

## Past, Present, Future

It is a breakthrough year for Polarity, having landed both major accolades and a home: The *Chicago Reader* named us “Best Emerging Theatre Company” in its 2008 Best of Chicago issue. And now we reside at the Josephinum Academy.

To celebrate we have scheduled our most ambitious season yet. We develop plays for the future with the Dionysos Cup. We honor the present with a world premiere of Darren Callahan’s *The White Airplane*, directed by Susan Padveen, February 13 - March 22.

And we toast the past with an innovative production of Sheridan’s *The Rivals*, perhaps the funniest of the Restoration comedies, directed by our own Laura Sturm, April 10 - May 17.

We will also publish a volume of Darren Callahan’s plays. And we will continue to develop *Singing in the Grave*, a darkly comic musical with book and lyrics by Richard Engling and music by Greg Silva.

## Tickets & Location

All performances are at our new home in the Josephinum Academy, 1500 N. Bell, Chicago. Tickets for the Dionysos Cup are \$5 for a single performance or \$10 for a full festival pass. Call 847-293-7705 for details. Purchase tickets at the door or online at [www.petheatre.com](http://www.petheatre.com).

## About Polarity Ensemble Theatre

Like the ancient Greeks, Polarity creates theatre to honor the spirit embodied in Dionysos, god of inspiration, wine and fertility as well as of destruction and madness. Our work reflects both polarities of life: the inspiring and the destructive. Polarity incorporates such elements as music, dance and ritual to create theatre that teases the intellect and stirs the soul. Our goal is to create innovative productions of classic theatre as well as premieres of new works by local writers.

## The Season

*The Dionysos Cup*  
November 6 - 23, 2008

*The White Airplane*  
February 13 - March 22, 2009

*The Rivals*  
April 10 - May 17, 2009

[www.PETheatre.com](http://www.PETheatre.com)

## The Dionysos Cup 2008



A Festival of New Plays

November 6 - 23  
1500 N. Bell  
Chicago



Polarity Ensemble  
Theatre

## *The Dionysos Cup 2008*

Polarity presents four new full-length plays by Chicago area playwrights in developmental staged readings.



*The Good Harvest*  
by Lisa Rosenthal

After their mother's death, triplets Henry, Molly and Jonathan are shocked by the appearance of their long-estranged father at her funeral. They struggle with the truth—or a new version of the truth—surrounding their birth.



*Ephemera*  
by Bryce Wissel

*Ephemera* is set aboard a space station of the same name, and is loosely based on the story of the Alamo.

Four crewmembers and a mysterious stranger face a threat beyond their understanding. It's a hilarious comedy in which everybody dies.



*The Double Negative*  
by Darren Callahan

Two brothers take very different approaches to post-war life in Europe. Their affections for the same

woman and one's consuming secret make for an epic drama of flawed human choices.



*Adrift*  
by David Alex

Can one honor one's parents and not their wishes or violate one's nature and remain oneself? Relationships between father and son are intertwined with each one's definition of loyalty and honor. Isaac, like the suffering seaman in Coleridge's "Rime of the Ancient Mariner" learns that not everything can be known.

### **The Award**

We model the festival after the City Dionysia, the ancient Greek festival that honored the god Dionysos with new drama. Like the original, this festival will be a competition, with the audience deciding who will receive the Dionysos Cup.

### **You Decide the Winner**

If you see two shows you get a vote. For each additional show you receive another vote. See all four and you are entitled to three votes. You can shower them all on your favorite or disperse them as you see fit.

### **Bonus Performance**

*The White Airplane*  
by Darren Callahan

We will have a fifth staged reading to continue the development of this script from the Dionysos Cup 2006 for its world premiere in our next production, opening in February 2009!

### **The Schedule**

Thursday, November 6, 7:30pm  
*The Good Harvest* by Lisa Rosenthal

Friday, November 7, 7:30pm  
*Ephemera* by Bryce Wissel

Saturday, November 8, 7:30pm  
*The Double Negative* by Darren Callahan

Sunday, November 9, 2pm  
*Adrift* by David Alex

Thursday, November 13, 7:30pm  
*The Double Negative* by Darren Callahan

Friday, November 14, 7:30pm  
*Adrift* by David Alex

Saturday, November 15, 7:30pm  
*The Good Harvest* by Lisa Rosenthal

Sunday, November 16, 2pm  
*Ephemera* by Bryce Wissel

#### **Special bonus:**

Sunday, November 23, 2pm  
*The White Airplane* by Darren Callahan