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**WORD FOR WORD a program of THE Z SPACE STUDIO presents
ANGEL FACE the Noir thriller by CORNELL WOOLRICH**

directed by STEPHANIE HUNT

August 10 - September 2, 2007 (previews August 7-8-9)

Project Artaud Theater, 450 Florida Street, San Francisco

"I've been around plenty, and 'around' wasn't pretty"

Word for Word steps into Noir legend Cornell Woolrich's world of sinister mobsters, rogue cops, and dames on the run with his ANGEL FACE. The world premiere theatrical production of ANGEL FACE runs August 10 - September 2, 2007 at the Project Artaud Theater in San Francisco. A forgotten noir gem, it is a suspense-driven pulp story from the pages of Black Mask. Angel Face is a wise-cracking chorine with a beautiful face, a survivor who climbed up from the bottom rung, one speakeasy after another. Suddenly her life becomes unhinged by a murder. In a classic Woolrich plotline, she joins forces with a cop too tough to be crooked, and together they race the clock in a desperate attempt to find the killer.

Over three years in development, this Word for Word thriller is a milestone for the company. Written in a hard-boiled woman's voice, Angel Face is unique to the Noir canon and yet exemplifies the genre - dialogue and imagery full of wit and humor, a fast twisting plot, brutal shocks, soft-hearted pauses, and the trademark Noir themes of guilt, fate, revenge and forgiveness. ANGEL FACE is directed by STEPHANIE HUNT in Word for Word's hallmark style of bringing literature to the stage in "word for word" theatrical productions. The production features actors Casey Jones Bastiaans*, Paul Finocchiaro, John Flanagan*, Michael Patrick Gaffney*, Laura Lowry*, Morgan Voellger, and Danny Wolohan* (* member, AEA).

This story, which originally appeared in Black Mask magazine in 1937, marks the first full-fledged foray for Word for Word into the dark and sexy world of Noir, with its stylish visual innovations and filmic past. And what better writer to showcase in this world premiere than the godfather of Noir himself, Cornell Woolrich, whose work is imbued with the wrong impressions, claustrophobic confusion, and headlong races against the clock that typify this exciting genre.

Angel Face runs at the Project Artaud Theater, 450 Florida Street in San Francisco from August 10 to September 2, 2007 (previews August 7-8-9). Tickets for Angel Face range from \$15 to \$36.50 with the August 10 Gala Opening & reception at \$45. Tickets are available through the Tix Central Box Office at 415-439-2456 or online at www.zspace.org/angelface.htm. **Photo editors:** A selection of photographs of Angel Face are downloadable format from <http://www.zspace.org/angelfacepress.htm>

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QuickTime™ and a
Photo - JPEG decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

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Word for Word-add one

WEDNESDAY PRE-SHOW TALKS: Dramaturg and Noir expert Randall Homan talks about the dames and denizens of Cornell Woolrich's world at 7:30pm every Wednesday before the show. Free to ticketed patrons at the Project Artaud Theater. **THURSDAY POST-SHOW RECEPTION:** Mingle with Word for Word actors at a reception for audience members following the show every Thursday night at the Project Artaud Theater.

CORNELL WOOLRICH (a.k.a. William Irish and George Hopley) was born Cornell George Hopley-Woolrich in 1906. Known as the "Edgar Allen Poe of the 20th century," Woolrich, like Poe, led a fragmented and troubled life. He moved often as a child, suffered through parental divorce, and ultimately married the daughter of a Hollywood movie mogul (whom he adored), only to have her annul the marriage when she discovered that he was a closeted homosexual. For the next twenty-five years, Woolrich lived in a conflicted love-hate relationship with his mother. Even as he wrote his best work, Woolrich decayed emotionally and physically, eventually losing a leg to gangrene and becoming an alcoholic. His widely quoted aphorism, "First you dream, then you die," sums up both his dark worldview and many of his plots, and also provides a clue to his undisputed mastery of suspense. As the most prolific of the Noir writers, Woolrich is considered by many to be the godfather of the genre, and more films have been made from his work than from the work of any other Noir writer, including Hitchcock's *Rear Window* and Truffaut's *La MariÈe Etait en Noir* (*The Bride Wore Black*). Following his mother's death in 1957, Woolrich's physical decline accelerated, and he died of a stroke in 1968, leaving behind two dozen novels and over 200 short stories.

