

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 27, 2008

Media Contact:

Cynnamon Schreinert

604-802-2733

cynnamon@shaw.ca



the live-cinematic interpretation of Jean-Paul Sartre's
No Exit
directed by Kim Collier
co-produced by The Virtual Stage and Electric Company Theatre

May 1-10, 2008 – OPENING NIGHT MAY 3
The Hangar (aka Studio 2, Building 2) at the Centre for Digital Media (577 Great Northern Way)

The Virtual Stage and Electric Company Theatre present the live-cinematic interpretation of French existentialist Jean-Paul Sartre's famous masterpiece **No Exit** May 1 to 10 at The Hangar at the Centre for Digital Media. Directed by Electric Company Theatre's award-winning director Kim Collier, **No Exit** features **Lucia Frangione** (*Espresso, Cariboo Magi*) as Estelle, **Laara Sadiq** (*Pink Sugar, Hecuba*) as Inez, **Andy Thompson** (*The Fall, Reading Hebron*) as Garcin, and **Jonathon Young** (*Palace Grand, Tideline*) as The Valet. In Kim Collier's vision the characters are literally locked up together and the viewer voyeuristically participates in their isolation through cinematic-style live projection.

The hotel room where Sartre's three characters must endure each other's company for eternity is situated inside a cement bunker in "the Hangar", a cavernous warehouse space at the Digital Media Centre. Their entrapment will be intensified as the actors will be literally confined within the four walls of the tiny room. Through a series of hidden cameras audiences will be able to watch with cinematic intimacy, a meticulously staged live film of what goes on inside the box. Inhabiting the space between the audience and the giant movie screens is the play's minor character, The Valet (Jonathon Young). By revealing the Valet's off-stage world outside the confines of the hotel room, the frame on Sartre's play is widened - possibly finding an exit to a classic play about eternal damnation.

No Exit is directed by Electric Company's **Kim Collier** with Set Design by **Jay Gower Taylor**, lighting design and technical direction by **John Webber**, costume design by **Kirsten McGhie**, sound design by **Brian Linds** and **Jan Hodgson** as stage manager. **No Exit** runs **May 1 to 10 (with opening night May 3)** at The Hangar at the Centre for Digital Media (577 Great Northern Way). Tickets available through Tickets Tonight for \$20 adults and \$15 students/seniors/disabled. Call 604-684-2787 or visit www.ticketstonight.ca. For more information visit www.electriccompanytheatre.com or www.thevirtualstage.org.

Special Performances for No Exit include:

Thursday, May 1, 8pm - Pay what you can preview

Friday, May 2, 8pm - Pay what you can preview

Saturday, May 3, 8pm – OPENING NIGHT

Sunday, May 4, 3 pm - 2 for 1 matinee

Tuesday, May 6, 8pm - 2 for 1

Sunday, May 10, 3 pm - 2 for 1 matinee

ABOUT ELECTRIC COMPANY THEATRE

Formed in 1996, Electric Company is a unique ensemble of artists dedicated to the development, production, and touring of new Canadian Theatre with an emphasis on physical and visual imagery. We strive to create theatre that is life affirming, inspiring, and provocative. Since its founding, Electric Company has created ten original full-length productions, numerous short works, a feature-length film for CBC Television, and toured our shows to Scotland, California, and throughout Canada. Electric Company has received twenty-nine Jessie Richardson Theatre Awards (with over sixty nominations), as well as the prestigious Alcan Performing Arts Award. Electric Company places an emphasis on collaboration with many projects created collectively, and the projects cross artistic disciplines, challenge conventions, and integrate new media. We embrace our audiences with a love of playfulness, spectacle, surprise, and audacious theatrical ambition.

ABOUT THE VIRTUAL STAGE

Founded in the year 2000, The Virtual Stage is a Vancouver-based theatre company with a unique mandate to investigate emerging technologies in theatre. When a story can be truly supported and enhanced in this way, The Virtual Stage brings theatre, film and high-tech professionals together to integrate elements such as computer animation, 3D modeling and cinematic projection into the theatrical experience. The company challenges the traditional border between theatre and film in this way, incorporating a new script writing form, new staging practices and a unique developmental process for the stage. The Virtual Stage has produced one short film, two short one-act plays and four mainstage productions, garnering six Jessie nominations and winning two. Two of our associate artists (Itai Erdal and Jamie Nesbitt) have received Most Promising Newcomer Jessie awards the year in which they worked our productions.

-30-

