

PaulLucasPRODUCTIONS

THEATRICAL MANAGEMENT AND MARKETING

484 West 43rd Street | Apartment 25F | New York, NY 10036

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David Lutken in **Woody Sez**

The Words, Music & Spirit of WOODY GUTHRIE

[12 May, 2007 – NYC, NY] – Melting Pot Theatre Company and Paul Lucas Productions today announced the world premiere of **Woody Sez - The Words, Music & Spirit of Woody Guthrie**, the latest brainchild of **David Lutken**, renowned Broadway performer, storyteller and guitar theatre legend. **Performances begin 2 August and run through 27 August at 13:35 at the Udderbelly's Cow Barn (Reid Concert Hall) in Bristo Square, as part of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.**

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 current 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 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.

Woody Sez will be performed daily @ 13.35 (1 hr) from 2 – 27 August (no 14) at the Udderbelly's Cow Barn (Reid Concert Hall), Bristo Square. Prices: Previews (2 & 3 Aug) all tickets £6; Weekdays, £9/ (£8 concs); Weekends £10 /£9 (concs).

For photos and further information, please contact the Underbelly press office at press@underbelly.co.uk or 0870 745 3078. For additional information and photos, visit www.woodysez.com or contact Paul Lucas on 001 212 505 8908 (NYC) or 07914 702 607 (after July 28) or by e-mail at press@paulucasproductions.com.

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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 has a graduate degree in acting from the Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Arts. 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 music supervisor.

Nick Corley 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*.

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".

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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* recieved 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*, (August 1992) and *Maramusres*, recorded by the Czech Radio Symphony in Prague (February 1999). He is currently Associate Professor of Arts at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts.

PRODUCERS

The Melting Pot Theatre Company is a professional, not-for-profit, off-Broadway production company led by Founding Artistic Director Larry Hirschhorn that seeks to explore the themes, people, and events that shape the unique American experience. MPTC presents culturally diverse theatre that is emotionally stirring, thought-provoking, and reflects the country's population.

Since 1997, MPTC has produced 15 acclaimed off-Broadway productions. *Cobb*, which received the 2001 Drama Desk Award for Best Ensemble Performance and, with the support of co-producers Kevin Spacey and Elizabeth McCann, transferred to the Lucille Lortel Theatre for a celebrated commercial run; *Woody Guthrie's American Song*, nominated for two Drama Desk Awards (including Best New Musical Revue, and the Outer Critics' Circle Award for Outstanding Off-Broadway Musical); *Miss Evers' Boys*, which received four AUDELCO Award nominations. Last season, MPTC presented the critically acclaimed NY premiere of *Cookin' at the Cookery: The Music and Times of Alberta Hunter*, which was nominated for two Drama Desk Awards, two Drama League Awards (including Distinguished Production of a Musical), and six AUDELCO Awards.

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. This year, he is proud to be co-producing *A Conversation with Edith Head*, *Dai (Enough)*, *Spawn and Die*, *The Panel*, and *Woody Sez* on the Fringe.