you do? That's easy. You'd be brave and true and reckless. You would love life and people with wild and new abandon. If you only had a day. What if you only had forty years? What would you do? If you're like me, and – no offense, but – you probably are, you wouldn't do anything...Don't imagine a pink elephant."

- Thom Pain

"I think if there were to be a T-shirt advertising this play, it should say, 'THOM PAIN, he's just like you – except worse.'

- Will Eno

"People ask about the name. 'Thom Pain.' I don't answer. Or I say, 'It's been in the family a while.' Or I say, 'Child Harold,' for no reason. Then one of us walks away."

- Thom Pain

"Mr. Eno's play, a monologue that runs just over an hour and requires minimal stagecraft, is as unassuming in its means as it is astonishing in its impact. It's one of those treasured nights in the theater – treasured nights anywhere, for that matter – that can leave you both breathless with exhilaration and, depending on your sensitivity to meditations on the bleak and beautiful mysteries of human experience, in a puddle of tears. Also in stitches, here and there. Speechless, in any case."

- New York Times

Contact: Kristianne Kurner, Executive Artistic Director; 760-433-3245 (office), 760-213-6860 (cell), kristianne@newvillagearts.org.

CARLSBAD, CA. August 23, 2011. New Village Arts is thrilled to introduce one of the most exciting new American playwrights to San Diego audiences. Will Eno's *THOM PAIN (based on nothing)* was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and one of the most exciting new plays to come out of the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and New York City. Directed by Executive Artistic Director Kristianne Kurner, *THOM PAIN (based on nothing)* is a one man show that examines life, love, the nature of performance and the performance of nature. *THOM PAIN (based on nothing)* will be playing at New Village Arts Theatre (2787 State Street, Carlsbad Village) from September 7 – October 2, 2011. The official opening night is September 10 at 8 PM. Tickets can be purchased at www.NewVillageArts.org or by calling 760-433-3245.

THOM PAIN (based on nothing) is many things: a one-man show with the entire audience; a bleak comedy that thrives on paradox; an existential nightmare; a great piece of theatre that makes you simultaneously filled with despair and thrilled to be alive. The New York Times calls it “stand up existentialism”. Thom Pain and his audience navigate their way through life and love on a search for happiness and acceptance. It's an incredibly written show by a brilliant American playwright.

WILL ENO's internationally heralded play *THOM PAIN (based on nothing)* had a successful year-long run at the DR2 in New York, produced by Bob Boyett and Daryl Roth; following a sold out run at the August 2004 International Edinburgh Festival (Fringe First Award and the Herald Angel Award), and a subsequent transfer to the Soho Theatre in London. The play is now being produced across the United States, as well as Brazil, Italy, Germany, France, Norway, Denmark, Israel, Mexico and other countries. *THOM PAIN (based on nothing)* was a finalist for the 2004 Pulitzer Prize in Drama. Mr. Eno's new play *MIDDLETOWN* received its world premiere in fall 2010 at the Vineyard Theatre in New York City and recently completed a run at Steppenwolf Theatre in Chicago. His play *TRAGEDY: a tragedy* received its US premiere at Berkeley Repertory Theatre in Spring 2008, and his collection of short plays entitled *OH, THE HUMANITY and other exclamations* world premiered at The Flea Theater in winter 2008. Mr. Eno's play

THE FLU SEASON received the 2004 Oppenheimer Award for the best debut production in New York by an American playwright. Mr. Eno's plays have been produced by the Gate Theatre, the SOHO Theatre and BBC Radio, in London; the Rude Mechanicals Theater Company and Naked Angels, in New York. His plays are published by Oberon Books and have appeared in Harper's, The Antioch Review, The Quarterly, and Best Ten-Minute Plays for Two Actors. Mr. Eno is presently under commission by the Royal National Theatre. He is a Helen Merrill Playwriting Fellow, a Guggenheim Fellow, and Edward F. Albee Foundation Fellow, and was awarded the first-ever Marian Seldes/Garson Kanin Fellowship by the Theater Hall of Fame, as well as the Alfred Hodder Fellowship at Princeton. Mr. Eno lives in Brooklyn, NY.