Stephanie Hunt, (Director) a Charter Member of Word for Word, has acted in over 12 stories with the company, including playing the speedometer in the first chapter of Upton Sinclair's novel *Oil!* and Lizzie Borden in Angela Carter's *Fall River Axe Murders*. For Word for Word, Stephanie has directed "Lady's Dream" and "Bullet in the Brain," two of the three stories in *Stories by Tobias Wolff*, which extended for over two months and was called one of the 10 Best Theater Performances of 2002 by the *San Francisco Chronicle*. With Word for Word, Stephanie has worked as Assistant Director on several productions, including the award winning *Winesburg, Ohio*, and *Goodbye and Good Luck*. She directed the Word for Word school tour production of Gerald McDermott's *Anansi the Spider* and has directed in long-term residencies as a Word for Word teacher in several schools throughout the Bay Area. As an actress, Stephanie has worked throughout the Bay Area at theaters including Berkeley Repertory Theater, Aurora Theater, Campo Santo, and at the Magic. Stephanie has originated roles in plays by Sara Felder (*The Lady Upstairs*), John O'Keefe (*Osiris*), and Ellen Moore (*Available Light*). She was an original founding member of the improv company Pulp Playhouse. Stephanie won a Bay Area Critics' Circle Award for her portrayal of Mum in the Industrial Strength production of Steven Berkoff's *East*, which played for a year in San Francisco, before moving to La MaMa E.T.C. in New York. Stephanie is currently a lecturer in the theater department at Sonoma State University, where she has directed Brecht's *The Exception and the Rule*, Lanford Wilson's *This is the Rill Speaking*, Caryl Churchill's *Top Girls*, and Carlo Gozzi's *The Green Bird*. She has an M.F.A. from American Conservatory Theater.

WORD FOR WORD is the theatre company that transforms classic and contemporary fiction into performance works for the stage. Founded in 1993 by Susan Harloe and JoAnne Winter, the company is in its 14th year. Word for Word performs short stories in their entirety, preserving the author's language and honoring his or her literary intent. Word for Word has staged works throughout the Bay Area, as well as in France. In addition, Word for Word presents an annual School & Library Tour throughout Northern California under the auspices of the Z Space Studio's Youth Arts Education Program. In 1997, Word for Word received a
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Word for Word-add two

special Bay Area Critics Circle Award for its unique concept and in 1998, 2002, 2003, and 2005, the Bay Area Critics Circle awarded the company numerous honors for productions including *The Halfway Diner*, *Winesburg, Ohio*, *Stories by Tobias Wolff*, and *Immortal Heart*. Word for Word is a program of the Z Space Studio.

THE Z SPACE STUDIO supports a culturally and aesthetically diverse community of theater artists working together to develop Bay Area theatre and theatre audiences. Founded in 1993 by David Dower, the Z Space Studio has become one of the nation's leading laboratories for the development of new voices, new works and new directions in American theater. By creating a space where all types of artistic development can occur side by side, the Z Space Studio has become what Berkeley Repertory

Theatre's Artistic Director Tony Taccone describes as "a virtual bastion of creativity, a bubbling cauldron of new work, and a safe haven for unfettered creative expression." The Z Space Studio employs hundreds of artists each year in the process of developing new works. The programs developed under the Z umbrella are enjoyed by over 30,000 people each year and can be found in schools, libraries, and theaters throughout Northern California and the country. Since the founding of the Z Space Studio in 1993, the Studio and the Bay Area artists we serve have racked up an impressive list of awards and other notable achievements, including the Helen Hayes Award, the Kesselring Prize, the MacArthur Award, and two Pulitzer nominations. Two Z-commissioned works, Haiku Tunnel and Red Diaper Baby, have become major motion pictures. In 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2005, Z-produced projects have landed in the San Francisco Chronicle's "10 Best Theater Events of the Year" list, and in 2006 the Z-produced 4 Adverbs appeared in the Oakland Tribune's Top 10 Events of the Year. www.zspace.org

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CALENDAR EDITOR PLEASE NOTE:

WORD FOR WORD, a program of THE Z SPACE STUDIO, presents the world premiere theatrical production of ANGEL FACE, the Noir thriller by CORNELL WOOLRICH, directed by STEPHANIE HUNT. In ANGEL FACE, Word for Word never lets up with this thriller by the godfather of Noir, Cornell Woolrich. To save her dim-bulb brother from a bogus murder rap, gorgeous gal stripper Jerry Wheeler ("Angel Face") flirts and flaunts her way into the dark depths of gangland New York to find the killer. But when the murderous mobster turns the tables, smitten gumshoe Burns must race the clock to keep Angel Face from swimming with the fishes.

DATES: August 10-September 2, 2007 (previews August 7-8-9)

TIMES: Performances Wednesday through Saturday at 8pm, and Sunday at 3pm

WHERE: Project Artaud Theater, 450 Florida Street, San Francisco

TICKETS: \$15 previews, \$28.50 student/senior, \$30.50-\$36.50 general admission with the August 10 Gala Opening & reception at \$45 (pay-what-you-can rush Wednesday through Friday 10 minutes before curtain as available)

BOX OFFICE: Tix Central Box Office at 415-439-2456 or by going online to www.zspace.org/angelface.htm.

PRE-SHOW TALKS WEDNESDAYS 7:30PM: Dramaturg and Noir expert Randall Homan talks about Cornell Woolrich's world. **POST-SHOW RECEPTION THURSDAYS:** Mingle with Word for Word actors at a reception for audience members following the show.

Photo editors: Black and white and color photographs of Angel Face are downloadable in hi-res jpeg format from <http://www.zspace.org/angelfacepress.htm>

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