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**CHRISTIAN SIMÉON'S HYENAS
MAKES NYC PREMIERE AT DUO THEATER**

(New York) – Christian Siméon's **HYENAS** makes a much-anticipated NYC premiere with a four-week engagement May 25 through June 17 at the DUO Theater in East Village. Daniel Pettrow stars as Théodore-Frédérique Benoît in this monodrama, adapted and directed by Paul Verdier, based on real events surrounding a historical double murder in Paris.

Set in 1832 Paris during the cholera epidemic and the French republican riots, **HYENAS** is a gripping theatrical monologue of 22-year-old Théodore-Frédérique Benoît, one condemned to death for the murder of his mother and lover. In his prison cell during his last night before facing execution by the guillotine, he relives the events of the murders and the nightmare of his trial and death sentence, giving birth to more startling and haunting questions than can be answered. Benoît proclaims, "Answers are dangerous, you know."

In **HYENAS**, acclaimed French playwright Christian Siméon, winner of the prestigious French Society of Dramatic Authors and Composers' award for "New Talent in Theatre," says the unthinkable with uncompromising wit. **HYENAS**, which first premiered in 1997 at the Dix-Huit Theatre in Paris, ran with rave reviews at the Mylos Theatre in Greece and the Avignon Off Festival in France. French theatre critic Alain Spira called the work "a true masterpiece" and *Le Journal de Théâtre* described it as "intriguing, disturbing, violent, a great moment of theatre." In 2003, **HYENAS** was translated into English and adapted for American audiences by Paul Verdier, Artistic Director and Founder of Stages Theatre Center in Los Angeles, and ran for 12 weeks at the award-winning theater. The Los Angeles Times described the play as "a fascinating existential showpiece."

HYENAS runs May 25 through June 17, 2006 at the Duo Theater, 62 East 4th Street, between Second Avenue and Bowery, in East Village, Manhattan. May 25 and 26 shows are preview performances. Performances are Thursday through Saturday at 8:00pm and Saturday and Sunday at 3:00pm. There will be a special performance and post discussion with the French playwright Christian Siméon on Wednesday, June 14 at 8:00pm. **HYENAS** is produced by Stages Theatre Center in association with the DUO Theater and contains strong language, adult themes and brief nudity. Tickets are \$20 (\$15 for students and seniors) and are available at TheaterMania.com. For tickets and information, please call (212) 352-3101 or visit TheaterMania.com.

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Press Tickets must be arranged in advance by calling (212/807-1337 ext. 14) or emailing (mnewell@arcos-ny.com) Marc Newell at Arcos Communications. Also, please contact Mr. Newell to arrange for special interviews.

ABOUT...

Christian Siméon

Christian Siméon has been described as one of the most original new voices in today's French theatre. In 2004, he was awarded the prestigious "New Talent in Theatre" award by the French Society of Dramatic Authors and Composers (SACD). His plays include **Hécate** (1992 prize-winner at the "Premières Répliques" contest), **Hyenas** (created in 1997 at Dix-Huit Theatre in Paris, then performed at the Avignon Off Festival in 1998; Mylos Theatre in Greece in 2000; and again at Avignon Off Festival in 2001), **La Priapée des écrevisses** (Avignon Festival 1999 and at La Pépinière Opéra Theatre in Paris, 2002), **Crouchinades** (2000), **La reine écartelée**, from Amy Robsart by Victor Hugo (Etoile du Nord Theatre in 1999 and at the Avignon Off Festival in 2001), **Les eaux lourdes** (2000 Beaumarchais Grant), **Factory** (2001), **Androcée** (Etoile du Nord Theatre in 2002), **Landru et Fantaisie** (Etoile du Nord Theatre in 2003), **Théorbe** (Petit Theatre de Paris in 2004/Warsaw since April 2004) and **Vampires or the Népès Story** (2004). He is a playwright-in-residence at Etoile du Nord Theatre and a member of the Reading Committee of the Rond-Point Theatre. In October 2004, Siméon became a playwright-in-residence in Alep, Syria, organized by the Association "Ecritures Vagabondes" and he plans to adapt the play **Ismail-Hamlet ou la vengeance du laveur de cadavres** by Syrian playwright Hakim Marzougui for the Etoile du Nord Theatre in 2007. Currently, he is preparing the musical play **Le cabaret des hommes perdus** (2005) for a run at Théâtre du Rond-Point in September 2006.

