



IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**WALKABOUT THEATER COMPANY AND COLLABORATION
PRESENT THE WORLD PREMIERE OF *GOLDBRICK*, A
THEATRICAL EXPLORATION OF THE MUSIC OF
JON LANGFORD**

**Multi-Media Musical Includes the Talents of
Stephan Mazurek and Loren Crawford and Stars Larry Yando.
Previews begin Thursday, Jan. 29 with Press Opening Tuesday, Feb . 3.**

CHICAGO – Walkabout Theater Company and Collaboracion proudly announce the Chicago premiere of *Goldbrick*. A live band, two actors and video projections weave a fast paced, irreverent, darkly funny story of exploration, exploitation, private dreams and the cost of survival. Featuring the music and lyrics of Jon Langford with director Stephan Mazurek, playwright Loren Crawford and starring Larry Yando; *Goldbrick* previews are Thursday, Jan. 29 through Monday, Feb 2, 2009. Opening/Press Night is Tuesday, Feb. 3 with the scheduled run Thursday, Feb. 5 through Sunday, March 1 at The Building Stage, 412 N. Carpenter Street Tickets are \$15 - 25 and go on sale Jan. 15 at www.collaboracion.org or by calling 312-226-9633.

The live music of *Goldbrick* draws from Jon Langford's solo releases as well as from his work with the Mekons to illuminate the ongoing American story of immigration. *Goldbrick* follows the journey of Everyman (Larry Yando) from Wales making a life for himself in America. Through video projections, his experiences are inter-woven with the voices and dreams of others who come to America for a better life. Onstage, Everyman interacts with memories of the past, icons of a better future and obstacles of the present (all played by Tawny Newsome). Everyman does what he must do to survive, ultimately reaching crisis as he faces questions that haunt, not only him, but all of us, and that as a nation we can no longer afford to ignore.

This special world premiere is the first time Walkabout and Collaboracion have worked together on a project. *Goldbrick* offers the perfect opportunity to unite their shared missions of producing new work that redefines modern theater through the use of multi-media and fusing disciplines with the most talented forces in writing, directing, acting and design.

Jon Langford, music and lyrics

Welsh-born Jon Langford, originally the drummer for the punk band, Mekons, has become one of the leaders in incorporating folk and country music into punk rock. Langford has released a number of solo recordings as well as recordings with other bands outside of Mekons, most notably the Waco Brothers, which he co-founded after moving to Chicago in the early 1990s. Since moving to Chicago, Langford has become a major symbol and proponent of the Chicago music scene, nurturing many of his labelmates on Bloodshot Records and often lending his services as a musician or visual artist or inviting local musicians to guest on his releases. Langford is also a prolific and respected visual artist best known for his striking portraits of country music icons. He also has a multimedia music/spoken word/video performance that has been performed in several cities across the United States. Langford illustrated the comic strip *Great Pop Things* under the pseudonym Chuck Death. Since 2005 Langford has been one of the hosts of a weekly radio program, "The Eclectic

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Company," broadcast on WXRT 93.1 FM in Chicago. He's also a regular contributor to *This American Life*.

Stephan Mazurek, director

Stephan Mazurek has directed for Walkabout Theater *An Unembarrassed Mind* (Storefront Theater), *Voyaging* (Co-production Lucky Plush), *Downsize* (14-month run in 12 bathrooms throughout Chicago), plus productions in Brazil and Argentina, and *Missing Memaw* (Louisville, Chicago and Edinburgh, Scotland). Mazurek has recently finished principle cinematography for the feature length documentary, *Louder Than A Bomb*, which follows the lives of twelve Chicago area high school students as they prepare for a national spoken word competition, which will have its theatrical release in 2009. Recent visual designs include: Larry Gelbert/Craig Wright's *Better Late* seen at Northlight Theater and the Galway Arts Festival and Jessica Thebus's production of *Sonja Flew* at Steppenwolf Theater.

Loren Crawford, playwright

Loren Crawford is a long-time member of Walkabout Theater, a playwright, an arts educator, and a Kundalini yoga instructor with one full length documentary to her credit created with Stephan Mazurek: *Under Kentucky Skies: 25 years of the Kentucky Music Festival*. Her stage plays include *Prelude: The Life and Work of Katherine Mansfield*, *Missing Memaw*, *Dye Frye & Wicked John and the Devil* published by New Plays, Inc., *The People Could Fly*, and *The Unembarrassed Mind* with Stephan Mazurek.

Leroy Bach, music director

LeRoy Bach has been active in the Chicago music scene for more than twenty years. He has played with Marvin Tate's D-Settlement, 5ive Style, Wilco, Beth Orton and Iron & Wine, among others. In 2004, he played guitar in the Lookingglass production of *The Shagg's Philosophy of the World*. In 2006, he was artist-in-residence at the Headlands Center for the Arts, in Sausalito, California. He is currently working on Marvin Tate's upcoming album, playing with Theaster Gates' *Black Monks of Mississippi*, and he performs regularly with bABY ALLright.

Larry Yando, Everyman

Larry Yando has recently been seen in Writer's Theater's production of *Nixon's China* as well as *As You Like It*. Since returning from a three year run as "Scar" in the National Tour of *Lion King*, he has appeared in *The Two Noble Kinsmen*, *Cymbeline* (Chicago Shakespeare Company) and as "Scrooge" in Goodman Theater's 30th anniversary production of *A Christmas Carol*, which he will play again this year. Other leading roles in Chicago include *Titus Andronicus* (Defiant Theater) *Tempest*, *Timon of Athens*, *All's Well That Ends Well*, *King Lear*, *Anthony and Cleopatra* (Chicago Shakespeare), *Travesties*, *Importance of Being Earnest*, (Court Theater, *Mother Courage* (Steppenwolf Theater) and many more.

Tawny Newsome, Woman Recent Chicago credits include Queen in *The Life*, Bohemian Theater Ensemble; *How Can You Run With a Shell On Your Back* and *Two Noble Kinsmen* with Chicago Shakespeare Theater; *The Teapot Scandals* (Porchlight Music Theatre) and *Keep Ishmael*, (White Horse Theatre Company). You can currently see her in the one-person outreach show *The MLK Project* with Writer's Theater. Tawny is a proud DePaul Theatre School alum, and when not on stage, she loves teaching acting and solo performance to teens at the Beverly Arts Center.

Walkabout Theater Company

Walkabout Theater creates arresting theatrical events by rigorously exploring theatrical forms and languages to provide an immersive, moving, and vibrant story telling experience for a live audience. Walkabout has created many original works through the collaboration of artists working in many disciplines.

Collaboraction

Collaboraction is an award winning theatre-based artist collective dedicated to the process of evolving entertainment. Our core creative values are defined by a robust collection of artists emphasizing the creation of inspired and energizing theatrical experiences in league with audiences seeking surprising and challenging work. For more than 13 years, Collaboraction has worked with over 2500 artists to bring 60+ productions and events to some 50,000-audience members.

Goldbrick performances run Thursday, Jan. 29 – Sunday, March 1; previews Thursday, Jan. 29 through Saturday, Jan. 31 at 8 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 1 at 7 p.m., Monday, Feb. 2 at 8 p.m., press/opening night is Tuesday, Feb. 3 at 8 p.m.; regular run is Thursday, Feb. 5 through Sunday, March 1; Thursday – Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 7 p.m. at The Building Stage, 412 N. Carpenter Street; at the intersection of Hubbard and Carpenter Streets. Free parking lot and ample street parking are available. Tickets are \$15 - 25 and go on sale Jan. 15 at www.collaboraction.org or by calling 312-226-9633.

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