

THEATERLAB

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THE ALCHEMICAL THEATRE presents

Three Sisters Come and Go



THE ALCHEMICAL THEATRE presents **THREE SISTERS COME AND GO**

A tragicomedy drawing on the texts of Anton Chekhov,
Samuel Beckett & Julia Kristeva

Directed by Orietta Crispino

September 29 – October 10, 2010 at Theaterlab

"Nothing is funnier than unhappiness, I grant you that."
– Nell, *Endgame*

New York, NY – **The Alchemical Theatre**, the resident theater company at Theaterlab, will present **THREE SISTERS COME AND GO**, a piece conceived and directed by Orietta Crispino, September 29 through October 10, 2010 at Theaterlab (137 West 14th Street).

THREE SISTERS COME AND GO follows the lives of the three archetypal women of Chekhov's plays read through the lens of Beckett's comic take on the existential dilemma, and Julia Kristeva's insight regarding the transformation of despair and loss into joy and acceptance. Bound to living together, each of the sisters is comically obsessed with being the most unhappy of the group.

"The sisters play the game of theater finding a future in the present of the stage," explains director Orietta Crispino. "After all, there is life beyond despair."

THREE SISTERS COME AND GO opens with Samuel Beckett's dramaticule *Come and Go*, which serves as the model for a geometry of the unspoken, the unsettling reality of consisting beyond the veil of representation. Three women sitting in perfect stillness together repeat a cycle of the action, the revelation of a secret never heard by the audience. The remainder of the piece features recombined text from Chekhov's major plays.

The piece was devised through a collective process among director **Orietta Crispino** (who conceived the piece), Italian dramaturg **Marco Casazza**, and the three actresses: **Liza Cassidy** (Patricia Wilson's Zia Dance Company), **Claire Helene**, and **Jackie Lowe** (Broadway: *THE TAP DANCE KID*, *AIN'T MISBEHAVIN*, *EUBIE*, *THE FIRST*, and *WIND IN THE WILLOWS*). The group scoured Chekhov's work act by act, collecting lines mostly from the female characters. Through a cut and paste technique, each actress reordered the material creating one monologue and one dialogue scene (using only Chekhov's words). Then, Crispino and Casazza shaped and developed the piece.

The workshop production of **THREE SISTERS COME AND GO** earlier this year was hailed as "a mesmerizing feast for the eyes and mind by award-winning playwright Montserrat Mendez and "surprisingly emotionally resonant" by *The Happiest Medium*.

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THREE SISTERS COME AND GO is made possible in part with public funds from the Manhattan Community Fund, supported by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and administered by Lower Manhattan Cultural Council. *Come and Go* is presented through special arrangement with Georges Borchardt, Inc. on behalf of the Estate of Samuel Beckett.

Scheduled September 29th through October 10th, performances of **THREE SISTERS COME AND GO** run Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8:00 pm and Sundays at 3:00 pm at Theaterlab (137 West 14th St., between 6th and 7th Ave; Subway: 1/2/3 or F/V to 6th 14th Ave. or L to 6th Ave.). Tickets are \$15 in advance at <http://www.theatermania.com> or (212) 352-3101 or \$20 at the door. The opening night performance, Wednesday, September 29th is Pay-What-You-Can at the door.

For additional information about **THREE SISTERS COME AND GO**, visit www.theaterlabnyc.com or call (212) 929-2545.

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BIOGRAPHIES

Orietta Crispino (Director), born in Italy, is a graduate of the prestigious Piccolo Teatro School in Milan, where she worked with the major Italian directors Giorgio Strehler and Massimo Castri. She later taught acting and directing there. Crispino is also a member of the Lincoln Center Directors Lab. Among her many theatre projects are: *PASSPORT NO. 23.922*, a piece she wrote and directed on the life of Tina Modotti; and a three-year project in Trieste directing the plays of Pirandello's Italian contemporaries. Her recent New York directing credits include *APPEARANCE – SUSPENSE IN BEING* and *LA FRICCHETTONA*, three monologues by Dario Fo and Franca Rame performed in English and Italian. In addition to her theatre work, Ms. Crispino has done art projects on the body in its performative aspect. This work led her to contributing to a cycle of seminars called *Acting Out: The Art of Living* held in Milan with the participation of doctors, artists and patients. Her body research culminated in a performance piece with the photographer Vibeke Jensen, *CAMERA OBSCURA*, shown at PS1 in New York, Bogota and Trieste.

The Alchemical Theatre (Producer) was founded in 1982 by producer/director/composer Carlo Altomare and is currently the resident production company at Theaterlab. Past productions include: *Appearance/A Suspense In Being*, a devised jazz-acting piece; *There is No More Firmament* by Antonin Artaud; *Pure War/The Madness of the Day* based on the texts of Paul Virilio and Maurice Blanchot; *The Daily Activity of Slaves*, based on the pamphlet *The Reproduction of Daily Life* by Fredy Perlman; and three one-act plays by Nick Marcovich: *Romance*, *The Law*, and *This Place*.

Theaterlab, founded in 2006 by Carlo Altomare and Orietta Crispino, is dedicated to research into the nature of live performance. Altomare and Crispino have created experimental theatrical pieces, including *APPEARANCE – A SUSPENSE IN BEING* and *SOLO PERFORMANCE WORKSHOP*. Crispino also directed *LA FRICCHETTONA*, three monologues by Dario Fo and Franca Rame, while Altomare teamed with visual artist Naoki Iwakawa for a 13-part action painting cycle, *EXCAVATION*, which was presented at Theaterlab over two years (2008 – 2010). The company's artist residency program has hosted Jef Johnson, renowned principal clown of *SLAVA'S SNOWSHOW*, Dutch theatre artist Linda Olthof, and comedian Reno. In April 2009, Theaterlab hosted Brazilian theater legend Ze Celso in his first New York appearance and screened the lyrical film *As Bacantes 2009*, which documented Celso's recreation of *THE BACCHAE*. Theaterlab produced with Patrick Grant, the first MMiX Festival of Interactive Technology, which featured performances by Todd Reynolds, Luke DuBois, Elliott Sharp/Janene Higgins, Patrick Grant, Dan Trueman and his Mini Laptop Orchestra, Bora Yoon and more, in October 2009.

LISTINGS INFORMATION FOR THREE SISTERS COME AND GO

WHAT: **THREE SISTERS COME AND GO**, a work drawing on the texts of Anton Chekhov, Samuel Beckett and French philosopher Julia Kristeva. Directed by Orietta Crispino, the piece follows the lives of the three archetypical Chekhovian women read through the lens of Beckett's comic take on the existential dilemma, and Julia Kristeva's insight regarding the transformation of despair and loss into joy and acceptance. Bound to living together, each of the sisters is comically obsessed with being the most unhappy of the group.

WHERE: Theaterlab, 137 West 14th St., between 6th & 7th Ave.; Subway: 1/2/3 or F/V or A/C/E to 14th St. or L to 6th Ave.

WHEN: September 29 through October 10, 2010, Wednesday through Saturday at 8:00 pm and Sunday at 3:00 pm

TICKETS: \$15 in advance at www.theatermania.com or (212) 352-3101; \$20 at the door; Pay-What-You-Can Wednesday, September 29th only

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: www.theaterlabnyc.com or (212) 929-2545

PRESS DATES: September 29, October 1, 2 at 8:00 pm and October 3 at 3:00 pm

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