

# PaulLucasPRODUCTIONS

## THEATRICAL MANAGEMENT AND MARKETING

484 West 43<sup>rd</sup> Street    ☐    Apartment 25F    ☐    New York, NY 10036

For Immediate Release:

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## Woody Sez

*The Words, Music & Spirit of WOODY GUTHRIE*

☆☆☆☆ *The Scotsman*

To Begin Tour of UK and Germany

[27 March, 2008 – NYC, NY] Cossette Productions and Paul Lucas Productions today announced the international tour of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe four star smash hit **Woody Sez - The Words, Music & Spirit of Woody Guthrie**, the brainchild of **David Lutken**, renowned Broadway performer, storyteller and guitar theatre legend. **Performances begin 7 May in Belfast, Northern Ireland and run through 14 July in Recklinghausen, Germany.**

Woody Sez celebrates the spirit of American folk legend Woody Guthrie, "America's greatest ballad maker", whose music continues to inspire today's finest storytelling songwriters including **Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen, John Mellencamp, the Indigo Girls** and **Billy Bragg**. Charismatic Broadway and recording artist David Lutken, who plays the title role, is joined by three multi-talented folk musicians collected from the four corners of America who bring Guthrie's music to life with twin fiddles, guitars, bass, harmonica, banjo, mandolin, dulcimer, dobro and beautiful folk harmonies.

Part music, part words, Woody Sez weaves together Guthrie's songs with excerpts from articles he wrote for the leftist newspaper *The People's World* to create a portrait of a true American hero, a man who would "always be there whenever working folks fight for their rights". As author John Steinbeck wrote "There is nothing sweet about Woody, and there is nothing sweet about the songs he sings. But there is something more important for those willing to listen". Woody "wrote and sang the songs of common folks, songs that lifted the spirits of people beaten down by the corporations and the banks".

David Lutken comes to Edinburgh directly from the recent Broadway revival of *Inherit the Wind*, starring Christopher Plummer and Brian Dennehy. In 2006, he was notably featured in the Broadway production of *Ring of Fire: The Johnny Cash Musical* and has also appeared on Broadway in *The Civil War* and as another American legend, Will Rogers, in *The Will Rogers Follies*.

Woody Sez has also temporarily robbed the Great White Way of distinguished actor and director **Nick Corley**, who until recently, was appearing in the Broadway company of the West End hit, *Mary Poppins*. The Woody Sez cast is rounded out by **Darcie Deaville** (fiddling/ songwriting folk singer extraordinaire from Austin, Texas), **Andy Teirstein** (a highly-regarded composer/playwright/performer), and **Helen Russell** (singer/bass player and heartbeat of the band), to provide a highly enjoyable hour, suitable for all ages.

"From the first beat to the final coda, the relevance then and now of Guthrie's works drives the quartet to one of the stand out musical performances of the year. Recommended without hesitation." *The Edinburgh Fringe Show*

For photos and further information, please visit [www.woodysez.com](http://www.woodysez.com) or contact Paul Lucas on 001 212 505 8908 (NYC) or 07914 702 607 (after May 6) or by e-mail at [press@paulucasproductions.com](mailto:press@paulucasproductions.com).

**Complete tour schedule on the following page.**

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### Woody Sez May/June 2008 Tour Dates

|         |         |                           |                         |
|---------|---------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| May 7   | 8:00 pm | Belfast Waterfront Studio | Northern Ireland        |
| May 8   | 8:00 pm | Belfast Waterfront Studio | Northern Ireland        |
| May 10  | 5:20 pm | Brighton Unitarian Church | Brighton, UK            |
| May 11  | 5:20 pm | Brighton Unitarian Church | Brighton, UK            |
| May 12  | 7:20 pm | Brighton Unitarian Church | Brighton, UK            |
| May 13  | 7:20 pm | Brighton Unitarian Church | Brighton, UK            |
| May 14  | 7:20 pm | Brighton Unitarian Church | Brighton, UK            |
| June 3  | 8:00 pm | Croydon Clocktower        | Greater London, UK      |
| June 5  | 8:00 pm | Ruhrfestspiele            | Recklinghausen, Germany |
| June 6  | 8:00 pm | Ruhrfestspiele            | Recklinghausen, Germany |
| June 7  | 8:00 pm | Ruhrfestspiele            | Recklinghausen, Germany |
| June 9  | 8:00 pm | Ruhrfestspiele            | Recklinghausen, Germany |
| June 10 | 8:00 pm | Ruhrfestspiele            | Recklinghausen, Germany |
| June 11 | 8:00 pm | Ruhrfestspiele            | Recklinghausen, Germany |
| June 12 | 8:00 pm | Ruhrfestspiele            | Recklinghausen, Germany |
| June 13 | 8:00 pm | Ruhrfestspiele            | Recklinghausen, Germany |
| June 14 | 8:00 pm | Ruhrfestspiele            | Recklinghausen, Germany |

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### THE COMPANY

**David Lutken** has been making his living as a performer in music and theatre for 30 years. As a player of traditional American instruments, folk music comprises a very large part of his repertoire. Born and raised in Dallas, Texas, David received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Classical Studies from Duke University. He studied in London at the Royal School of Church Music, the Royal College of Music, and the Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Arts. His Broadway credits include *Ring of Fire*, *The Civil War* and *The Will Rogers Follies*. He has appeared at Carnegie Hall, with the New York City Opera, the Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra and internationally in the UK and Europe. David began his professional connection with Woody Guthrie and Woody Guthrie Publications in 1988, which led to his creating various folk music/American history lessons for school children and young adults. Most recently seen in the 2007 Broadway revival of *Inherit the Wind*, Mr. Lutken led the 1920's gospel-style quartet and served as the production's music supervisor.

