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CONTACT: Joyce Linehan (617) 282-2510, joyce@ashmontmedia.com

ICA/BOSTON PRESENTS THE NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE OF

JAY SCHEIB'S

BELLONA, DESTROYER OF CITIES

May 13—15, 2011

High res photos for download at http://ashmontmedia.com/ICA_photos_bellona.html

This release has been updated with information about post-show discussions and additions to the creative team. In addition, since the original release went out, Jay Scheib has been awarded a 2011 Guggenheim Fellowship.

(BOSTON—updated April 28, 2011) The Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston (ICA) presents the New England premiere of Jay Scheib's *Bellona, Destroyer of Cities* on May 13 and 14 at 7:30 p.m. and May 15 at 2 p.m., in the Barbara Lee Family Foundation Theater at the ICA (100 Northern Ave., Boston). **Press night is May 13 and space is limited.** General admission tickets are \$25, \$22 for members and students, and can be purchased at www.icaboston.org or by calling (617) 478-3103.

2011 Guggenheim Fellow Jay Scheib returns to the ICA stage with a New England premiere. His video-infused *This Place is a Desert*, the first theater piece ever presented in our waterfront theater, thrust him into the critical spotlight. This new work, based on Samuel R. Delany's landmark science fiction novel *Dhalgren*, is part two of *Simulated Cities/Simulated Systems*, Scheib's trilogy of multimedia performance works.

In *Bellona*, Scheib combines passages from the novel with original material, movement sequences and live video to tell the story of a family struggling to sustain a reality that has long ago become fiction. There has been a cataclysmic event but no one is really sure how it started. An entire city that once held millions of inhabitants now has a few thousand citizens. Two moons have appeared in the sky and the sun looms larger than life, and for some unknown reason, this once illustrious city has been all but forgotten by the world beyond it—and then a

newcomer arrives on the scene. She can't remember her name but is determined to be a great writer. And as buildings burst into flames and city streets rearrange themselves overnight, she learns to write. Slowly it becomes unclear if the world and her experiences determine her poetry or if her poetry actually determines the world.

On Friday, May 13, there will be a post-show conversation with artist/collaborator Carrie Mae Weems, producer/actress Tanya Selvaratnam, and actress Sarita Choudhury; on Saturday, May 14, there will be a post-show conversation with author Samuel R. Delany and Jay Scheib.

Cast: **Sarita Choudhury, Caleb Hammond, Mikéah Ernest Jennings, Jon Morris, Ayesha Ngaujah, Tanya Selvaratnam, and Natalie Thomas.** Set design by **Peter Ksander.** Lighting Design by Peter Ksander with Miranda Hardy. Costume design by **Oana Botez-Ban.** Sound design by **Anoushka Trocker** with **Catherine McCurry.** Video design by **Jay Scheib** and **Josh Higgason;** Photography and additional video by **Carrie Mae Weems.** Assistant Director: **Laine Rettmer,** Tour Producer: **ArKtype/Thomas O. Kriegsmann.** Producer: **Tanya Selvaratnam;** Director/Adapter: **Jay Scheib.**

Bellona, Destroyer of Cities premiered at The Kitchen in New York in April 2010 for a two-week sold-out run, and subsequently played the Exit Festival, 2011 at Maison des Arts, Creteil, France. Support is provided by Massachusetts Institute of Technology School of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, Office of the Associate Provost; Agnes Gund; and the Lucius and Eva Eastman Fund. This production is presented in conjunction with FAST/MIT 150: a festival celebrating MIT's confluence of Art, Science and Technology.

About Jay Scheib

Jay Scheib's current and upcoming productions include Evan Ziporyn's new opera *A House in Bali* at Cal Performances in Berkeley and Brooklyn Academy of Music (Fall 2010, Next Wave Festival), *Puntila und sein Knecht Matti* at Theater Augsburg in Germany, and *Fidelio* at Saarländische Staatstheater in Saarbrücken, Germany (Winter 2011). 2008 productions included *Untitled Mars (This Title May Change)*, which premiered at Performance Space 122 in New York followed by a tour to the National Theatre in Budapest, Hungary, and *This Place is a Desert*, which premiered at Boston's Institute of Contemporary Art followed by a sold-out run at the

Under the Radar Festival in New York. *Untitled Mars* received an Obie Award for Scenic Design; *This Place is a Desert* was named one of the Ten Best Shows of 2008 by *Time Out New York*. In the Spring of 2009, he was ranked Best New York Theater Director by *Time Out New York*, and named by *American Theater Magazine* as one of the twenty-five theater artists who will shape the next twenty five years of American theater. Scheib is a recipient of a 2011 Guggenheim Fellowship, the Edgerton Award, The Richard Sherwood Award, and the NEA/TCG Program for Directors. Scheib is a regular guest professor at the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria and is Associate Professor for Theater at MIT.

About the ICA

An influential forum for multi-disciplinary arts, the Institute of Contemporary Art has been at the leading edge of art in Boston for more than 70 years. Like its iconic building on Boston's waterfront, the ICA offers new ways of engaging with the world around us. Its exhibitions and programs provide access to contemporary art, artists, and the creative process, inviting audiences of all ages and backgrounds to participate in the excitement of new art and ideas. The ICA, located at 100 Northern Avenue, is open Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 a.m. —5 p.m.; Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. —9 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. —5 p.m. Admission is \$15 adults, \$13 seniors and \$10 students, and free for members and children 17 and under. ICA Free Admission for Youth is sponsored by State Street Foundation. Free admission on ICA Free Thursday Nights, 5—9 p.m. Free admission for families at ICA Play Dates (2 adults + children 12 and under) on the last Saturday of the month. For more information, call 617-478-3100 or visit our Web site at www.icaboston.org.

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