



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Two River Theater Company**

presents the world premiere of

# **REENTRY**

By **Emily Ackerman and KJ Sanchez**

Directed by **KJ Sanchez**

**January 20 – February 15, 2009**

Red Bank, NJ – Two River Theater Company welcomes the New Year with the world premiere production of ***ReEntry*** – an unflinching look at the lives of returning servicemen and women. This highly-theatrical multi-media event is based on hundreds of interviews with privates and colonels, combat vets and clerks, and one particularly memorable family. Surprising, heartbreaking, and true, these are the stories of coming home. Performed in the Marion Huber Theater, *ReEntry* begins previews on **Tuesday, January 20**, opens **Saturday, January 24**, and runs through **Sunday, February 15**. **Extreme language is used in this production.**

“Every day we come into contact with those who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan,” says TRTC’s Artistic Director **AARON POSNER**. “These veterans are a diverse, complex and varied group of individuals, and no play can give voice to them all. But over the past year and a half— since KJ Sanchez and Emily Ackerman began developing *ReEntry* — we have been honored to get to know some of these individuals. It has been a fascinating journey of discovery. We are convinced our audiences will find this world premiere engaging, illuminating and thought provoking.”

Two River Theater Company’s Associate Artistic Director **KJ SANCHEZ** is the **director** and **co-writer** of ***ReEntry***. Directing credits include *The Giver* at Asolo Repertory Theater, David Ives’ *Mere Mortals* at TRTC, Heather Raffo’s *9 Parts of Desire* at Actors Theatre of Louisville, and her own plays *Pants on Fire*, *Highway 47*, *Handcuff Girl Saves the World* and *Eye for Eye*. KJ is a New York Theatre Workshop Usual Suspect, a William and Eva Fox Foundation Fellow, a recipient of both the NEA/TCG CDP for Directors, and the Doris

Duke and Andrew W. Mellon Foundation TCG New Generations Program. Writer/actress **EMILY ACKERMAN** co-wrote *ReEntry* with Sanchez. Ackerman is an Associate Artist with The Civilians, and is an original collaborator and performer in *This Beautiful City* (currently running at The Vineyard Theatre), and *Shadow of Himself*. Performance credits include *Gone Missing* at Barrow Street Theatre, Lisa Kron in *Well* at Arena Stage, *The Constant Wife* at American Conservatory Theatre and Seattle Repertory Theatre, and *Ghosts* at Berkeley Repertory Theatre. She has two brothers currently in the US Marine Corps.

The cast of five includes **SAMEERAH LUQMAAN-HARRIS** (New York: *Comedy of Errors*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *As You Like It*, *Come Back To Me*) in the role of Mom and **SHEILA TAPIA** (Off-Broadway: *Elliot*, *A Soldiers Fugue*, *Welcome To Arroyos*, *Naughty Prep School Stories*, and *The Wrath of Aphrodite*) plays **Liz**. Brothers Charlie and John are portrayed by **BOBBY MORENO** (*OKAY*, *Cleansed*, *Offending the Audience*, *Seating Arrangements*, *Dawn*, *aBroadness*, *Orestes 2.0*) and **PJ SOSKO** (Off-Broadway: *The Jazz Age*, *Ernest Hemingway*, *Leap*, *The End of You*, *Automatic Earth*) respectively.

The final member of the cast is **New Jerseyan and former marine JOSEPH HARRELL**. **HARRELL** served in the United States Marine Corps from 1999-2008 and in addition to playing CO, he served as the acting company's drill sergeant. "Joe Harrell has been a boon to this production," says director **Sanchez**. "You see him on stage and there's no doubt – he's the real deal, a real Marine. It's a level of authenticity that brings the relevance of this play so much closer to home. And he's a gifted actor. When he looks right at the audience and tells us what it's like to prepare both heart and mind for combat, it's absolutely breathtaking. As a Marine, Joe served for many years as a Drill Instructor, taking hundreds of "boots" through basic training, breaking them down and rebuilding them as Warriors. And that's exactly what he's doing with this cast. Every day he takes them through the same torturous exercises and drills, and he holds *nothing* back! I don't know many actors willing to put themselves through such rigorous training, but this cast has stepped up to the challenge, in a *major* way, and the work they are all doing, and the level of commitment and passion in each of them inspires me every day. The audience will see five Marines, led by Joe, an extraordinary individual." Harrell's acting credits include *Time Remembered* and *The Servant of Two Masters* at the University of South Carolina Performing Arts Center. Harrell also was the military movement coordinator on *Man=Man* at The Yale School of Drama.

**Scenic and Costume Designer MARION WILLIAMS** (TRTC: *The Glass Menagerie*; International: *The Turn of the Screw* Leipzig, Germany; New Jersey: *King Lear*, *Measure for Measure*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *Of Mice and Men*) leads the design team. **THOM WEAVER** (TRTC: *Macbeth*, *Bad Dates* and *A Year with Frog and Toad*) is the **Lighting Designer** and **ZACHARY WILLIAMSON** (TRTC: *The Glass Menagerie*, *The Charlatan's Séance* and

*House of Blue Leaves*) is the **Sound Designer**. New Jersey film consultant **KEVIN CAMOOSA** is the **Video Designer** for *ReEntry*.

