



## Virago Theatre Company

## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **WORLD PREMIERE OF *THE AFTERLIFE OF THE MIND* – AN EXCITING NEW WORK DISCOVERED DURING VIRAGO’S 2008 SUMMER NEW PLAY READING SERIES.**

**WHO:** Produced by Virago Theatre Company  
Written by William Bivins  
Directed by Laura Lundy-Paine  
Cast: Elias Escobedo\*, Megan Kilian\*, Lol Levy\*, Brittany Kilcoyne McGregor, Dennis McIntyre, George McRae\*, Tracey Rhys, and Paul Stout  
\*Member, Actors’ Equity Association

**WHAT:** World Premiere of *The Afterlife of the Mind*

**WHERE:** The Ashby Stage (1901 Ashby Avenue, Berkeley) and StageWerx (533 Sutter Street, S.F.)

**WHEN:** **October 23-31 at Ashby Stage**  
Friday & Saturdays at 8 PM  
Thursday, October 29 at 7PM  
Plus a midnight show on Saturday, 10/31, with creepy cocktails available!

Special Events with Ashby Stage Ticket:  
Opening Night Reception and live music with No Strings Attached – Friday, October 23  
Talk-Back with Cast, Playwright and Director – Friday, October 30  
Halloween Shows (8pm and midnight) - \$5 cash prize for first 20 people in costume

**November 12-21 at StageWerx**  
Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 8 PM:

Special Events with StageWerx Ticket:  
Talk-Back with Cast, Playwright and Director – Friday, November 13  
Closing Night Wine-Cheese Reception featuring Blacksmith Cellars – Saturday, November 21

**HOW MUCH:** Advance \$20; \$15 Student/Senior/TBA      Door \$25, \$20 Student/Senior/TBA

**INFO:** 510-865-6237; [www.viragotheatre.org](http://www.viragotheatre.org)

### Publicity Blurb:

Can Lydia find a body for Harry's brain? Can she use her body to get Todd to donate his body? Is there such thing as sex without a body? For answers to these and other pressing questions about neuroscience, metaphysics and finding the perfect mate see *The Afterlife of the Mind*, the hilarious and shocking world premiere by William Bivins. The most talked about reading of the 2008 Last Frontier Theatre Conference in Alaska.

(MORE)

More Info:

Virago Theatre Company received 60 new works submitted by local playwrights for a chance to be included in our 2008 New Play Reading Series performed over four weekends at various locations in Alameda. Virago's founders selected three full-length plays and two one-act plays to be given staged readings. Artistic Director, Laura Lundy-Paine heard excerpts from *The Afterlife of the Mind* at the 2008 Theatre Bay Area Playwrights Showcase, and immediately we knew it was a stand-out. We asked playwright, William Bivins, to submit the entire work for our Reading Series, and it was performed at what was formerly MONART School of the Arts in Alameda, and it was very well-received by the audience that evening. The members of the company felt it would make a provocative addition to our 2009-2010 season. Bill jumped on board, and Virago's Artistic Director, Laura Lundy-Paine, will direct. We have cast a strong group of actors, including four Equity members, and have some fantastic designers on board to help us bring this provocative new work to life.

William Bivins (Playwright) is an award-winning playwright. He has two world premieres this fall: *Pulp Scripture* at the San Francisco Fringe Festival, which won several Fringe awards including the most sold-out shows, and this brain transplantation comedy *The Afterlife of the Mind*. In June his one-act play *Grunion Run* won ShortLived 2.0, PianoFight Production's 2009 short play competition. ShortLived 2.0 is a six-round, 13-week long audience-voting competition. *Grunion Run* beat out 28 plays in the competition this year. The prize is a commission to write a play for PianoFight to run in their Off-Market Theater for one month.

In addition, Bill was one of only twelve Bay Area playwrights chosen in 2008 for Theatre Bay Area/TheatreWorks Playwrights Showcase and has been a finalist for the Heideman Award in the National Ten-minute Play Contest. His plays have been featured in the Last Frontier Theatre Conference, Off-Market Theatre, San Francisco Fringe Festival and New Writers/New Works. He has participated in the Will Dunne Dramatic Writing Workshop since 2001, is a member of the Monday Night Playwrights Group ([www.mondaynightgroup.net](http://www.mondaynightgroup.net)) and the Dramatists Guild.

This production marks the first time Virago will take a show out of Alameda for a chance to perform at The Ashby Stage in Berkeley and StageWerx in San Francisco. Virago's goal is to outreach to lovers of new works and edgy productions in Berkeley and San Francisco in hopes to bring those playgoers back to Alameda for our Spring 2010 production of *La Bohème*.

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