



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 6, 2008

MEDIA CONTACTS

Anne Q. Ulseth, 612-824-1614

anne@aquamn.com

Meg Krekeler, 651-767-8492

krekeler@parksquaretheatre.org

**“DEFIANCE” CHALLENGES CONVENTIONAL NOTIONS
OF HONOR AND MORALITY**

**Park Square Theatre presents area premiere by Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-Winning Playwright
John Patrick Shanley**

St. Paul, Minn. – In Park Square Theatre’s area premiere of **DEFIANCE**, honor and morality come under attack against a backdrop of race relations and military mindset. The second play in a projected trilogy by the Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning playwright of **DOUBT**, *Defiance* confronts a “monolithic institution whose absolute authority has come under siege.”

John Cranney directs John Patrick Shanley’s 2005 complex drama set in the U.S. Marine’s Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, as the Vietnam War comes to an end. In *Defiance*, Captain King (**Ashford Thomas**) joins the military to escape from the complexities of life. He just wants to be seen as an officer rather than as a black officer. Two white men: a colonel (**Kurt Schweikardt**) bent on eliminating military racism and a chaplain (**Charles Fraser**) who thinks he holds a direct line to God, have other plans for him.

Using a spare set and multimedia features to highlight the play’s “provocative questions and bristling dialogue,” Cranney directs the production without intermission. The company includes **Katherine Ferrand** (as the Colonel’s wife Margaret Littlefield), **John Olive** (as Gunney Sergeant), and **Sam Van Wyk** (as Private Evan Davis). The production is designed by **Rick Polenek** (scenic), **Michael Kittel** (lighting), **Katharine Ann Horowitz** (sound), **Steven Morrison** (projections) and **Amy B. Kaufman** (costumes).

Previews of *Defiance* are Friday, October 17 through Thursday, October 23; **the show opens Friday, October 24 at 7:30 p.m.** Performances are Thursdays-Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. with 2:00 p.m. matinees on

continued

Sundays through November 9. All performances are in the company's intimate theater in St. Paul's historic Hamm Building, 20 W. Seventh Place. Tickets are \$20 for previews (with a 99¢ preview Tuesday, October 21); \$34 on Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays; and \$37 on Saturdays (with opening night at \$39). Tickets are available at 651-291-7005 or online www.parksquaretheatre.org.

DEFIANCE

By John Patrick Shanley

Directed by Jon Cranney

October 24 – November 9, 2008 (previews October 17-23)

PARK SQUARE THEATRE

20 W. Seventh Place, St. Paul

Tickets: \$20-39

Box office: 651-291-7005 or www.parksquaretheatre.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>OCTOBER</u>					17 (P) 7:30pm \$20	18 (P) 7:30pm \$20
19 (P) 2:00pm \$20		21 (P) 7:30pm 99¢	22 (P/G) 7:30pm \$20	23(P) 7:30pm \$20	24 (O) 7:30pm \$39	25 7:30pm \$37
26 2:00pm \$34				30 (D) 7:30pm \$34	31 7:30pm \$34	<u>NOVEMBER 1</u> (ASL/AD) 7:30pm \$37
2 2:00pm \$34				6 7:30pm \$34	7 7:30pm \$34	8 7:30pm \$37
9 (C) 2:00pm \$34						

P=Preview O=Opening D=Post-show discussion G= OUT² GLBT Night A=ASL/AD C=Closing

Park Square Theatre's 2008-09 season opened to a near sold-out run of **THE SISTERS ROSENSWEIG** and features five area premieres including **DEFIANCE**; Park Square Theatre's first ever holiday show, **JACOB MARLEY'S CHRISTMAS CAROL** directed by PST's artistic director Richard Cook; Jeffrey Hatcher's **DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE**, directed by David Mann; the acclaimed musical **GREY GARDENS**, co-produced with Ordway Center for the Performing Arts; and **I HAVE BEFORE ME A REMARKABLE DOCUMENT GIVEN TO ME BY A YOUNG LADY FROM RWANDA**, directed by Warren C. Bowles; as well a reprise of **A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM**. The season concludes with Agatha Christie's **SPIDER'S WEB**.

###