

From: Veronique Ory (Producer)
The Tamarind Theatre
5919 Franklin Ave
Hollywood, CA 90028
(818) 896-3421

Date: January 22, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE!

TWO ENCOUNTERS

Leonard Melfi's "Birdbath" and "Ferryboat"

The Tamarind Theatre will present "Birdbath" and "Ferryboat," two one-act plays from Leonard Melfi's collection *Encounters*.

This past fall my acting teacher, Scott Tiler, said that I should take a look at the role of Velma in "Birdbath." I fell in love with the play and wanted so much to play the role. Mr. Tiler introduced me to one of the owners of The Tamarind Theatre, Tom Kendall. He was very interested in having the show go up at his theatre because it was the first play that he directed. The ball started rolling before I knew it.

I started to talk to a good friend of mine, Elizabeth Welsh, about directing and assisting me in producing. She quickly joined on board my dream; all I want to do is follow through with what drives me, my passion. It is with the support of my family and friends that this has all come together like it has. My Grandfather, Stephen Ory, inspired this leap of faith. His words echo within me, "When you get pushed out the door, you come in through the window."

And I was getting all my friends involved in any way possible. (Ty Donaldson designed our postcard and flyer, Kevin Jordan is our Stage Manager, designed our website and is our Box Office Manager, Michelle Fage is doing our Public Relations, Beth Chucker took our publicity photos. We have Lance Disado as Frankie Basta, Chrissy Whitehead as Velma Sparrow's Understudy.) In wanting to get more people involved we added another one-act, "Ferryboat." (We have Jay Evans as Joey Dove, Tessa Munro as The Girl, and Deborah Dir as The Girl's Understudy.) We decided that "Ferryboat" was an appropriate addition because it is similar to "Birdbath" in several ways.

These two plays explore the theme of what it means and what it takes for people to ultimately connect in large and often isolated world. Written in the 1960s, Melfi is adept at flashing a mirror at human interaction and connection with the world that still rings true today.

The plays will run Monday, February 10 through Wednesday, March 19 with performances Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings at 8 PM. The Tamarind Theatre is located at 5919 Franklin Avenue in Hollywood. Tickets are \$12 (Group Rates are available.) Reservations may be obtained by calling (818) 896-3421. For more information please visit www.birdbathandferryboat.com.

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TWO ENCOUNTERS

“Birdbath” and “Ferryboat”

by Leonard Melfi

Directed by Elizabeth Welsh

Produced by Veronique Ory

Starring

Lance Disado as Frankie Basta
Veronique Ory as Velma Sparrow
Tessa Munro as The Girl
Jay Evans as Joey Dove

Deborah Dir as The Girl (u/s)
Chryssie Whitehead as Velma Sparrow (u/s)

Opens

Monday, February 10, 2003

Runs

Mon, Tues, Wed. at 8pm
Feb. 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26
March 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19

General Admission \$12
(Group rates are available)

Tamarind Theatre
5919 Franklin Ave., Hollywood, CA 90028

Call Now for Reservations- **818-896-3421**
For more information please visit: www.birdbathandferryboat.com