

*** Complications ensue when a senator tries to prevent his porn - star mistress from**
Daily Herald (Arlington Heights, IL) - Friday, June 11, 2010

* Complications ensue when a senator tries to prevent his porn star mistress from revealing their affair in "Sex Marks the Spot," a farce by Charles Grippio in a remount at Stage 733, formerly known as the Theatre Building, at 1225 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago. Previews begin Friday, June 11. The show opens Monday, June 14. (773) 327_5252 or theatrebuildingchicago.org.

* The Second City 50th Anniversary Tour, featuring classic sketches from the company's last five decades, comes to the Theatre at the Center, 1040 Ridge Road, Munster, Ind. The performances are at 8 p.m. Friday, June 11, and Saturday, June 12. (219) 836_3255 or theatreatthecenter.com.

* Collaboraction's 10th annual Sketchbook Festival opens Saturday, June 12, at the Chopin Theatre, 1543 W. Division St., Chicago. The festival features the world premieres of 10 short plays. Contributors include Brett C. Leonard, Sean Graney, Derrick Sanders, Emily Schwartz and the Strange Tree Group, Seth Bockley and Andrew Hopgood and the New Colony. The \$25 X_pass includes access to every performance. A \$100 X_pass includes access to performances and the opening and closing night parties, admission to a private lounge and a T_shirt. Performances are at 8 p.m. Monday, Thursday and Friday; 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The festival runs through June 27. (312) 226_9633 or collaboraction.org.

* Silk Road Theatre Project presents a staged reading of "100 Days," Weiko Lin's play about a comedian who has 100 days after his Buddhist mother's death to help her spirit transition to the afterlife, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 12, at the Historic Chicago Temple Building, 77 W. Washington St., Chicago. (312) 857_1234 or srtp.org.

* Chicago Dramatists celebrates its 31_year history with its annual gala, The Blue Moon Ball, at 5:30 p.m. Sunday, June 13, at Galleria Marchetti, 825 W. Erie St., Chicago. The event includes dinner, cocktails, dancing, live and silent auctions and a viewing of the 2010 Tony Award telecast. Tickets begin at \$150 and are available by phone (312) 633_0630 or online at chicagodramatists.org.

* Improv artist Kristen Studard performs her solo show, "Small Victories: An Unflattering Vanity Project," at 9:30 p.m. Sunday, June 13, at the Annoyance Theatre & Bar, 4820 N. Broadway, Chicago, and at 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday, June 18_19, at The Playground Theater, 3209 N. Halsted St., Chicago. For more information, see theannoyance.com or justforlaughschicago.com.

* LeapFest 7, Stage Left Theatre's annual new play festival, begins Tuesday, June 15, at 3408 N. Sheffield Ave., Chicago. The festival is comprised of five plays, developed through the company's new play development program, in workshop productions running in repertory through July 3. Featured works are Scott Woldman's "Beaten" about a woman attempting to survive her dysfunctional family; Mia McCullough's "The Face of a Ruined Woman" about body image; Dan Aibel's "The Meaning of Lunch" about a family business confronting the global market; Jayme McGhan's "Mother Bear" about a union representative trying to organize truckers; and Steve Spencer's "Our Kind of Violence" about troubled people whose last recourse is to kill. (773) 883_8830 or stagelefttheatre.com.

* Lookingglass Theatre Company remounts for the fourth time its signature 2005 production, "Lookingglass Alice," adapted and created by ensemble member David Catlin and produced in association with The Actors Gymnasium. Previews begin Wednesday, June 16, at Water Tower Water Works, 821 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago. The show opens Wednesday, June 23. (312) 337_0665 or lookingglasstheatre.org.

* The Chicago Park District's 58th annual Theater on the Lake season showcasing Chicago productions from the last year begins Wednesday,

June 16, with a remount of the Second City's 50th Anniversary Revue, featuring some of its most memorable sketches as well as new material.

The show runs through Sunday, June 20, at the theater located at Fullerton Avenue and Lake Shore Drive in Chicago. The season itself runs through Aug. 8. (312) 742_7994 or chicagoparkdistrict.com.

* Previews begin Wednesday, June 16, for "Shakespeare's King Phycus," a world premiere from Strange Tree Group that combines six Shakespeare tragedies and some of his most memorable characters (Hamlet, Brutus, Juliet) into one comic sendup. The show opens Friday, June 18, at the Building Stage, 412 N. Carpenter St., Chicago. (773) 598_8240 or strangetree.org.

* Lifeline Theatre has extended its hit "Neverwhere," a world premiere adaptation of Neil Gaiman's novel about an upwardly mobile young Brit who falls through the cracks into an alternate reality located below London. Performances continue through July 18 at 6912 N. Glenwood Ave., Chicago. (773) 761_4477 or lifelinetheatre.com.

* Writers' Theatre has extended David Cromer's revival of Tennessee Williams' "A Streetcar Named Desire." The show runs through July 18 at 325 Tudor Court, Glencoe. (847) 242_6000 or writerstheatre.org.

* Evanston's Next Theatre Company recently issued an apology to Israeli playwright Boaz Gaon related to the company's recent production of "Return to Haifa," which closed in March and included unattributed passages from a Gaon play. In the wake of the incident, the company severed ties with its former artistic director Jason Southerland, appointed to the position about 18 months ago.

* Sneak previews continue through Saturday, June 12, for Mayne Stage, a new, 229-seat, Rogers Park venue located at 1328 W. Morse Ave., Chicago, and designed for music and cabaret performances, comedy and theater. (773) 381_4554 or maynestage.com.

* Actors Theatre Company opened its production of the musical "Baby," about three couples dealing with pregnancy in vastly different ways, this week at Stage 733, formerly known as the Theatre Building,

1225 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago. The production runs through Sunday, June 27. (773) 327_5252 or actorstheatrecompany.com.

* "Good Little Winnetka Boy," a solo show written and performed by Alex Moffat, continues Thursdays through June 24 at the Annoyance Theatre, 4830 N. Broadway, Chicago. (773) 561_4665 or theannoyance.com.

* Lookingglass Theatre has extended its revival of "Hephaestus: A Greek Mythology Circus Tale" through Sunday, June 20, at Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn St., Chicago. (312) 443_3800 or lookingglasstheatre.org.

* About Face Theatre named Jason Held as its new executive director. An attorney and fundraiser, Held served as grants manager for Writers' Theatre and on the volunteer board of directors of the Human Rights Campaign.

— Barbara Vitello

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