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LOOKING FOR LILITH
Theatre Company

**DEBUT OF INSPIRING BILINGUAL CROSS-CULTURAL PLAY:
*STRANGERS / EXTRANJERAS***

LOUISVILLE, KY, April 27, 2009—Looking for Lilith Theatre Company will unveil its newest original play, *Strangers/Extranjeras*, in June with a preview dinner and seven full performances in Louisville.

Audiences enjoyed staged readings of a draft script in Fall of 2007 at St. William Church in Louisville and in the D.C. area. This two-woman show presents two very different young women - a generous Mayan mother with limited independence and an idealistic, academic volunteer from the United States - who form a powerful friendship while reconciling conflicting world views. At once humorous and heartbreaking, the story speaks to a global family about cultural exchange, the pain of isolation, the horrors of poverty and the strength of those who persevere through it all.

The English-Spanish script was inspired by the experiences of Jennifer Thalman Kepler, Looking for Lilith's Community Outreach Director, of Arlington, Va.; and Charity Thompson, a company associate in Portland, Ore. The two spent a year as volunteers in Guatemala where they experienced that women, especially the Maya, are often denied liberties such as education, work outside the home, and opportunities for honest friendship and emotional expression.

The production is directed by Jennifer Thalman Kepler, and its cast will be announced soon. Shannon Woolley serves as assistant director, and as co-producer with Kelly McNerney, with media designers Typh Hainer Merwarth and Charity Thompson. Creation of the show was made possible in part by support from the Community Foundation of Louisville and the Kentucky Foundation for Women.

Performances of *Strangers/Extranjeras* will be at 7:30 p.m., June 11-13 and June 18-20, with a 2 p.m. matinee June 20, at The Rudyard Kipling, 422 W. Oak St. in Louisville. Admission will be \$15, and \$10 for students and seniors. Call 502-638-2559 for reservations only, or call 502-636-1311 for reservations including dinner. If coming for dinner, please arrive no later than 7 p.m.

On June 10 will be a special invitation-only GALA Fundraising Dinner including dinner and a preview performance of the full show, followed by a community dialogue about issues raised in the show. In addition, the event will include live music from Nashville-based singer-songwriter

Scott Dannemiller with songs based on his and his wife's experiences as volunteers in Guatemala. The dinner begins at 6 p.m. at The Ruddyard Kipling, 422 W. Oak St. in Louisville. Admission will be \$50, \$30 of which is tax-deductible. Members of the media who would like to cover this event may be able to receive pre-arranged comps.

Partial proceeds from the GALA Dinner and performances will benefit the Faith Stories Project, which furthers Looking for Lilith's cross-cultural efforts between Guatemalan and North American women. Founded by Jennifer Thalman Kepler in 2005, the project workshops use Augusto Boal's Theatre of the Oppressed techniques to help women share stories in dramatic form and find a sense of personal voice and empowerment while exploring how, as women, our faith can help liberate us while at the same time we often face barriers within the very community of faith through which we express our spirituality. This project has been partially funded by the Presbyterian Women's Thank Offering of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Looking for Lilith is a not-for-profit, ensemble theatre company, founded in 2001 in New York City by Shannon Woolley and Trina Fischer, both Louisville natives, along with Jennifer Thalman Kepler. The company is now based in Louisville with members in Oakland, Calif., and the D.C. area. Inspired by the oft-maligned myth of the strong, independent female figure of Lilith, the company's mission is to present plays that re-examine history through women's perspectives, mainly through the collaborative creation and production of original theatre works based on research and interviews. For additional information visit www.lookingforlilith.org or www.myspace.com/lookingforlilith.

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