

Washington, DC's first professional theatre showcasing the talents of artists with disabilities.



For Immediate Release:
Contact: Suzanne Richard
240/683-0305

director@opencircletheatre.org
www.opencircletheatre.org

Open Circle Theatre Presents:
Story Theatre
By Paul Sills

"In the depths of the despair, there lies the spark: the transformation of reality." –Paul Sills

**SAVE THE DATE: Press Night Saturday, August 23 – 8PM at Round House Theatre Silver Spring
8641 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD 20910**

SILVER SPRING, MD (July 25, 2008) -- Open Circle Theatre announces its seventh production: *Story Theatre* by Paul Sills will run from August 23- September 13.

With this first ever directorial collaboration between actor, producer and sound designer Ian Armstrong, and Helen Hayes Outstanding Director nominee Suzanne Richard, Open Circle steps away from its recent history of musicals and returns to its theatrical roots by embracing the improvisational, transformational style of story theatre. The son of acclaimed teacher and writer Viola Spolin, Paul Sills grew up in an environment rich with educational theatre experiences. In 1968, his Tony award winning production of *Story Theatre* took this same-named style of theatre to new levels as they explored the growing discontent with such political issues as the war in Vietnam and the Democratic Party through the use of fairy tales and fables. Open Circle uses this same text to explore our country's and our species' recent struggles with increasingly frequent and ferocious natural disasters such as hurricanes and flooding. Why do we tell each other stories?

As Open Circle Theatre has demonstrated in the past, accessibility is a key part of our production values. American Sign Language and captioning are incorporated into the performance, making it accessible to deaf audiences. As always, OCT offers assistive listening devices for people who are hard of hearing, and all shows are audio described on demand for the blind and low vision population. And, of course, OCT is lucky to continue its artistic partnership with Round House Theatre and to have the wonderfully accessible space of Round House Theatre Silver Spring for people with mobility disabilities.

Open Circle would like to acknowledge the special contribution of Professor Paul Ferguson and Liz Lerman Dance Exchange to this production. Paul Ferguson, Professor of Communication Studies at The University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, was gracious enough to spend time with *Story Theatre's* cast reviewing and teaching principles of story theatre, improv, and Viola Spolin's theatre games. Liz Lerman Dance Exchange spent also worked with the OCT cast as a part of their All-Abilities Dance Workshops. Both of these contributors served to weave this diverse ensemble into a cohesive whole of actors with and without disabilities.

Press Performance:

Saturday, August 23 – 8PM

General Performance Information:

Thursday (Sept. 4 & 11), Fridays, & Saturdays at 8pm
Saturdays and Sundays 2pm matinees
Sundays at 7:30pm

Abbreviated Labor Day weekend schedule:

Friday Aug. 29 at 8pm
Saturday Aug. 30 at 8pm
Sunday Aug. 31 at 2pm

All performances will be:

Sign interpreted/Captioned
Assisted Listening
Audio description on demand

Ticket Information:

- Thursday & Sunday shows are \$15.
- Friday shows are \$25. \$5 discount for students, seniors, and groups of 10 or more.
- Saturday shows are \$30. \$5 discount for students, seniors, and groups of 10 or more.
- 2-FOR-1 PRICING FOR ALL SHOWS WITH A MILITARY ID

To reserve tickets and pay cash or check at the door, please call 240/683-0305 or email director@opencircletheatre.org

To pay with a credit card, please go to: <http://www.boxofficetickets.com/>

Theater Location:

Round House Theatre Silver Spring
8641 Colesville Road,
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Production Team:

Co- Directors:	Suzanne Richard & Ian Armstrong
Assistant Director:	Adin Walker
Sign Master:	Jill Owens
Production Designer:	Marie Audrey Désy
Light Designer:	Marianne Meadows
Costume Designer:	Tina Weich & Allie Lidie
Stage Manager:	Kate Kilbane
Dramaturge:	Meghan Reich
Multi-Media:	Matt Mahaney

Cast:

Greg Anderson
Elver Ariza
Michelle Banks
Jamie Boyd
Lori Boyd
Ra-Ra Boyd
Linda Gabriel
Tiffany Garfinkle

JP Illarramendi
Joe Lewis
Karen Novack
Erica Siegel
Kim Tuviv
Sam Weich