



## Synetic Theater

DC's Premier Physical Theater

4041 Campbell Ave. | Arlington VA 22206 | 703.824.8060

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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DATE: May 11, 2011

## Synetic Theater Announces its 2011-2012 Main Stage Season!

**Arlington, VA** – With an unprecedented year of programming, Synetic Theater is thrilled to announce the seven plays in its 2011-12 Main Stage season, six of which will be performed at Synetic Theater's home in Crystal City. This season, Synetic will also focus on building its touring capabilities and launch a new series to bring physical theater from around the globe to Washington, DC.

Synetic kicks off the 2011-12 Main Stage season in September with **"Speak No More" – The Silent Shakespeare Festival**. To celebrate ten years of new, inventive physical theater, Founding Artistic Director Paata Tsikurishvili will bring back three of Synetic's most acclaimed Silent Shakespeare Series productions: *Macbeth*, *Othello*, and *Romeo and Juliet*.

One of the most successful Synetic productions of all time, *Macbeth*, returns with its dark tale of ambition, bloodlust and the supernatural. In 2008, *Macbeth* was the recipient of five Helen Hayes Awards after being nominated for 11. Fresh off of its nine Helen Hayes Award Nominations and three Awards, Synetic's edgy, mind-bending take on *Othello* will work its magic on the Crystal City stage in October. And just in time for the holidays, the company will remount its passionate and lyrical production of *Romeo and Juliet*. Nominated for six Helen Hayes Awards and the recipient of two, *Romeo and Juliet* is the classic story of star-crossed lovers that "lifts the company to another magnitude of accomplishment." (Washington Post, 2008)

In the winter of 2012, Synetic will launch a new series – **"New Movements"**– with a mission to develop Synetic artists, directors and playwrights, and bring world physical theater to Washington, DC. This year's series will feature plays by Senior Company Member Ben Cunis and acclaimed visual theater artist Miřenka řechov of the Czech Republic. In Prague, Ms. řechov founded Tantehorse and Spitfire Company, award-winning ensemble theaters focused on experimental and expressive physical technique. Her troupe has performed in Germany, Poland, Italy, Bulgaria, Hungary and Israel.

In the spring of 2012, Synetic returns to comedy and presents the eighth installment in the Silent Shakespeare series: *The Taming of the Shrew* starring Irina Tsikurishvili at the Lansburgh Theatre in downtown Washington, DC, in a continuing special alliance with the Shakespeare Theatre Company. And finally, opening Memorial Day weekend, the world premiere of a new text-based play, *Home of the Soldier*, commemorates the heroism of our armed forces. The story follows a young American who goes to war and his father who rejoins the army in order to find his son. The journey that follows is an odyssey through the landscape of war and is a powerful story of honor, courage and love.

"With the Silent Shakespeare Festival, I am thrilled to be able to share some of our most exciting works from the last five years, giving our growing audience access to shows they may not have seen," says Paata Tsikurishvili, Founding Artistic Director and CEO. "It also gives us the opportunity to prepare an acting company that is ready to tour with this series. I am also excited to launch the New Movements series, which will nurture new work and new artists in the Synetic style."



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### 2011-2012 Main Stage Season

## **Speak No More – The Silent Shakespeare Festival**

### ***Macbeth***

***Nominated for 11 Helen Hayes Awards and Recipient of 5 in 2008 including Outstanding Resident Play***

**Directed by Paata Tsikurishvili and Choreographed by Irina Tsikurishvili**

**Starring Irina Tsikurishvili and Irakli Kavsadze**

**Crystal City, Arlington, VA**

**September 14 – October 2, 2011**

“a fiery adaptation that puts the company’s dynamic style on exhilarating display” – *The Washington Post*

“Like much of what’s best about Synetic, it’s fearlessly big, sensuously charged, a conscious flaunting of bodies and training and technique—and it fairly explodes off the stage.” – *Washington CityPaper*

If the first installment *Hamlet...the rest is silence* surprised Washington audiences with its silence, Synetic’s second Silent Shakespeare production took the area by storm with a “titanic clash of blood and thunder.” Set in a dark, impressionistic, military world, *Macbeth* is a swirl of murder, madness and self-destruction, exploring the outsized ambitions of a husband and wife.

### ***Othello***

***Nominated for 9 Helen Hayes Awards and Recipient of 3 in 2011 including Outstanding Ensemble and Outstanding Director***

**Directed by Paata Tsikurishvili and Choreographed by Irina Tsikurishvili**

**Crystal City, Arlington, VA**

**October 19 – November 6, 2011**

“Smashing production... a genre that it has all but reinvented—vacuuming out the dialogue in Shakespeare’s greatest works and redecorating with mesmerizing movement... scorching physicality... a marvelous infusion of up-to-the-minute visual technique.” – *The Washington Post*

“*Othello* wows without words... Synetic is certainly one of the most innovative theater arts organizations in the DC area, indeed, in the US.” – *DC Examiner*

The machinations of Iago are as labyrinthine and dark as the struggles of his mind, and these are all made manifest in *Othello*. The rapid ascent of the powerful Othello and his love affair with the beautiful Desdemona is thrilling to watch, but it literally fractures the jealous Iago. Themes of love, jealousy, race and perception are explored through the use of onstage projections, a shifting geometric set, and the swirling choreography and physical expression of Synetic’s performers and creators. *Othello* represents a bold new step in the evolution of the silent theater for which Synetic has become acclaimed.

