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A Standing Long Jump, a new play by Mat Smart will premiere at the 2010 Minnesota Fringe Festival.

A Standing Long Jump

a new play by **Mat Smart**
directed by **Brian Balcom**

with **James Craven***, **Ali Dachis**, and **Namir Smallwood***

Performances are at:
Theatre in the Round
245 Cedar Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55454

Friday, August 6th @ 8:30pm
Sunday, August 8th @ 4:00pm
Wednesday, August 11th @ 10:00pm
Thursday, August 12th @ 5:30
Saturday, August 14th @ 8:30pm

For reservations please visit www.FringeFestival.org or call 866-811-4111

About the Play

Some people fall in love at first sight. Others fall in love like a slow, bloody surrender. A play about when to leap, when not to, and how the stranger at a coffee shop could be the person who knows you the best.

About The New Theatre Group

The New Theatre Group is dedicated to presenting new works by local playwrights through an organic, artist-driven process. The shows are cast before writing begins and the playwright then tailors the script specifically to the actors involved. The resulting production is a wonderfully personal and collaborative piece that works to specifically showcase not just the actors, but the entire groups' ideas about what theatre can be.

Recently, The New Theatre Group presented their 2008 Fringe show *American Sexy* at the Guthrie Theater as part of the 2010 Singled Out Festival of emerging artists. Following that success we are very pleased to announce that The New Theatre Group has been chosen to produce a show in The Southern Theater's 2010-2011 season as part of a mid-winter humor festival. Steve Moulds, the playwright of our 2007 Fringe show *Killer Smile*, will return to write a new play for actors of his choosing.

About The Artists

Mat Smart is a 2010-11 McKnight Advancement Grant recipient and a two-time recipient of the Jerome Fellowship from The Playwrights' Center. This summer, Williamstown Theatre Festival will premiere his newest play, *Samuel J. and K.* Other plays include *The Hopper Collection* (Magic Theatre and Huntington Theatre Company), *The 13th of Paris* (City Theatre, Seattle Public Theatre, Horizon Theatre, The Public Theatre of Maine and The Warehouse Theatre) and *The Bebop Heard in Okinawa* (O'Neill Playwrights' Conference). Mat has been commissioned to write new plays by South Coast Rep and Huntington. He is a co-founder of Slant Theatre Project in New York City. MFA: UCSD.

James Craven is a long-time Penumbra Theatre company member. Select credits at Penumbra include *Two Old Black Guys*, *Fences*, *The Piano Lesson*, Penumbra's production of *Gem of the Ocean* presented at the Guthrie Theater, *Get Ready*, *Zooman and the Sign*, *Grandchildren of the Buffalo Soldiers* and *REDSHIRTS*, co-produced with Round House Theatre. He also performed at Kansas City Repertory Theater and Arizona Theater Company in their joint production of *Jitney*. James is a 2005 recipient of the Spenser Cherashore Fund and was awarded a 2007 McKnight Fellowship.

Ali Rose Dachis has been privileged to work with many wonderful theater companies including: The Guthrie Theater, Youth Performance Co., The Children's Theater Co., Exposed Brick Theater, 20% Theater Co., Park Square Theater, The Directors Studios, The Strange Capers, The Ordway and others. Ali is a graduate from The U of M/Guthrie B.F.A Actor training Program.

Namir Smallwood has performed at Penumbra in *Blue* and *On the Open Road*. He is a Newark, NJ native and a 2006 graduate of the University of Minnesota/Guthrie B.F.A. Actor Training Program. He has performed with the Children's Theatre Company in *Five Fingers of Funk!*, *Bud*, *Not Buddy*, *Lost Boys of Sudan*, *Watsons Go to Birmingham – 1963*, and *Reeling*, at Pillsbury House Theatre in Phoenix Fabrik, and at the Guthrie Theater in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Brian Balcom grew up in Minneapolis and has assisted on several shows at The Guthrie, The Jungle, and The Old Globe Theaters, and has directed with Gremlin Theatre, Mu Performing Arts, New Theatre Group, Pillsbury House's Chicago Avenue Project, Illusion Theater's Lighthouse Group, Teatro del Pueblo, and Actors Theatre of Louisville. Brian has a BFA in directing from the Carnegie-Mellon School of Drama.

