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**CUTTING BALL THEATER CONTINUES 2008 SEASON WITH
RE-IMAGINED BECKETT CLASSIC “ENDGAME”**

“Nothing is funnier than unhappiness”

February 22-March 16, 2008

SAN FRANCISCO (January 31, 2008) – San Francisco’s critically acclaimed, cutting-edge **Cutting Ball Theater** continues its 2008 season with Samuel Beckett’s **ENDGAME**. **Rob Melrose**, Cutting Ball’s co-founding Artistic Director, directs this modern take on one of Beckett’s most important works. Starring **David Sinaiko** (*Taming of the Shrew, Woyzeck, Macbeth, As You Like It*), **Avery Monsen** (*Taming of the Shrew*), **Paul Gerrior** (*As You Like It, Roberto Zucco*), and **Maureen Coyne** (*Risk is This*), **ENDGAME** runs **February 22 through March 16** (press opening: February 28) at Traveling Jewish Theatre, 470 Florida St. (between 17th and Mariposa) in San Francisco. For tickets (\$15-30) and more information, the public may visit **cuttingball.com** or call **800-838-3006**.

With a uniquely San Franciscan bent (all of the action takes place in a run-down Victorian house), Cutting Ball’s production of **ENDGAME** follows the attacks and parries of the world’s last four remaining inhabitants, two of whom dwell in trash cans. A profound, introspective look at the game that man constantly plays and in which he is always checkmated, this absurdist masterpiece examines civilization as it is about to end, and explores what can happen when there are very few people left.

“My goal with this production is to make the strange familiar, to root Beckett’s language in a reality as solid as the realities that exist in his novels,” said Cutting Ball Artistic Director Rob Melrose. “We are being absolutely faithful to Beckett’s text. At the same time, the look of our production is modern and familiar allowing audiences to enter the world of **ENDGAME** as a contemporary situation as opposed to a period piece.” In

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addition to Cutting Ball’s production of **ENDGAME**, Melrose will also direct a production of Beckett’s *Happy Days* at the Guthrie Theater next year.

Artistic Director and co-founder of Cutting Ball Theater, **Rob Melrose** has directed several productions for the company, including Suzan Lori-Parks’ *The Death of the Last Black Man in the Whole Entire World*; *My Head Was a Sledgehammer*; *Mayakovsky: A Tragedy*; *Drowning Room*; *As You Like It*; *Macbeth*; and *The Taming of the Shrew*, among others. Additional directing credits include David Marshall Grant’s *Pen* at The Guthrie Theater, Liz Duffy Adams’ *The Train Play* at Crowded Fire Theater, and assistant directing credits for Tom Stoppard’s *Indian Ink*, (directed by Carey Perloff at ACT), as well as Martin McDonagh’s *The Pillowman* (directed by Les Waters at Berkeley Rep).

Samuel Barclay Beckett was an Irish dramatist, novelist and poet. He is considered by many to be one of the last modernists. As an inspiration to many later writers, he is thought to be one of the first postmodernists. Considered to be one of the key writers in the “Theatre of the Absurd,” his works were minimalistic and, according to some interpretations, deeply pessimistic about the human condition. Beckett’s perceived pessimism (mitigated by an often wicked sense of humor) was not so much for the human condition, but for that of established cultural and societal structures. In addition to prose, poetry, teleplays, and pieces written for the radio, Beckett’s body of works for the stage include *Waiting for Godot* (1952); *Act Without Words I* (1956); *Act Without Words II* (1956); **ENDGAME** (1957); *Krapp’s Last Tape* (1958); *Rough for Theatre I* (late 1950s); *Rough for Theatre II* (late 1950s); *Happy Days* (1960); *Play* (1963); *Come and Go* (1965); *Breath* (1969); *Not I* (1972); *That Time* (1975); *Footfalls* (1975); *A Piece of Monologue* (1980); *Rockaby* (1981); *Ohio Impromptu* (1981); *Catastrophe* (1982); and *What Where* (1983). He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1969.

Following **ENDGAME**, Cutting Ball Theater continues its theatrical season for 2008 with *Avant GardARAMA*, an evening of short, experimental plays, July 18 - August 16 at EXIT on Taylor. In October, *Mud* by Maria Irene Fornes, begins Cutting Ball’s residency at the EXIT on Taylor, playing October 24 – November 23, followed by the company’s *Risk is This . . . The Cutting Ball New Experimental Plays Festival*, December 5 – 20.

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Co-founded in 1999 by husband and wife team Rob Melrose and Paige Rogers, **Cutting Ball Theater** presents avant-garde works of the past, present, and future by re-envisioning classics, exploring seminal avant-garde texts, and developing new experimental plays. Cutting Ball Theater has partnered with Playwrights Foundation, Magic Theatre, and Z Space New Plays Initiative to commission new experimental works, including *Bone to Pick* by Eugenie Chan, which will be featured as part of this season's Avant GardARAMA! The company has produced a number of World Premieres and West Coast Premieres, and re-imagined various classics. Cutting Ball Theater earned the Best of SF Award in 2006 for Theater from *SF Weekly*, and was selected by *San Francisco Magazine* as Best Classic Theater in 2007.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHAT: San Francisco's cutting-edge **Cutting Ball Theater** continues its 2008 season of critically acclaimed stage-work in the Bay Area with Samuel Beckett's **ENDGAME**. **Rob Melrose**, Cutting Ball's co-founding Artistic Director, helms this modern take on one of Beckett's most important works, starring **David Sinaiko** (*Taming of the Shrew*, *Woyzeck*, *Macbeth*, *As You Like It*), **Avery Monsen** (*Taming of the Shrew*), **Paul Gerrior** (*As You Like It*, *Roberto Zucco*), and **Maureen Coyne** (*Risk is This*). This absurdist masterpiece follows the attacks and parries of the world's last four remaining inhabitants, two of whom dwell in trash cans. This absurdist masterpiece examines civilization as it is about to end, and explores what can happen when there are very few people left.

SCHEDULE: **February 22 - March 16, 2008**
Thursday, Friday and Saturdays at 8pm; Sundays at 5pm
Press opening: Thursday, February 28, 8pm

WHERE: Traveling Jewish Theatre
470 Florida St. (between 17th and Mariposa)

TICKETS: For tickets (\$15-30) and more information, the public may visit **cuttingball.com** or call **800-838-3006**.

PHOTOS: High-resolution digital art for **ENDGAME** is available by visiting **<http://www.cuttingball.com/press.php>**

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Endgame is produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

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