

Contact: Trina Fischer
PR & Marketing Director
Phone: 347-228-6438
trina@lookingforlilith.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOOKING FOR LILITH
Theatre Company

PICTURE THIS!

LFL presents World Premiere Play as part of Women's History Month: Strong-willed photographer Alice Austen takes on the Victorian World!

Alice Austen fell in love with photography and another woman at a time when women were expected to do neither. Marking LFL's annual Women's History Month production is a world premiere, **Alice in Black and White**, by award-winning published New York-based playwright Robin Rice Lichtig. Ms. Lichtig has been fascinated by the photographic work and life of Alice Austen for several years and, in this humorous and heartbreaking exploration of Alice, she creates a period-hopping story that embraces both love and mystery. "I've seen Lilith's work in both Louisville and New York City, and am so excited to have the world premiere of Alice in their hands", she says. This stunning play won the StageWrite Women's Theatre Initiative Award. LFL will present this production at the Mex Theater at the Kentucky Center for the Arts, February 28 - March 9; with the second week's performances occurring during the Southeastern Theatre Conference's annual convention in Louisville. Ms. Lichtig will be in Louisville for the world premiere and will participate in scheduled talkbacks with the audience.

Alice Austen (1866-1952) was born into a world that was just discovering photography and she discovered photography at the age of ten, taking thousands of photos during her lifetime. Ms. Lichtig's play juxtaposes Alice's love of photography and her relationship with dance teacher Gertrude Tate with the 20th century re-discovery of her work by publisher Oliver Jensen as he prepares his book American Women in Revolt, intermingling characters from different time periods. The play captures the highs and lows of Alice's life and love as her well-to-do Staten Island family is ruined by the Depression, she and Gertrude are unable to maintain her childhood home, and her family refuses to help the couple in their old age. Paralleling the powerful true story, we also see Oliver's quest to find Alice's long-lost negatives, and Alice herself, in the last year of her life, introducing Alice's remarkable images of Staten Island socialites, immigrant workers, and vistas and people throughout the world to a new generation of admirers. The poignant lost story of Alice's photographs and lesbian relationship with Gertrude is inspiring and heartbreaking, one that still has resonance for today's women, straight and gay, and one that fully embodies the mission of Looking for Lilith.

LFL company members and associates who perform in **Alice in Black and White** are Shannon Woolley Allison, Laura Ellis, Trina Fischer, Jennifer Thalman Kepler and Dawn Schulz. Joe Hatfield and Ted Lesley join the LFL acting team, marking another first for Looking for Lilith as they are the first male actors to perform in a main-stage LFL production. Designers creating the world of Alice Austen and Oliver Jensen include long term LFL collaborators scenic designer Christé Lunsford, costume designer Lindsay Chamberlin, and sound designer Nathan Roberts. Also returning are Lauren Camargo as stage manager and Karissa Singleton as props manager.

The show will be at 7:30 PM on Feb 28, March 1, 2, 7, 8, 9 with a 2:00 PM matinee on March 9th as well. For reservations, call the Kentucky Center for the Arts Box Office at 502-584-7777 or 1-800-775-7777 or go to www.kentuckycenter.org. Adult tickets will be \$18. Student and senior tickets will be \$15. LFL continues their new community night initiative on Monday, March 4,

with ticket prices of \$10. Please visit the LFL website for information about talk-backs with the cast, director, playwright and community members.

The Kentucky Arts Council, the state arts agency, provides operating support to Looking for Lilith with state tax dollars and federal funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.

LOOKING FOR LILITH THEATRE COMPANY is a Louisville, KY based not-for-profit, ensemble theatre company, founded in New York City in 2001 by Shannon Woolley Allison and Trina Fischer, both Louisville, Kentucky natives, along with Jennifer Thalman Kepler of Winchester, VA. The mission of this company is to present plays that re-examine history through women's perspectives, mainly via the collaborative creation of original theatre based on research. The company has grown to include Kathi E. B. Ellis, Sara G. B. Canary, Typh Hainer Merwarth, Kelly McNerney and company associates Karole Spangler, Laura Ellis and Dawn Schulz. LFL is on the touring rosters of the Kentucky Arts Council, the Kentucky Center for the Arts, Alternate ROOTS and the Southern Arts Federation. They are members of Theatre Alliance of Louisville, Kentucky Theatre Association and Network of Ensemble Theatres. LFL received the 2010 Karen Willis Award from the Kentucky Theatre Association for artistic excellence and commitment to changing Kentucky through theatre.

For more info about LFL, visit:
<http://www.lookingforlilith.org/>
or contact Trina Fischer, PR and Marketing Director,
at 347-228-6438 or trina@lookingforlilith.org

For more on Robin Rice Lichtig:
<http://dramamama1.homestead.com/Home.html>

For more info on the Kentucky Center for the Arts:
<http://www.kentuckycenter.org/>

###