Director **KRISTIANNE KURNER** is the co-founder and Executive Artistic Director of New Village Arts, where she has directed such productions as *Death of a Salesman*, *Summer and Smoke*, *The Santaland Diaries*, *Be Aggressive*, *Bulrusher*, *True West*, *Sailor's Song*, *The Waverly Gallery* and *A Lie of the Mind*. She has been seen on the NVA stages many times, most recently as Essie Miller in *Ah, Wilderness!*, Amanda Blue in *Waving Goodbye* and the title role in *The Heidi Chronicles*. Her work has received numerous awards, including San Diego Theatre Critics Circle and Patte Awards for Theatre Excellence. Kristianne created THE ENSEMBLE PROJECT for Season 11, including commissioning the world premiere by Suzanne Bachner. She received her BFA in Theatre at The College of William & Mary and her MFA in Acting from the Actors Studio/New School.

Actor **ADAM BRICK** is a founding Ensemble Member of New Village Arts, where he has appeared in *Ah, Wilderness!*, *Sweet Storm*, *Things We Want*, *Time Flies*, *The Complete Work of William Shakespeare (Abridged)* and *Three Sisters*. Adam graduated from The Meisner Technique Studio in San Francisco. Previous acting roles in local performances include: *Tartuffe* (Cleante), *Dark Rapture* (Ray), and *Waiting for Lefty* (Joe) with Palomar Performing Arts. In addition to his work as an actor, Adam has done numerous sound designs and photography shoots for New Village Arts.

Tim Wallace will be designing the set with Justin Lang designing sound. Christopher Loren Renda is designing lights and Kelly Iversen is designing the costume. Bonnie Durben will be creating the world of props and Justin Lang is also the stage manager.

Ticket prices range from \$20 - \$34 for all performances, with the exception of three pay-what-you-can previews on September 7, 8 & 9 at 8 PM. Showtimes are Thursdays and Fridays at 8 PM; Saturdays at 3 PM & 8 PM and Sundays at 2 PM (no 3 PM show on Opening Night, September 10). The theatre is located in the heart of Carlsbad Village, at 2787 State Street. Tickets can be purchased by visiting www.NewVillageArts.org or calling 760-433-3245.

FACT SHEET

THOM PAIN (based on nothing)

Written by **Will Eno**

Directed by **Kristianne Kurner**

CAST

Thom Pain: Ensemble Member Adam Brick

Set Design by **Tim Wallace**; Sound Design by **Justin Lang**; Costume Design by **Kelly Iversen**; Light Design by **Christopher Loren Renda**; Properties Design by **Bonnie Durben**; Stage Managed by **Justin Lang**.

Three Pay-What-You-Can Previews September 7, 8 & 9 at 8 PM

Opening Night Saturday, September 10 at 8 PM, run continues thru October 2, Thursdays & Fridays at 8 PM; Saturdays at 3 PM & 8 PM; Sundays at 2 PM

(No 3 PM Show on September 10)

Tickets: \$34 General Admission/\$28 Senior, Student, Military/\$25 Groups of 10 or more/Reserved Preview Tickets \$20/Non-reserved Preview tickets available for pay-what-you-can one hour before show time.

Purchase Tickets: www.NewVillageArts.org; 760-433-3245.

Listing: THE ENSEMBLE PROJECT at New Village Arts continues with the San Diego Premiere of Will Eno's THOM PAIN (based on nothing), a thrilling and funny trip through one man's life and loves. THOM PAIN (based on nothing) runs September 7 – October 2, 2011 at New Village Arts Theatre at 2787 State Street in Carlsbad Village. Tickets are \$20-\$34 and can be purchased by visiting www.NewVillageArts.org or calling 760-433-3245.

PRE-PRODUCTION PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

Photo Credit: Daren Scott.

Thank you-

Kristianne Kurner

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