



August 31, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Trish Suchy, 225-578-4172
psuchy@lsu.edu

CUTTING ACROSS THE MAP

(Baton Rouge)-The HopKins Black Box theatre opens its 2009-10 season with an interactive performance, *Cutting Across the Map*, playing Wednesday, September 23 through Saturday, September 26 at 7:30 PM.

Cutting Across the Map takes the audience on a purposefully erratic journey through stories, memories, and brief glimpses of the future. The performers in *Cutting Across the Map* have been telling stories in some fashion or another for the better parts of their lives. This performance explores how some of their life stories intersect, and in turn how they might also intersect with the audience's own stories.

"The performance will give the audience partial control over what happens," said Ariel Gratch, PhD student in Communication Studies at LSU, who conceived the project and will be one of the performers. "If a map is a series of lines that divides us up, *Cutting Across the Map* is a series of stories that reveals the gaps in those lines where thoughts, ideas, and memories leak from one side of a border to another."

Throughout the performance, the performers will tell a wide range of stories. "Some of these stories will be true; some will be outright lies; many will lie somewhere in between," said Gratch. The stories range from personal anecdotes about psychedelic drugs, to stories about J. Robert Oppenheimer and the creation of the first nuclear bomb, to ancient Hindu myths. As the performers tell stories the



audience is invited to participate and disrupt those stories in a process that will make each evening's performance unique.

Gratch is joined on stage by PhD student Benjamin Haas; the performance is directed by Lisa Flanagan, an instructor at LSU.

The HopKins Black Box theatre is located in Room 137 Coates Hall, on the LSU-Baton Rouge campus. Donations for all performances will be accepted at the door. For more information or to request a reservation, visit the website at www.lsu.edu/hbb.

###