



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Press Contact:

Jayne Powers, [jpowers@trtc.org](mailto:jpowers@trtc.org)

732.345.1400 ext 830

[www.trtc.org](http://www.trtc.org)

## **Tom Werder joins Two River Theater Company as the new Managing Director**

**Headshot attached.**

Red Bank, NJ – The Board of Trustees of Two River Theater Company announced on Thursday the appointment of **Tom Werder** as the theater’s new **Managing Director**. Werder fills the position vacated last June by Guy Gsell, now an Associate General Manager for Running Subway in New York City. The six-month, nationwide search surprisingly led to theater’s own backyard.

“I’m delighted that we managed to hook Tom Werder to be our Managing Director. Doubly delighted because we found him right here in New Jersey,” says **Robert Rechnitz**, Founder and Executive Producer of the theater. “Hip to the acting scene within the state, experienced as a manager in a number of first-rate theaters, knowledgeable about dance given his years with Carolyn Dorfman, a Master’s degree from Yale University School of Drama, Tom will be a superb Managing Director at Two River Theater, and I look forward to working with him. “

**Werder** has been the Executive Director of the Carolyn Dorfman Dance Company based in Union, New Jersey for eight years and was the managing director of George Street Playhouse in New Brunswick, New Jersey. Prior to that he was the managing director for Portland Stage Company in Portland, Maine where he was also a member of the Executive Committee of the Portland Arts and Cultural Alliance, an organization charged with the creation of a Downtown Arts District and credited with the revitalization of the city’s downtown area. On a national level, he was twice an Executive Committee member of the League of Resident Theatres (LORT) and has served on the Executive Committee and Board of Dance/USA and is the treasurer of Dance New Jersey.

**Artistic Director Aaron Posner** echoes Rechnitz’s enthusiasm. “I’m thrilled Tom is joining us,” says **Posner**. “We have an amazing team here at TRTC. Whenever I listen to CNN and hear ‘The Best Political

Team on Television', I always think that's what we've got: The Best Theater Team in New Jersey. We've built an amazing, passionate, talented group of artists and administrators who care about the art *and* the business of theater, and Tom is exactly what we have been looking for to round out the team. We could not be more pleased that he is joining us."

"I am thrilled to be joining the leadership team of Artistic Director Aaron Posner and Founders Bob and Joan Rechnitz at Two River Theater Company at such an extraordinary time in its history," says **Werder**. "I am so impressed with the theater that Bob and Joan have created and how it has already had a significant impact in Red Bank and the surrounding area. Aaron's arrival and his instant success have created an excitement and audience growth that is the envy of theater companies across the country. I look forward to a partnership that supports Aaron's dynamic artistic vision and to working closely with Aaron, Bob, the Board and staff to continue to create excellent theater work and educational programming that engages and enhances the Red Bank community and the region."

Werder will step into his role as Managing Director in mid-January 2009.

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**TWO RIVER THEATER COMPANY** is a professional not-for-profit regional theater company, providing outstanding plays and educational programs for audiences of central New Jersey and beyond. TRTC was founded in 1994 by Robert and Joan Rechnitz and over the past 14 seasons has grown into one of the most vital and dynamic arts organizations in the region. Since opening its new theater in May of 2005, TRTC has hosted a number of luminaries and award winners, including Bruce Springsteen, Olympia Dukakis, Jackson Browne, Jon Bon Jovi, Edward Albee, Sheldon Harnick, and the African Children's Choir. The company received "Theatre of the Year" awards from the New Jersey Theatre Alliance in 2006, and from *The Star-Ledger* in both 2006 and 2008. TRTC is supported in part by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Dept. of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, and contributions from hundreds of local and national corporations, foundations, businesses and individuals. Two River Theater Company is a member of Theatre Communications Group and the New Jersey Theatre Alliance.