

Stage Area: 15m x 8m (dimensions variable)



150 First Avenue  
at East 9th St.  
New York, NY 10009  
tickets: 212-352-3101  
www.psl22.org  
Info: 212-477-5288

**PER  
FORM  
ANCE  
SPACE  
122**

# UNTITLED MARS

## This Title May Change

Conceived and directed by Jay Scheib

With Performances by Karl Allen, Dorka Gryllus, Caleb Hammond, László Keszég, Tanya Selvaratnam, April Sweeney, Natalie, Thomas, Balázs Vajna with special on-camera appearances by Waris Ahluwalia, Phillip Cunio, Kofi Hope-Gund, Henrik Hargitai, Zahra Khan, and Dr. Robert Zubrin and others... Scenic Design by Peter Ksander, Lighting Design by Miranda Hardy, Costume Design by Oana Botez-Ban, Sound Design by Catherine McCurry, Video Design by Balázs Vajna and Miklos Buk, Dramaturg/Hungarian Coordinator Anna Lengyel, Assistant Director Laine Rettmer

Premier 8 April 2008, Performance Space 122, Vallejo Gantner, New York City

**Untitled Mars (This Title May Change)** is made possible through the generous support of Ensemble Studio Theater/ Sloan Foundation; The Trust for Mutual Understanding; The Hungarian Cultural Center; Deutsch-Ungarische Industrie und Handelskammer; Swing Space, a program of Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, generously supported by the September 11th Fund—project space donated by Capstone Equities; with special thanks to the Mars Society, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology School of Humanities Arts and Social Sciences.

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# UNTITLED MARS

## *This title may Change*

In his latest work for Performance Space 122, director Jay Scheib, crash-lands seven performers into a simulated Martian Environment in *UNTITLED MARS: This Title May Change*. The first in a trilogy of works for live performance under the banner SimulatedCities / SimulatedSystems, *UNTITLED MARS* is an international collaboration between celebrated theater ensemble Pont Muhely of Budapest and a team of research scientists phoning in their performance live via satellite from the Mars Desert Research Station in Utah. Sound fake? It's not. *UNTITLED MARS* is a mind-bending excursion into an interplanetary future defined by Scheib's signature multi-media aesthetic. This not to be missed performance is a Science vs. Fiction Simulation of Real Simulation as performed by Real Scientist in the very Real Utah desert. Rewriting Fiction with Reality *UNTITLED MARS: This title may Change* caps a year of collaboration with an international team of Space industry visionaries, artists and research scientists and students from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

*Jay Scheib's antic play—half lab-rat experiment and half sex farce — devolves into an orgy of greed, lust, and insanity — the over-all effect is one of happy disorientation.*

Michael Schulman - The New Yorker

*Using live video feeds and editing software to create the illusion of walking on the Martian surface, Scheib masterfully blends high-tech effects with his performers, who wrestle and simulate sex with gusto... this laid-back orchestrator of multimedia installations surrounds himself with strikingly attractive actors and sexy technology.*

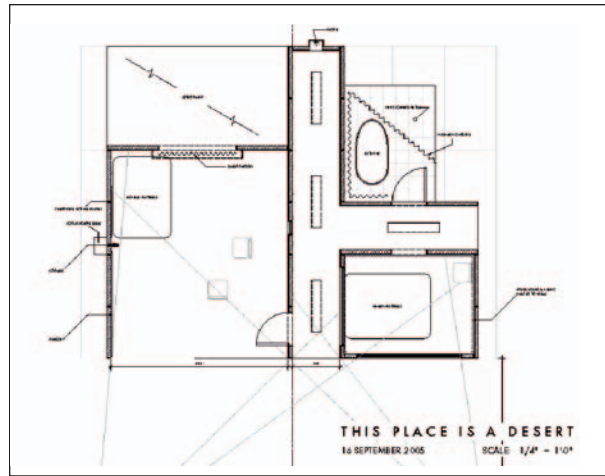
David Cote - Time Out New York

*...what a pleasure to encounter an artist like Scheib, with so many ideas and so many means of presenting them... In a video clip, Dr. Zubrin insists: "We have to go to Mars simply because it's there." If Scheib's leading, we just might go along for the ride.*