A series of **ancillary events and panel discussions** is planned to facilitate community conversation and understanding about the issues raised in *ReEntry*. This **FYI Series**, created in collaboration with Monmouth University, includes two events, ***Oral History of Performance*** and ***Thieves of Baghdad***, on Monmouth University's campus and two events, ***Combat and the Media*** and ***History of the Returning Warrior***, at the theater. Event details and panelists are listed below within the Calendar of Events. This series is made possible by a grant from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Additional support provided by the Two River Theater Company and Monmouth University Higher Learning Partnership.

The theater has established a **Military Ticket Fund**. Underwritten by Meridian Health and Linda and Paul Gaffney, the Military Ticket Fund provides complimentary tickets for veterans to attend *ReEntry* performances. To support this initiative, contact Elizabeth Shaff Sobo, Director of Development at 732.345.1400 extension 820. To reserve tickets, call the box office directly at 732.345.1400.

Underwritten in part by the **Stephen and Mary Birch Foundation**, *ReEntry* is scheduled to run **Tuesday, January 20** through **Sunday, February 15**. Tickets are \$30 for matinee performances, \$40 for evening performances and \$24 for patrons 21 years and younger. For more information, call 732.345.1400, visit [www.trtc.org](http://www.trtc.org) or visit the Two River Theater Company Box Office, located at 21 Bridge Avenue in Red Bank. Three-show subscriptions for the remainder of the 2008/2009 season are still available. Subscription prices range from \$87 - \$156 and are discounted at least **20%**. **Discounted group rates** and **dinner / theater packages** are available by calling TRTC's Sales Hotline at 732.345.1400 extension 813.

Box Office Hours: Monday-Saturday: 10am-6pm; Sunday: Noon-5pm

**Before Play**, TRTC's **free, pre-show discussion series**, is scheduled 30 minutes prior to every performance. Director and playwright **KJ Sanchez** discusses how she created this world premiere including interview techniques, how the play was shaped, and the challenges encountered along the way. This pre-show conversation begins 30 minutes before curtain.

**Post-show discussions** follow the 8:30pm performances on **Wednesday, January 28** and **Friday, February 13** and follow the matinees on **Sunday, February 1** at 3:30pm and **Wednesday, February 4** at 1:30pm. **Student matinee performances** are scheduled on **Tuesdays, January 27** and **February 3** at 10am.

TRTC is accessible to people with disabilities, including wheelchair accessibility, assisted listening devices and large print programs at every performance. Accessible seating is available by reservation. For more information call the Box Office at **732.345.1400**.

## CALENDAR NOTICE

### Special Events for *ReEntry*:

**Saturday, January 24** – Opening Night performance of *ReEntry* and post-show celebration.

**Thursday, January 29 at 4pm** – Panel discussion: **Oral History and Performance\***  
Club 108, Monmouth University

**Panelists:** **KJ Sanchez**, Associate Artistic Director at Two River Theater Company  
**Susan Douglass**, Professor of Oral History, the Holocaust, and the Vietnam Era  
**Deanna Shoemaker**, Professor of Applied Communication with a specialization in Performance Studies

**Wednesday, January 28, 8:30pm; Sunday, February 1, 3:30pm; Wednesday, February 4, 1:30pm; Friday, February 13, 8:30pm** – Post-show discussions follow each performance.

**Sunday, February 1 at 1:30pm** – Panel discussion: **Combat and the Media\***

**Panelists:** **Aaron Katersky**, ABC News Radio embedded reporter  
**Christopher DeRosa**, Professor of Military and Political History of the United States, the Cold War, and World War II.

**Thursday, February 5 at 4:30pm** - **Thieves of Baghdad\***

Young Auditorium, Monmouth University

**Colonel Matthew Bogdanos**, Author of the best-selling book *Thieves of Baghdad*  
Reservations recommended. Please call 732.345.1400 ext. 851.

**Thursday, February 5** – An **audio-described performance** is scheduled at 8:30pm. Tickets are \$14 for those needing audio-description. Call 732.345.1400.

**Sunday, February 8 at 1:30pm** – Panel discussion: **History of the Returning Warrior\***

**Panelists:** **Dr. Bridget Cantrell**, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder specialist  
**Morris Saldov**, Professor of Social Work  
**Robert Maras**, Vietnam Veteran and member of the White House Advisory Committee for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

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Members of the press are invited to the opening night performance of *ReEntry* on **Saturday, January 24 at 8:30pm. (Note 8:30pm curtain!)** Please schedule tickets through Jayme Powers, Director of Communications, by phone at **732.345.1400 extension 830** or via email at [jpowers@trtc.org](mailto:jpowers@trtc.org).

**WHERE:**

Two River Theater Company  
21 Bridge Street  
Red Bank, NJ 07701

**WHEN:**

January 20 – February 15, 2009

**HOW MUCH:**

\$30 - matinee performances  
\$40 - evening performances  
\$24 - 21 years and younger

**WHO:**

Written by **Emily Ackerman** and **KJ Sanchez**  
Directed by **KJ Sanchez**  
Scenic and Costume Design by **Marion Williams**  
Lighting Design by **Thom Weaver**  
Sound Design by **Zachary Williamson**  
Video Design by **Kevin Camoosa**  
Production Stage Manager **Denise Cardarelli**  
Dramaturgy by **Ken Cerniglia**

**CAST:**

**JOSEPH HARRELL**...CO  
**SAMEERAH LUQMAAN-HARRIS**\* ...Mom  
**BOBBY MORENO**\* ...Charlie  
**PJ SOSKO**\* ...John  
**SHEILA TAPIA**\* ...Liz

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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.