

# BRETT SINGER & ASSOCIATES, LLC

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, PLEASE

PRESS CONTACT: Brett Singer (212) 307-7181

## Urban Stages

(Frances Hill, Artistic Director, Sonia Kozlova, Managing Director)

### Presents

The New York Premiere Of

## APOSTASY

A Play by Gino Dilorio

Directed by Frances Hill

Previews Begin Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>

Opening Night Scheduled for Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup>

At 259 West 30<sup>th</sup> Street (between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>)

Urban Stages is pleased to announce the New York Premiere of *APOSTASY*, the final production of their 2006/2007 season. *APOSTASY* is a new play written by Gino Dilorio and will be directed by Artistic Director Frances Hill. Performances will be at 259 West 30<sup>th</sup> Street (between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>). Previews will begin on Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup> with the opening date scheduled for Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup> and will run through Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. Press is invited beginning on Tuesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>.

Sheila is a successful, middle-aged Jewish businesswoman who has a terminal illness. Until now Judaism has been her security blanket, but its teachings are no longer providing the comfort she seeks. A charismatic black televangelist walks off the TV screen, through Sheila's back door and into her fragile life. The choice is his arms or the arms of her daughter. When you are about to bite the dust, do you take a bite of the apple? Do you choose forbidden fruit or the fruit of your loins? This sexually charged drama addresses life's ironic twists and turns.

*APOSTASY* was first produced at New Jersey Rep, where Talkin' Broadway called it "an engaging, intelligent new play" that was "rich and multi-layered." The Asbury Park Press called the play "provocative", going on to say that *APOSTASY* is "a button-pusher that seeks to provoke a reaction at every turn, even as it foils most attempts to predict plotlines and pigeonhole motivations." And Upstage said, "Playwright Gino Dilorio has done an amazing job of presenting religion with a nice blend of faith and cynicism...[*APOSTASY*] will keep you riveted from start to its amazing finish."

Playwright Gino Dilorio's new play *The Hard Way* won 1st place in the BBC's 2005 International Playwriting Competition. The play was broadcast internationally over BBC Radio in the Fall of 2005. His play *Winterizing the Summer House* was chosen as one of the top ten plays in the 2002 Writer Digest's national play competition, and was produced by New Jersey Rep in 2003. *Are You the Wife of Michael Cleary?* was given its world premiere in May of 2006 at the Abymill Theatre in Fethard, Ireland. The play is also being produced at a number of other venues across Ireland. *Centennial Casting* (co-written with Nancy Bleemer) received its world premiere at the Penguin Rep in July of 2006. Gino won a Berrilla Kerr Award for Playwriting in 2003, and his plays have been finalists at the O'Neill Center, the Humana Festival and New Dramatists.

Since 1983, director Frances Hill has overseen more than 600 staged readings and workshops, plus over 75 productions of new work for the stage. Directing credits include Jim Lehrer's *Chili Queen* (Urban Stages and The Kennedy Center), John C. Picardi's *Seven Rabbits on a Pole* and *The Sweepers* (Urban Stages and Capital Rep), and *Comfort Women* by Chungmi Kim. As Artistic Director of Urban Stages, she has moved two plays to commercial off-Broadway runs: *Minor Demons* and *Men on the Verge of a His-Panic Breakdown*, which won an Outer Critics Circle Award.

The cast of *APOSTASY* includes Susan Greenhill ("Law and Order", "Chappelle's Show", *Crimes of the Heart* on Broadway), Susan Louise O'Connor (*Marion Bridge* at Urban Stages, *Never Swim Alone*, *See Bob Run*, named an "Actor to Watch" by Time Out New York), and Harold Surratt ("The Pelican Brief", "Devil's Advocate", and *Serious Money* on Broadway).

The design team will be Roman Tatarowicz (Sets), Josh Bradford (Lighting), and David M. Lawson (Sound). Video and Projections will be by William Cusick, who recently designed the projections for Tom Stoppard's *The Coast of Utopia* at Lincoln Center.

Urban Stages' mission is to discover and develop new plays by authors of diverse cultural backgrounds. Their most recent productions were the critically acclaimed *Marion Bridge* by Daniel MacIvor, *Bulrushes* by Eisa Davis and *Live Girls* by Victoria Stewart.

The schedule for *APOSTASY* will be Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8PM, with Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2PM. Tickets will be \$25.00 for previews (March 24<sup>th</sup> through March 28<sup>th</sup>) and \$40.00 beginning on March 29<sup>th</sup>. Tickets may be purchased by calling Smarttix at 212-868-4444, or online at [www.urbanstages.org](http://www.urbanstages.org).

---

## APOSTASY

A New Play by Gino Dilorio

At Urban Stages, 259 West 30<sup>th</sup> Street (between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> avenues)

### SCHEDULE:

Previews: Saturday 3/24 at 8pm, Sunday 3/25 at 3pm, Tuesday 3/27 at 8pm, and Wednesday 3/28 at 8pm: \$25.00

Opening night scheduled for Thursday, 3/29 at 8pm; Through Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>

Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8PM, Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2PM

TICKETS: \$25 before 3/29, \$40 after; Call 212-868-4444, or order online at [www.urbanstages.org](http://www.urbanstages.org)

###

311 WEST 43<sup>RD</sup> STREET, #1107  
NEW YORK, NY 10036

PHONE: (212) 307-7181

FAX: (212) 307-7178