



FOR MORE INFORMATION: Mark Bridges
Marketing Manager, Theatre Vertigo
503/224-5065
pr@mbridges.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THEATRE VERTIGO PRESENTS: FREEDOMLAND BY AMY FREED

PLAY: *Freedomland* by Amy Freed
DIRECTED BY: Buck Skelton
SHOW DATES: Thursday through Saturday, March 13 – April 12, 2003
Sunday performances March 30 and April 6
SHOW TIMES: 8 p.m. (7p.m. on Sundays)

CAST:

NOAH	Ted Schulz
SIG	Nanette Pettit
POLLY	Melody Bridges
SETH	Ben Plont
CLAUDE	April Magnuson
LORI	Camille Cettina
TITUS	Neal Starbird

TICKET INFORMATION: \$15 (Thursday performances are “pay-as-you-will”)
Reservations: Phone 503-306-0870
Email: reservations@theatrevertigo.org

LOCATION: The Electric Company
2512 SE Gladstone, Suite 200
Portland, Oregon

DIRECTIONS: Located on the corner of SE Gladstone and SE 25th Avenue,
two blocks south of Powell and two blocks north of Holgate Blvd.
TRANSIT: Tri-Met 9 (two blocks north), Tri-Met 10 (corner of SE Gladstone
and SE 26th Ave.), Tri-Met 17 Holgate (two blocks South)
PARKING: Abundant street parking available –lot parking nearby

MORE INFORMATION: <http://www.theatrevertigo.org> or phone 503/306-0870

DESCRIPTION: 1996 Pulitzer finalist *Freedomland* was originally commissioned by the South Coast Repertory Theatre in Costa Mesa, California, and received its world premiere there in October 1997, later opening in New York City for a successful Off-Broadway run at Playwrights Horizons. The story of three siblings who return home for a no-holds-barred confrontation, *Freedomland* was hailed by the Orange County Register as providing “the best theater can offer: stimulating ideas expressed by characters we care about and scenes that touch our heads, hearts and funny bones in equal measure.” This will be *Freedomland’s* Portland premier.

Freedomland (which gets its name from a now-defunct theme park in the Bronx) is a darkly comedic exploration of a modern dysfunctional family. Set in Noah Underfinger’s historical New England home, the family is thrust into an unexpected reunion filled with warped ideals, sexism and miscommunication. Throughout the visit the three siblings try to come to terms with their past in hopes of accepting their successes and failures in life and love. Amy Freed’s humorous perspective on the diversity of modern culture and the ever present need to communicate is delivered with a hint of Christopher Durang and a dash of Sam Shepard, intelligently exploring the dark, satiric corners of our American culture.

“The play, for me, is about an American family bursting at the seams at this particular moment in time,” said Freed in a 1998 interview. “Their distresses are passionate and ideological, rather than Freudian, and it’s kind of anarchic and dark – even though it’s a comedy.” Freed said she wrote the first draft of the play in about eight months, and completed it within a year. “It came out of left field, but as I wrote it got deeper and began to open up more and more doors – personal doors and idea doors,” she added. “It’s really a play about the end of a certain age for America, about people struggling to find out what comes next.”

Freed is currently on leave from her post at Stanford University where she teaches acting and playwriting. She is the author of "The Beard of Avon," the brilliantly conceived hit of last season at American Conservatory Theater. The play received six regional productions across the country last season, is currently running in Toronto, and will open at the New York Theater Workshop next season. Other plays include, *The Psychic Life of Savages*, *Claustrophilia*, and *Still Warm*.

About Theatre Vertigo

Established in 1997, Theatre Vertigo is a not-for-profit, non-equity, ensemble theatre company presenting an annual season at The Electric Company, Portland's very own theatrical design laboratory. Under the artistic direction of Nanette Pettit, Theatre Vertigo continues to develop a challenging and diverse repertoire with a distinctly Northwest style, performing contemporary and premiere works that illuminate the human experience. Dedicated to attracting a new generation of theatergoers by presenting plays that are both timely and affordable, Theatre Vertigo accentuates the story's ability to speak through the performers, building an ever-closer relationship with the audience.

For more information on Theatre Vertigo, please call 503-306-0870, or check us out on the Web at <http://www.theatrevertigo.org>. Members of the media are encouraged to phone 503/224-5065 for additional information.

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Freedomland by Amy Freed

Directed by: Buck Skelton

Thurs. March 13, 2003, 8:00 pm	Preview (Pay What You Will)
Fri. March 14, 2003, 8:00 pm	Opening Night
Sat. March 15, 2003, 8:00 pm	
Thurs. March 20, 2003, 8:00 pm	Pay What You Will
Fri. March 21, 2003, 8:00 pm	
Sat. March 22, 2003, 8:00 pm	
Thurs. March 27, 2003, 8:00 pm	Pay What You Will
Fri. March 28, 2003, 8:00 pm	
Sat. March 29, 2003, 8:00 pm	
Sun. March 30, 2003, 7:00 pm	
Thurs. April 3, 2003, 8:00 pm	Pay What You Will
Fri. April 4, 2003, 8:00 pm	
Sat. April 5, 2003, 8:00 pm	
Sun. April 6, 2003, 7:00 pm	
Thurs. April 10, 2003, 8:00 pm	Pay What You Will
Fri. April 11, 2003, 8:00 pm	
Sat. April 12, 2003, 8:00 pm	Closing