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**For Immediate Release**

**Bakerloo Theatre Project Announces 2008 Season**

*The Tempest, The Cherry Orchard planned for Ninth summer outing from July to August*

**Troy, NY, Feb 9, 2008**— Bakerloo Theatre Project will present *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare and *The Cherry Orchard* by Anton Chekhov, in repertory, beginning July 11 on the campus of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY.

“For our ninth summer in the Capital Region, we will explore two ‘last plays’. These two works, which range from haunting to humorous yet resonate with any audience, are from two of the greatest writers of the literary canon,” said William Addis, Bakerloo’s artistic director.

*The Tempest*, Shakespeare’s beautiful elegy set in a world of illusions and magic, opens on Friday, July 11 and runs through Friday, August 1. The production will be directed by William Addis, who has previously directed highly acclaimed productions of *Macbeth*, *Antigone*, *Design for Living*, *Love’s Labour’s Lost* and *Twelfth Night* for Bakerloo.

A powerful tale of love, power and forgiveness, *The Tempest* will star Bakerloo favorite Gwyn Hervochon as Prospero. In an especially fascinating twist, *The Tempest* will feature a gender-reversed cast. In the tradition of “cheek-by-jowl’s” all-male Shakespeare productions and the famed “photo-negative” productions of *Othello*--and inspired by the fact that Shakespeare often wrote plays in which characters play genders or races other than their own--Addis believes that altering the platform from which a story is told gives new insight into that play.

Bakerloo’s second main stage production will be Anton Chekhov’s final work *The Cherry Orchard*, which will run from Friday, July 25 to Saturday, August 2. Classes shift, romances bloom and die, and the future engulfs the past in this poignant masterpiece, perhaps Chekhov’s greatest work. The second production will feature Bakerloo’s acclaimed ensemble and arise under the direction of Associate Artistic Director Ryan Howe. Howe earned raves last season for his re-imagined take on *The Imaginary Invalid*, and has also directed *Julius Caesar* and *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* for Bakerloo.

For the first time, Bakerloo will be performing completely in the round, with audiences seated on all sides of the action, as well as action occurring on all sides of the audience. Bakerloo strives to exploit the vivacity of the living theatre, and with its 2008 season, the audience will truly be in the middle of it all. Bakerloo believes strongly in theatre-making as storytelling; this production will be a further exploration of the actor as a mechanism for reintroducing old stories in fresh ways. Through music, movement and Bakerloo's trademark distinguished interpretation of text, the company will once more breathe new life into two classically beautiful and haunting plays.

*Bakerloo Theatre Project* is in residence at Academy Hall on the campus of RPI. *The Tempest* will be performed July 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 24, and August 1 at 8PM, with matinees on July 13, 20 and 26 at 2PM. *The Cherry Orchard* will be performed on July 25, 26, 31, and August 2 at 8PM, as well as July 27 and August 2 at 2PM. Tickets are \$16 each, or \$25 for a season pass. Visit [www.bakerloo.org](http://www.bakerloo.org) for information about discount tickets and group rates.

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It is the mission of Bakerloo Theatre Project to present vital, intelligent productions of Shakespeare's canon and other classic works by serving as a home to up-and-coming professional theatre artists of the highest caliber. Through performance and education, Bakerloo produces high-quality, low-cost, innovative theatre that shuns pretense so that a new generation of audiences will see theatre as a dynamic, accessible and inclusive experience.

Since 2000, Bakerloo Theater Project has produced a summer theatre residency in the capital region. Beginning as a brief retreat for early career actors from New York City the residency has developed into a precious sanctuary for emerging theatre artists. In nine years, Bakerloo Theatre Project has provided nearly 100 actors, directors, designers and stage managers the opportunity to work on the greatest plays in the dramatic canon in a focused, intensive setting. As a result, Bakerloo Theatre Project has become a summer tradition in the capital region. The Bakerloo artists enjoy returning to the same community each year, and the audience enjoys seeing the same actors create new characters year after year. Audiences looking for intelligent, athletic and literate productions appreciate Bakerloo's style.

**Bakerloo Theatre Project's 2008 season is made possible in part through COMMUNITY ART\$GRANTS, a program funded through the State and Local Partnership of the New York State Council on the Arts and The Arts Center of the Capital Region.** Bakerloo is grateful to the continued in-kind support of the Student Union of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

For more information, contact Abigail Fudor at (518)892-2241 or by e-mail at: [abby@bakerloo.org](mailto:abby@bakerloo.org), or visit [www.bakerloo.org](http://www.bakerloo.org).

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