### ***Romeo and Juliet***

***Nominated for 6 Helen Hayes Awards and Recipient of 2 in 2009 including Outstanding Ensemble and Outstanding Director***

**Directed by Paata Tsikurishvili and Choreographed by Irina Tsikurishvili**

**Crystal City, Arlington, VA**

**November 25 – December 23, 2011**



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"If you've never experienced the hyper-theatrical dance moves and dramatics of the astonishing Synetic Theater, may I suggest that now would be a very good time to start?" – *The Washington Post*

"...like a pack of Olympic gymnasts pitted for their lives against Cirque du Soleil acrobats in some half-gravity environment—that's how fearless, how fast, how goddamn airborne it seems." – *Washington CityPaper*

Shakespeare's classic story of star-crossed lovers is one of Synetic's landmark productions. Love, passion and timelessness are all made stunningly physical in this rendition of Shakespeare's great romantic tragedy. Set within the gears of a giant clock, Synetic's adaptation explores the untimely nature of one of literature's greatest love stories. The gears of the clock become the world – the church, the balcony and the mausoleum all transform before the eyes. Using shadows, props, mime, dance, sinuous combat, and, most of all, passionate acting, *Romeo and Juliet* is a heartstopping thrill to experience.

## New Movements

February 9 – March 25, 2012

Crystal City, Arlington, VA

Celebrating a new generation of physical theater artists from around the globe, Synetic will launch a new series – "**New Movements**" – with a mission to develop Synetic artists, directors and playwrights, and bring world physical theater to Washington, DC. This year's series will feature plays by Senior Company Member Ben Cunis and acclaimed visual theater artist Miřenka Āechov of the Czech Republic. In Prague, Ms. Āechov founded Tantehorse and Spitfire Company, award-winning ensemble theaters focused on experimental and expressive physical technique. Her troupe has performed in Germany, Poland, Italy, Bulgaria, Hungary and Israel.

### ***Genesis Reboot***

Written by Ben and Peter Cunis

Directed by Ben Cunis

February 9 – March 4, 2012

What happens when you start everything over? A lone Angel tries to answer this question in an attempt to restart the story of the beginning of humanity: the same story, only better. Lightning dialogue meets extreme movement in this dark comedy, as the powerful Angel and a wisecracking Demon struggle over a retelling of Genesis. Adam, Eve, Cain and Abel are all reinvented as the Synetic ensemble brings the beginning of Creation to life, with choreography by Irina Tsikurishvili.

### ***Light in the Darkness***

***A decadent, surreal and blasphemous mixture of physical theater, mime and modern dance***

**Conceived and Presented by Tantehorse – Physical Theater Company of the Czech Republic**

**Directed by Petr Bohc**

**Starring Miřenka Āechov and Radim Vizvry**

**March 8 – March 25, 2012**

Acclaimed actress Miřenka Āechov, and her company Tantehorse from the Czech Republic will mount *Light in the Darkness*, a two-part piece – *On the Dark Road: The Death of Marquis de Sade* and *Light in the Darkness: Dante* – that fuses the disciplines of physical theater, mime and modern dance. The first part, *On the Dark Road*, is composed of dreams and fantasies and invites the audience to a fictional picture gallery of sins in which various images of death appear and disappear. One fantastic image emerges and develops into another, demanding the viewer's individual imagination and experience. *Light in the Darkness*



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combines surreal and decadent poetry with elements of physical theater and modern dance. Hell is not in others: hell exists within us – just as we contain within us the promise of heaven.

### **The Taming of the Shrew**

**World Premiere**

**Directed by Paata Tsikurishvili and Choreographed by Irina Tsikurishvili**

**Starring Irina Tsikurishvili**

**Lansburgh Theatre, DC**

**March 31 – April 22, 2012**

Synetic returns to comedy and presents the eighth installment in the Silent Shakespeare series, *The Taming of the Shrew*, at the Lansburgh Theatre in downtown Washington, DC, in a continuing special alliance with the Shakespeare Theatre Company. Irina Tsikurishvili will play the title character in one of the Bard's best-known romantic comedies, while the Helen Hayes Award-winning ensemble brings its signature physicality and aesthetic to reinvent this remarkable, fiery war of the sexes.

### **Home of the Soldier**

**World Premiere**

**Directed by Paata Tsikurishvili and Choreographed by Irina Tsikurishvili**

**Crystal City, Arlington, VA**

**May 23 – July 1, 2012**

Opening Memorial Day weekend, the world premiere of a new text-based play, *Home of the Soldier*, commemorates the heroism of our armed forces. The story follows a young American who goes to war and his father who rejoins the army in order to find his son. The journey that follows is an odyssey through the landscape of war and is a powerful story of honor, courage and love.

**ALL SHOW TITLES, DATES, CAST, AND CREW ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**

#### **ABOUT SYNETIC THEATER**

Founded in 2001 by the husband and wife team of Paata and Irina Tsikurishvili, Synetic Theater is DC's Premier Physical Theater, whose mission is **to be the premier American physical theater**, fusing dynamic art forms—such as text, drama, movement, acrobatics, dance, and music, by producing world-class physical theater for all ages, educating the next generation of artists and physical theater professionals, and promoting this distinct form of theater nationally and internationally through community outreach and touring programs. Synetic's unique performance style is simultaneously avant-garde and accessible, with a broad appeal to a wide, culturally diverse, and cross-generational audience.

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Venue:** Synetic Theater at Crystal City

**Address:** 1800 S. Bell St., Arlington, VA 22202

**Metro:** Crystal City (Blue / Yellow Lines)

**Parking:** Free after 4pm on weekdays, Free all day on weekends

**Venue:** Lansburgh Theatre

**Address:** 450 7<sup>th</sup> St. NW, Washington, DC 20004

**Metro:** Archives-Navy Memorial-Penn Quarter (Yellow / Green Lines)

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