Originally from Toronto, **Darcie Deaville** has musically collaborated with Ray Wylie Hubbard, Jimmy LaFave, Ani di Franco, Tom Paxton, Slaid Cleaves, the Austin Lounge Lizards, Tish Hinojosa, The Meat Purveyors and John McEuen. Darcie is equally at home playing the guitar, mandolin, octave mandolin or violin. She's also an accomplished actor, writer, producer and musical director. In August 2001, Darcie's one woman musical, *Tornado In Slo Mo*, debuted at the Hyde Park Theatre in Austin, Texas, which she now calls home. Darcie has recorded and released four CDs: *Darcie Deaville Plays the Fiddle and Sings* (Taller Dog), *Tornado In Slo Mo* (Redwing Music), *Ways To Fly* Gillman Deaville (Flying Fish Records) and *Last Hitchhiker on the Lost Highway* (independent). Her book on learning to playing the fiddle, *Twinkle, Twinkle Fiddle Star* is soon to be published.

**Helen Russell** has been playing and singing in theatrical and folk ensembles all of her life. An accomplished pianist, she took up the bass to join Mr. Lutken's Seat of the Pants Band. A Maryland girl now at home in New York City, Helen is the founder & director of The City Singers, an a capella choir (featured on Blues Traveler's *Save Your Soul*). She has co-written and produced over 15 shows with Ten to One Productions, has recorded with Jane Gillman, Christine Lavin and Nick Demas, and can be heard on the original cast album of *Woody Guthrie's American Song*. She was also a cast member for the European debut of *American Song*. Helen recently completed a 5-month tour of Austria (with Mr. Lutken and Ms. Deaville) in *This Land is Your Land* with Vienna's English Theatre. "Her voice, pure and supple, handed down through generations, recalls the rich and rolling piedmont of her native home".

In addition to performing, **Andy Teirstein** writes music for the concert hall, film, theatre, and dance. He has composed several film scores, including "Men" for BBC and *Margaret Sanger* for PBS. Two of his musicals, *Winter Man* and *Skels* received an NEA Opera/Musical Theatre Award. Mr. Teirstein's eclectic background, has led him to collaborations with choreographers Donald Byrd, Stephen Petronio, Phyllis Lamhut, Liz Lerman, Sara Pearson, Nina Wiener, Patricia Nanon, and Randy Warshaw. He received an MFA as a member of the first class of the New York University Musical Theatre Program, where he studied with Leonard Bernstein, Stephen Sondheim & Arthur Laurents. Andy has continued his musical education in the pubs of Ireland, studying with Hopi and Cheyenne Indians in the U.S. and Mexico, performing as a musical clown with a Mexican circus and journeying to Romania and Bulgaria on an Artslink Fellowship to collect traditional music. Recordings include: *Mannahatta*, and

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*Maramures*, recorded by the Czech Radio Symphony in Prague. He is currently Associate Professor of Arts at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts.

**Nick Corley (Director)** has directed several world premieres, including the recent off-Broadway productions of *Tall Grass* at the Beckett Theatre and *Flight* at the Lucille Lortel. Also to his directorial credit: *Fables in Slang - A Ragtime Revue*, *The Civil War* (co-directed with Gregory Boyd) at Houston's Alley Theatre, *Eliot Ness...In Cleveland* at Denver Theatre Center, *A Young Lady of Fashion* at the historic Fulton Opera House, *The Overcoat* (Fringe Festival), *The Bomb-itty of Errors* at the Adirondack Theatre Festival, *The Little Foxes* at the Fulton Opera House, Ned Rorem's *Four Dialogues* at Merkin Concert Hall and *Sherlock's Last Case* at the Alley Theatre. Recent productions include *The Ghost Brothers of Darkland County* by Stephen King and John Mellencamp, and Lance Horne and Mark Campbell's *A Hunger Artist*.

### PRODUCERS

#### Cossette Productions

**Paul Lucas Productions** is a theatrical producing, general managing, and marketing company based in New York City. PLP has produced over a dozen plays and readings in New York, including *Messages for Gary*, *Flyer*, *Nosferatu*, *50 Minutes with Harriet & Phillis*, *TimeSlips*, *Son of Drakula*, *that Woman: Rebecca West Remembers*, and *When Aunt Daphne Went Nude*.

In Edinburgh, Paul has been engaged as the Press and Marketing Director of the Southside Venue and as Press and Marketing Director of Aurora Nova venue (named Best Venue on the Fringe by the Guardian in 2004.) In 2004, he presented *Kafka's The Metamorphosis* at the Fringe, which garnered a five star review in The Scotsman, and last year, his productions of *What I Heard About Iraq* and *Taylor Mac* won a Fringe First Award and a Herald Angel Award, respectively. In 2007, he co-produced *Woody Sez*, *A Conversation with Edith Head*, *Dai (Enough)*, *Spawn and Die*, *The Panel*, and *Woody Sez* on the Fringe. He is also currently touring *Miss Coco Peru* in London and Brighton.