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Grove Theater Center

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News Release

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Bloomsbury Artists Come to Life

Art, Sex, Conquest and Love in a new play about two of Britain's most influential artists from the producers of *Blake...da Musical!* (2005 Ovation Award Best New Musical) and *Film Chinois* (2007 Ovation Award Best New Play)

Burbank, CA – On a fall day in 1923, the British painters Duncan Grant and Vanessa Bell are just finishing packing up their summer retreat at Charleston when the work is interrupted by the surprise visit of the dashing mountain climber George Mallory. Since both Duncan and Vanessa have had an affair with George in earlier years, the visit is filled with uneasy questions as the three sort out their art, sex, conquests and loves. A romantic comedy about a very uncommon romantic triangle.

Eternal Equinox is by Joyce Sachs and is part of the GTC New Play Initiative, a program designed to develop new works for the professional stage. Previous New Play Initiative projects have included *Blake...da Musical!* (winner of the 2005 Ovation Award Best New Musical), *Straight Up with a Twist* (2006 Ovation nomination for Best Solo Performance, and *Film Chinois* (2007 Ovation Award Best New Play).

The play is produced by Grove Theater Center. All performances are at GTC Burbank, 1111-b West Olive Avenue. Previews begin June 24; the show opens on June 27 and plays through July 25. Performances are Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 pm and Sunday at 3 pm. For tickets call 818-238-9998 or go to www.gtc.org. Note: the play contains brief nudity.

Eternal Equinox was born as playwright Joyce Sachs was working on her thesis about the writer Virginia Woolf. Through this work, Joyce discovered the world of the Bloomsbury Group in England, including Virginia Woolf's sister, the painter Vanessa Bell and her longtime companion Duncan Grant. Their lives were anything but conventional but produced some of the most influential art in England between the world wars. Just a taste of the complexity of their lives can be glimpsed by the fact that Duncan, who was primarily gay, fathered a daughter by Vanessa. The daughter lived happily with Vanessa's husband (who happily resided with his mistresses in the same house as Duncan and Vanessa) and the daughter eventually married an ex-lover of Duncan's.

To spice the evening up, Joyce adds to this mix of personalities George Mallory, the mountain climber who coined the phrase "Because it's there" and was the first man to seriously attempt to climb Mount Everest (he died on his third attempt in 1924 though his body wasn't discovered until 1997 and it's

unknown whether he reached the summit or not). When he offers Duncan the position of official photographer and artist on his upcoming expedition, all three must come to terms with the risks, realities, and potential of the lives they have chosen.

The show plays Thursdays through Saturday at 8 pm and Sundays at 3 pm from June 27 to July 25. Special low-priced previews from June 24, 25 and 26. Tickets are \$30 (previews \$15). Patrons save \$5 per ticket by purchasing online at www.gtc.org. Tickets are also available at 818.238.9998. All Thursday performances are Pay-What-You-Can nights with tickets available on a first come first served basis at the door. All performances are at GTC Burbank, 1111-b West Olive Avenue, in the George Izay Park (one and one half blocks west of Victory behind the blue and white fighter jet). R.R.R.E.D. is produced by Grove Theater Center, Kevin Cochran & Charles Johanson. Directed by Kevin Cochran with Gillian Doyle, Justin Ellis, Christopher McFarland and Matthew Scott Montgomery.

About Grove Theater Center (GTC): Founded by Kevin Cochran and Charles Johanson in 1994, Grove Theater Center (GTC) has presented over 100 professional theater productions employing members of SSDC (the union of stage directors) and Actors' Equity Association. We presented 12 seasons at the 172 seat GTC Gem Theater and the 550 seat Festival Amphitheater in Garden Grove, 5 summer seasons of Theater on the Green in our 246 seat theater in Fullerton and six seasons (so far) at the 99 seat GTC Burbank.

From the beginning, GTC has worked to develop new plays for the theater. We've premiered over 25 new plays including work by James McLure, Christopher Hart, David Paterson and Ron House. Nineteen of these plays have since been presented by other theaters across the country. Two (*Finger Painting in a Murphy Bed* and *Pieces of the Sky* by David Paterson) have been published by Samuel French. *Finger Painting* was also made into a movie which won an Audience Choice Award at Sundance. *Swifty*, by Christopher Hart, was co-produced by multiple Oscar winner David Brown and workshopped at Manhattan Theater Club with Richard Dreyfuss in the lead role.

About the New Play Initiative

GTC's New Play Initiative (NPI) was started in 2004 to expand and formalize our work on new play development. The 2005 NPI play, *Blake...da Musical!* (by LA writers Rick Batalla and Henry Phillips), won the Los Angeles Ovation Award (called "L.A.'s most coveted theater award" by the Los Angeles Times) for Best New Musical. GTC's 2006 production of *Straight Up with a Twist*, by Paul Stroili, garnered an Ovation nomination as Best Solo Performance (and ran for five months in NYC at The Players Theatre). In 2007, GTC's production of *Film Chinois*, by Singaporean playwright Damon Chua, was nominated for 3 LA Ovation Awards and won for Best New Play and was recently published by Samuel French.

Other NPI plays include Sarah Treem's *Empty Sky* (which went on to South Coast Rep's Pacific Playwrights Festival and won the Reva Shiner New Play Festival); *Dusk* and *A Brief History of Penguins and Promiscuity*, both by James McLindon (both productions "Recommended" by the Los Angeles Times); and *The Accomplices*, by Bernard Weinraub, which premiered at The New Group and received a 2007 Drama Desk nomination for Best New Play.

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