Alexis Soloski - The Village voice

**2008 OBIE AWARD WINNER for BEST SCENIC DESIGN**





# THIS PLACE IS A DESERT

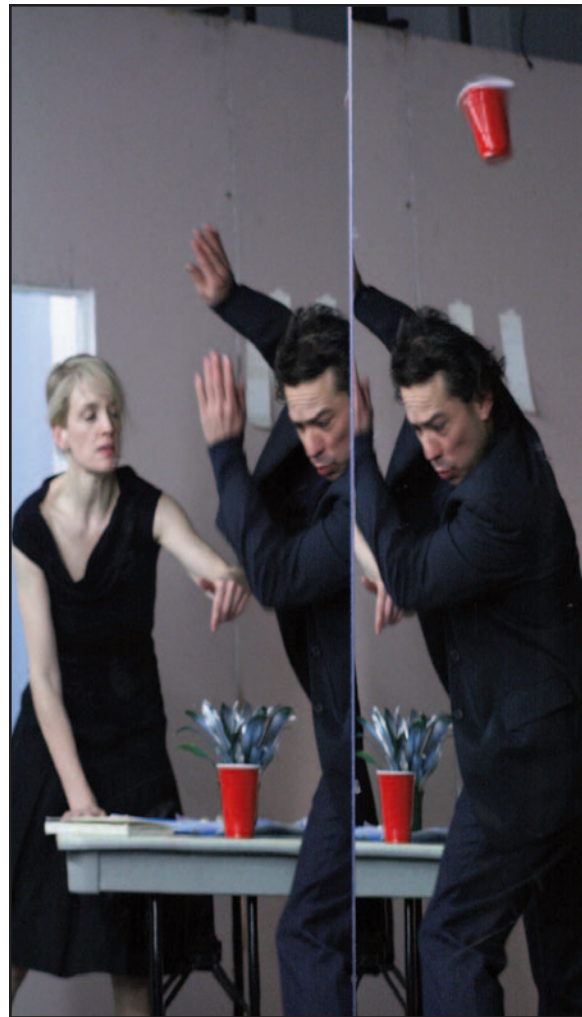
text and direction by Jay Scheib with performances by *Sarita Choudhury, Caleb Hammond, Thomas Keating, \* Aimee Phelan-Deconinck, \* Jorge Rubio, \* Eric Dean Scott, \* Tanya Selvaratnam, and April Sweeney, \** scenic and lighting design by Peter Ksander - video design by Jay Scheib with additional design by Leah Gelpe - sound design Leah Gelpe - costumes by Oana Botez-Ban - camera operator Karl Allen

*"She wants to disappear into the landscape but settles for an affair. It doesn't help. She feels worse. This play is about wanting to feel worse—a motion-portrait of human loves and human emotion increasingly diminished."*

*This Place is a Desert*, began as a studio project in collaboration with the Kretakor ensemble in Budapest and developed in residence at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. *This Place is a Desert* is presented with the generous support of the Foundation for Contemporary Arts, Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, The Public Theater / Under the Radar Festival, MIT Wade Fund Award, MIT Music and Theater Arts, and MIT Council for the Arts. In October of 2005 *This Place is a Desert* was given an open studio showing at MIT and previewed at the PRELUDE FESTIVAL, New York City. World Premier: March 22, 2007 ICA Boston

**New York Premier: January 9, 2008, New York Public Theater, Under the Radar Festival**





**From the Press Release:** Inspired by the work of Italian modernist filmmaker Michelangelo Antonioni, Jay Scheib creates theater for a generation raised in the language of cinema. The audience views this portrait of human love gone increasingly wrong in fragments—through windows, reflected in mirrors, and through partially-drawn curtains. The action is projected live onto a wide screen above the stage architecture. A lone cinematographer moves through the set providing a sensually charged, live cinema study of four lovers destroying each other in an attempt to defy their impenetrable loneliness. Said Scheib, "The goal of situating the action within these partial-view rooms is, on

one hand, a practical consideration—we use cameras to see up close, to see around corners, and to mediate our experience of Reality amplifying an erotics of the partial view. With the camera we differentiate between Reality and Realistic. I am using an Italian filmmaker to understand something unique about American life. Either we are ugly people and we deserve the world that we live in, or something is wrong in us, and the world in which we live is merely symptomatic of a deeper anxiety. *This Place is a Desert* is a motion-portrait, it's a tool for understanding Reality—and this reality, thanks to technology, is always partially seen and partially screened..."



*Luckily, the American avant-garde set had a piece in the festival as well, and it was a jaw-dropping doozy. Jay Scheib's "This Place is a Desert," (...) The title "Under the Radar" may imply undiscovered potential. But in the case of Mr. Scheib, we are actually seeing an already major talent coming triumphantly into its own.*

Helen Shaw - New York Sun

*...a tale of relationships gone bad, framed by Scheib's twisted, pop-culture savvy sense of humor.*

Geoff Edgers - The Boston Globe

*Taking a cue from the work of Italian director Michelangelo Antonioni, Scheib conjures a life's worth of tragedy and comedy, and relates them in the most fascinating way possible.*

The Mass Media

