

For Immediate Release

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Press Contact: Judith Borne

(310) 305-7888

judith@borneidentities.com

MUTINEER proudly presents the **WORLD PREMIERE** of

“DITCH” by Taylor Coffman

OPENING January 30, 2010 with reception to follow

Running Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 7pm

Los Angeles, CA – Love is a battlefield... and *DITCH* is a whimsical new comedy that delights in an irreverent and humorous look at the trials and tribulations of love, and relationships. Who we love and who we try desperately not to love determines much of where we go in life. William and Beth are two young people who grapple from within for their truest selves, and for the ability to love honestly.

The **world premiere** of Taylor Coffman's *DITCH* is being launched by **Mutineer Theatre Company**, one of the newest performing arts ventures in Los Angeles. Mutineer's inaugural production of *LIE WITH ME* opened to rave reviews and several '**Critic's Pick's**' in March 2009.

Mutineer Theatre Company is comprised of actors, visual artists, composers, writers, dancers, photographers, sculptors, filmmakers, directors, and designers working collaboratively to conceive unique and inspired work. The company is committed to creating intelligent, challenging, and thought-provoking theatre that observes, explores, and reflects upon the human condition. It is their goal to establish themselves as a resource for the **development of new works**.

Playwright **TAYLOR COFFMAN'S** work has been presented at the **Kennedy Center Page to Stage Festival**. She was awarded a George Mason University Theatre Scholarship and is an honoree of the department's **award for Outstanding Performance**. Taylor studied playwriting under award winning playwright **Heather MacDonald**, received a fellowship at the **Folger Shakespeare Library**, a **Virginia Arts Council Award**, and represented her college as an **Irene Ryan nominee**. She has been in Los Angeles for three years working solely in theatre, late night television comedy and film.

MISSION STATEMENT: The Mission of Mutineer Theatre Company is to create, develop, and produce diverse and original material through an explorative and experimental collaborative effort. We are committed to working in a manner that places reverence on the voice of the artist, in whatever medium, to celebrate the work in a unified vision, discipline, and regard.

DITCH opens **Saturday, January 30, 2010** (previews January 29th) and runs through February 28, 2010 at The Lounge Theatre, 6201 Santa Monica Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90038. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 7pm. **Tickets are \$18** (\$25 for opening night gala) and may be purchased by calling **(323) 960-7787** or online www.plays411.com/ditch.

Director **JON COHN** is the founding Artistic Director of Mutineer Theatre Company. Most recently he returned from Washington, DC where he directed the East Coast premiere of *LIE WITH ME*, which was originally produced in Los Angeles last spring as MTC's inaugural production.

Jon has worked with some of DC's most prominent stages and most of its new play festivals. He is a founding company member of Project Y, an artistic associate of Charter Theatre, and a veteran of multiple regional and national tours performing Shakespeare, classical, and theatre for young audiences. He is a proud recipient of the Theatre Lobby's **Mary Goldwater Award for Excellence in Acting** as well as a **Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Resident Play**. Jon has directed classical and contemporary theatre on the professional, collegiate, and high school levels. Off the stage, he is honored to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Proteus Syndrome Foundation, and works for NPR affiliate 89.3 KPCC, Southern California Public Radio.

STEPHANIE CHANG (Producer) just came off of her gig as Resident Producer for Lodestone Theatre Ensemble and has produced five shows with the company including *THE GOLDEN HOUR*, *CLOSER THAN EVER* and *GRACE KIM & THE SPIDERS FROM MARS*. At Sony Pictures Television, Stephanie is an executive in International Creative Development.

KENNETH REQUA (Associate Producer) is currently working as the Post Production Supervisor for the upcoming FOX comedy series *SONS OF TUCSON*, with past credits including *CRASH*, *ROME*, and *SIX FEET UNDER*. Kenneth is currently writing and developing two original stage projects including an untitled musical for MTC. He is a graduate from USC's School of Cinematic Arts.

THE ENSEMBLE

AMBER HAMILTON (Beth) created the role of Susan in the World Premiere of *LIE WITH ME* at MTC. She has been seen as Kim in *BYE BYE BIRDIE*, Agatha Wylie in *SMASH*, and Alice in *ALICE IN WONDERLAND* Walt Disney World stage. Film credits include *PRIDE AND PREJUDICE* and Disney's *PIXEL PERFECT*. Amber has performed in the award-winning TV Pilot *COST OF LIVING* and short films *GROWING UP VEGAS* and *DADDY'S GIRL*, to name a few.