Daniel Pettrow

Daniel Pettrow has performed in over 40 professional theater productions with national and international theaters. Recently he worked with German director Walter Asmus (Samuel Beckett's frequent stage and film collaborator) and French director Arthur Naucyziel (currently working with the Comedie Francaise). For five years, Pettrow has worked closely with Arthur Naucyziel performing in Bernard-Marie Koltes' play **Black Battles With Dogs** in National Theaters across France, as well as the Atheneum Theater in Chicago. Pettrow and Naucyziel have also collaborated on another Koltes play, **Roberto Zucco** in Atlanta. Daniel co-founded and directed The Ballroom Studios, an alternative art space in downtown Atlanta, Georgia, which cultivated and provided a venue for some of the most progressive and innovative visual and performing arts. Pettrow is also an Artistic Associate with PushPush Theater in Atlanta, Georgia. In 2004, he won the Critic's Award from the Atlanta Journal Constitution for "Best Solo Performance of 2003-2004" for the one-person show **Nocturne** by Adam Rapp. In July 2006, Pettrow will perform **Black Battles With Dogs** at the main venue of the Avignon Festival and the national theater of Athens, Greece. In August 2006, he will work again with director Walter Asmus performing in Samuel Beckett's one-person show **Piece of Monologue** at 7Stages Theater in Atlanta. In 2004, he directed Aristophanes' **The Birds** as part of a collaboration between The Carlos Museum of Emory University and PushPush Theater in Atlanta. He has been featured in several independent films, four of which will be released this year: "The Last Adam", "Psychopathia Sexualis", "Kathy T. Gives Good Hoover" and "Getting Better." He is also a series regular on the TV show "Good Eats."

Paul Verdier

Born in Argentina from a French father and an Italian mother, Paul Verdier went to study and live in France where he had his theatre training in Paris. Before coming to the U.S., he was a member of the renowned Paris based repertory companies of Jean-Louis Barrault/Madeleine Renaud and Nicolas Bataille. In New York, Verdier adapted and directed Cuban playwright Eduardo Manet's **The Nuns** starring Roy Scheider at the Cherry Lane Theatre. As an actor, he recreated the lead role in the English version of David Guerdon's **The Laundry** at the Gate Theatre, also in New York. Over the years, Verdier has earned a reputation for introducing the work of celebrated international playwrights to Los Angeles audiences, and Stages Theatre Center, he founded in Los Angeles in 1982, has been recognized by critics as "... one of L.A.'s most consistently excellent theatres." Since then, Verdier has adapted and directed works by acclaimed international theatre artists such as France's Théâtre du Soleil Ariane Mnouchkine (**1789**), Argentina's Eduardo Pavlovsky (**Potestad/Paternity**, **Slow Motion** and **Pablo**), Georges Feydeau (**Sleep, I Want You to Sleep!**), Marguerite Duras (**L'Amante Anglaise/English Mint** and **La Musica**), Italy's Edoardo Erba (**The Night of Picasso** and **Porco Selvatico**, both world premières) and many others. His production of American playwright David Hirson's **La Bête** was the inaugural theatrical production of "Summer Nights at the Ford 1993" at the John Anson Ford Amphitheatre and garnered three Ovation nominations, the Los Angeles Drama Critic's Circle Award for Best Supporting Actor, as well as eight Drama-Logue awards. Other adapting/directing credits at Stages include Pavlovsky's **Señor Galíndez** (1996, also the original Spanish at Teatro Nacional de Cuba, in Havana, 2001), **Cervantes' Interludes** (1997), Venezuelan playwright Rodolfo Santana's **Looking into the Stands/The Bullfight** (1999/2000), Pavlovsky's original Spanish version of **Pablo** (Havana, 2001) and Christian Siméon's **Hyenas** (Stages, 2003). Since its opening in July 1982, Stages' productions and Paul Verdier's work have received over sixty Drama-Logue Awards, several Ovation and L. A. Weekly Awards and the prestigious Margaret Harford Award from the Los Angeles Critics Circle. For his contribution to French Theatre and culture, in 1985, Verdier was honored with the Order of Arts and Letters from the French Ministry of Culture and, in 1998, was upgraded to the rank of Officer of the Order.