

PRESS RELEASE

after the quake by Haruki Murakami, adapted by Frank Galati

Press Release
March 28, 2011

Contact

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Echoing the Recent Quake in Japan, Walking Shadow Stages a Play About Characters Responding to the 1995 Kobe Earthquake, Written by International Bestseller Haruki Murakami

after the quake based on the short stories "Honey Pie" and "Superfrog Saves Tokyo" from the novel *after the quake* by Haruki Murakami
adapted for the stage by Frank Galati
directed by Amy Rummenie
May 6-21, 2011 at the People's Center Theater
please note that the title is intentionally lowercase

Walking Shadow Theatre Company presents the regional premiere of *after the quake*, an immediately relevant play set one month after the devastating 1995 Kobe earthquake. The play weaves together two stories in a typical Murakami mix: one a touching love story and one a surreal adventure with a talking frog.

Junpei is still in love with his high-school sweetheart, Sayoko, but she married his best friend long ago. This mismatch might go unchecked, until the Kobe earthquake causes Sayoko's young daughter to have nightmares that only Junpei's storytelling can ease, and the hope of true love springs anew. Meanwhile, Katagiri is a successful businessman, but unsatisfied in his job. One day, a giant frog unexpectedly visits Katagiri and tells him that a new earthquake threatens Tokyo, and only by going deep underground and battling Worm can they prevent it. Is the Frog real? Does it matter?

Though *after the quake* has been made more timely by the recent events in Japan, the stories it tells are timeless. Fun, romantic, weird and smart, the play explores what it means to be alive in an uncertain world.

Haruki Murakami is an internationally recognized novelist whose work mixes American pop culture with Japanese tradition. His books have been translated into dozens of languages, and he is the most widely-read Japanese novelist of his generation. These two short stories, "Honey Pie" and "Superfrog Saves Tokyo," were originally published in GQ and The New Yorker, respectively. They were subsequently published in Murakami's short story collection, *after the quake*.

Amy Rummenie (*The Crowd You're In With, Mojo, The American Pilot, Fat Pig*) directs. The cast includes **Eric Sharp** (WSTC: *Mr. Marmalade*; Guthrie Theater: *M.*

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Butterfly; Park Square: *The Odyssey*; Mu: *Ching Chong Chinaman, Bahala Na*), **Katie Bradley** (CTC: *Mulan*, Jon Ferguson: *Animal Farm*, Mu: *Little Shop of Horrors, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Flower Drum Song*), **Kurt Kwan** (Mu: *Cowboy vs. Samurai, The Romance of Magno Rubio, Flower Drum Song, Ching Chong Chinaman*), and **Brant Miller** (Four Humors: *The Age of Wordsworth, Mortem Capiendum, Sideways Stories*; Live Action Set: *The Happy Show*, Jon Ferguson: *S. Gunter Klaus*), with six-year-old **Natatie Tran** as Sala.

About Walking Shadow Theatre Company:

Since 2004, Walking Shadow Theatre has gained a reputation for creating well-staged and carefully researched independent theater. Past productions include *Drakul* by John Heimbuch, *Robots vs. Fake Robots* by David Largman Murray, Neil LaBute's *Some Girl(s)* and *Fat Pig*, and David Greig's *The American Pilot*, as well as notable Fringe Festival successes including *1926 Pleasant*, *William Shakespeare's Land of the Dead*, *SQUAWK* and *See You Next Tuesday*. This show marks Walking Shadow's 21st production for the Twin Cities stage.

This activity funded, in part, by the Minnesota arts and cultural heritage fund as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.

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TICKETS: \$18/\$15
RESERVATIONS: 612-375-0300
MORE INFORMATION: www.walkingshadowcompany.org

EVENT **after the quake**
***** please note that the title is intentionally lowercase*****
WRITTEN BY: Haruki Murakami
DIRECTED BY: Amy Rummenie
NOTE: Regional Premiere

DATES: May 6 -21, 2011
VENUE: People's Center Theater
425 20th Ave S, Minneapolis

SUMMARY: Junpei still loves his best friend's wife. When the Earthquake Man haunts her young daughter, the timid writer searches for the courage they need. He tells the story of Katagiri, a simple man recruited by a talking frog to do battle against the giant monster burrowed beneath Tokyo! These threads weave together in a tender and fantastic exploration of life after a disaster by bestselling Japanese novelist Haruki Murakami, inspired by the 1995 earthquake in Kobe.

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Friday, May 6, 7:30 pm	Opening Night Reception following performance
Saturday, May 7, 7:30 pm	
Monday, May 9, 7:30 pm	Pay What You Can Performance
Thursday, May 13, 7:30 pm	
Friday, May 14, 7:30 pm	Post-Show Discussion
Saturday, May 15, 7:30 pm	Audio Described Performance
Sunday, May 16, 3:00 pm	Matinee
Thursday, May 19, 7:30 pm	
Friday, May 20, 7:30 pm	ASL Interpreted, Post-Show Discussion
Saturday, May 21, 7:30 pm	

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