NINA MILLIN (Elizabeth) played Katharina in *THE TAMING OF THE SHREW*, Mary Shelley in *BLOODY POETRY*, and was in the ensemble of the Unbound Theatre Company's production of *UNDER MILKWOOD*. Nina is now working with Janet Mylott to develop & workshop her new play *RED ROSE GIRLS*. She has appeared in a variety of films including *HYSTERICAL BLINDNESS*, *CURVE OF EARTH*, and *THE BOX*. Nina has had notable TV roles on *CSI*, *WHAT ABOUT BRIAN*, and *THE SOPRANOS*. She is a graduate of The College of William & Mary as well as Circle In The Square Theatre Conservatory in NYC.

TODD VENEMAN (Bill) received his BFA in theater from Stephens College, a private school for women. Some of his most memorable stage roles are Bottom in *A Midsummer night's Dream*, and Dr. Wally in *Marvin's Room*. You may also remember him in *ANCHORMAN* or his two Super Bowl commercials. Todd is an alum of Improv Olympic and proud to be a member of Mutineer Theater Company.

ALEX KLEIN (William) appeared as Laertes in *HAMLET* at Impact Theater in Berkeley and recently as Lee in *TRUE WEST* at Oregon Stage Works in Ashland, Oregon.

ABOUT OUR DESIGN TEAM

MATT RICHTER (Lighting Designer) has worked on more than 300 productions. Recent credits include *IT'S THE HOUSEWIVES*, *A GRAND GUIGNOL CHILDREN'S SHOW*, *A MULHOLLAND CHRISTMAS CAROL*, and *SONA TERA ROMAN HESS*. As half of the experimental ambient duo Lanfair Field, Matt was honored as a 'runner-up' for original score and original sound design for *ASLEEP ON A BICYCLE* at the Lillian Theatre, for the 2008 Ticketholder Awards. Matt serves as designer in residence for numerous theatre companies, and as technical director for both the Lounge and the Art/Works theaters.

DAVIS CAMPBELL (Set Designer) has designed/built sets for numerous stage, film, and music video projects in and around Los Angeles. Highlights include *EXISTENCE* (Cannes Film Festival), Atreyu's music video "*The Theft*," and stage productions of *HATFUL OF RAIN*, *TWENTIETH CENTURY*, *SONA TERRA ROMA HESS*, *A MULHOLLAND CHRISTMAS CAROL*, and *THE ELVIS TEST*.

JAMES RICHTER (Sound Designer) designed the sound for the World Premiere production of *LIE WITH ME* at MTC. He is a classically trained composer and a graduate of USC's Scoring for Motion Pictures and Television program. He spent most of this decade recording and mixing content for **National Public Radio's** "Marketplace" and "Marketplace Money." He has served as producer for a series of classical and children's records, most recently *A MUSICAL PLAYGROUND*. His work can be heard on the online sitcom *CAST THIS* at castthis.net.

KARLA CONTRERAS (Costume Designer) is a recent graduate of Woodbury University where she majored in Fashion Design and minored in Costume and Fashion Marketing. Karla grew up in the Los Angeles area and recently worked on costumes for Lodestone Theater including a revival of Tennessee Williams' *SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER*, the revival of Richard Maltby, Jr. and David Shire's musical revue *CLOSER THAN EVER*, and original pieces from *TEN TO LIFE*. She served as the assistant costume designer for *THE MIKADO PROJECT* as well as the *CHARLES KIM SHOW* (webisode for staytuned).

WHAT: DITCH

Playwright: Taylor Coffman

Directed by: Jon Cohn

Executive Producers: Mutineer Theatre Company

Producer: Stephanie Chang and Jon Cohn

Associate Producers: Kenneth Requa and Amy Schloerb

WHERE:

The Lounge Theatre

6201 Santa Monica Boulevard

Los Angeles, CA 90038

WHEN: Preview on Friday, January 29th

Opening January 30, 2010 with reception to follow

Running: Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm

Sundays at 7pm

Closing: February 28, 2010

HOW:

For reservations call: **(323) 960-7787** or online www.plays411.com/ditch

HOW MUCH:

Tickets are **\$18** (Gala Event tickets are \$25 only for Saturday, January 30th), discounts for students and seniors. Preview performance \$9

Description: DITCH is a whimsical new comedy that delights in an irreverent and humorous look at the trials and tribulations of love, and relationships. Who we love and who we try desperately not to love determines much of where we go in life. William and Beth are two young people who grapple from within for their truest selves, and for the ability to love honestly.

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