

Press Release
March 22, 2010



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THEATRE ANNOUNCEMENT – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**WHISTLER IN THE DARK THEATRE PRESENTS BILJANA SRBLJANOVIC'S
SLAPSTICK TRAGEDY *FAMILY STORIES***

(Boston) - Whistler in the Dark Theatre concludes its fifth season with *Family Stories*, Biljana Srbljanovic's haunting (and darkly hilarious) portrait of the cruelties and atrocities of a country at war with itself. First performed in Belgrade in 1997, *Family Stories* uses the games of four children to explore issues of censorship, war, oppression and rebellion.

"*Family Stories* is called a 'slapstick tragedy'," notes artistic director Meg Taintor, "and the term fits it perfectly. Srbljanovic is writing about a time and place that is undeniably tragic, but she is filtering it through the eyes of children: these children accept the world as it is and so it is only we, the grown-ups in the audience, who see the grander scope of tragedy. As for the 'slapstick' part... well, I've never seen quite so much violence packed into such a tight space and been able to laugh at it before!"

In *Family Stories*, four children are playing house in the wreckage of a bombed-out playground; reflected in the funhouse mirror of their game is a thrilling and devastating allegory of a post-war society. A brilliant marriage of slapstick and tragedy, the play examines the fear that results from living in a society without free media or civil liberties.

"I'm so excited to be tackling this play in the intimate confines of The Factory Theatre" says Taintor. "Whistler has always believed strongly in exploring the connection between the actors and the audience, and *Family Stories* will be one of the most exciting explorations we've had yet. We'll be playing in the round, and turning the whole theatre into the playground for these children – our audience will be intimately connected to that world."

Featuring: Melissa Barker, Danny Bryck, Nate Gundy, and Jen O'Connor

PAST PRAISE FOR WHISTLER:

"...as hot and urgent as any fever, a riveting theatrical triumph" –EDGE Boston

"Go. See. Feel. And take your children. Show them what theater can be." – Boston Globe

WHEN: May 14th –May 30th 2010
Wednesdays & Thursdays at 7:30pm
Fridays & Saturdays at 8pm
Sundays at 3pm

Opening Night/Press Night – Friday May 14th at 8pm
RSVP online at <http://whistlerinthedark.com/presssvp.html>

WHERE: The Factory Theatre * 791 Tremont Street * Boston MA

TICKETS: General Admission: \$20; Students: \$10
*May 12th and 13th– Pay-What-You-Can Previews (\$5 minimum)

Box Office: Phone: 1-800-838-3006
Web: www.whistlerinthedark.com/boxoffice.htm
Walk-up: The Factory Theatre (box office opens 1 hour prior to performances)

*For cast and crew bios, please visit www.whistlerinthedark.com
Process blog available at whistlerinthedarktheatre.blogspot.com*

* whistler in the dark theatre * 9 argyle street * everett ma 02149 *
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