

both hands theatre company

PRESS RELEASE

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who's talking about abundance right now? both hands theatre company

Durham, NC May 11, 2009—Excitement was in the air two years ago, when both hands theatre company co-Artistic Directors Cheryl Chamblee and Tamara Kissane sat down with a huge pile of index cards. The cards held audience reactions to new pieces of text Chamblee and Kissane had performed for the first time, and they wondered what—if anything—had made an impact. They weren't disappointed.

One of the pieces—a monologue by a character who thinks money is harder to talk about than sex—struck a chord, and audience reactions were strong. The cards were full of notes like: *"I felt relieved. Finally someone spoke the unspoken taboo!"* And, *"It's hard to talk about. It's still hard for me to think of money as "ours" instead of "mine" and "his."* And, *"I feel secure financially but still inferior. I cannot stop worrying about money."* And, *"As a person who has some money, I often feel guilty that I have it."* And even, *"I don't think you get anywhere positive thinking about money."*

One audience member wrote, *"I could see this growing into a bigger piece easily!"* Chamblee and Kissane agreed. They knew for sure that the relationship between people and their money was a dynamic, important topic they wanted to explore further. They didn't know that in the fall of 2009, in the trenches of this exploration, the global economy would implode and take this topic from merely dynamic straight to super-charged. A play called **the abundance project** is the result of that super-charged collaboration with 30 community members, and it opens in two weeks at Golden Belt in downtown Durham.

Cynthia de Miranda, a Durham mom who participated in the script creation for **the abundance project**, says, *"We wrote together during a period in which you would hear daily that our economy was in free-fall—ironically, a rich time to focus on abundance and scarcity. Writing in a group is itself an exercise in abundance. Somehow the energy in the room helps you focus and forget yourself and you can just write."*

Chapel Hill resident Kit Wienert also felt a sense of abundance creating new work in an unsure economic environment, commenting, *"The best part of the both hands creative process is that it takes*

me out of my writer's isolation, sets me in a circle (literally) of other writers and artists, encourages me to approach the blank page (actually, a lot of blank pages) without hesitation or revision, and turns a typically solitary experience into a shared and communal one.”

Chamblee, Kissane, and the both hands ensemble look forward to bringing audience members into the exploration. “Money is the hot topic right now, but it’s interesting: Most everyone is talking about money in a very generalized way, but most everyone is thinking about money in a highly specific, personal way. At both hands, we try to explore issues that are both universal and highly personal—so money and abundance certainly qualify.” Kissane adds, “And because our participants were so honest and creative, we got to dig into the money issue and keep going to talk about the deeper yearnings for abundance in this community that transcend how much cash a person has. That has actually been very uplifting.”

the abundance project will run May 29-June 12 at Golden Belt (Building Two) at 807 East Main Street in downtown Durham. **the abundance project** was written by Cheryl Chamblee and Tamara Kissane, with contributions of text and ideas from 30 community members. The project is being directed by Cheryl Chamblee and features LaMark Wright, Laurie Wolf, and Thaddaeus Edwards. Contributing to the design and production of **the abundance project** are Adam Sampieri, Carolyn Chamblee, Greg Myer, Jodi Porter, Joe Keilholz, Karen Burns, Lance Waycaster, and Tamara Kissane.

Showtimes are at 8:00pm on May 29-30, June 5-6 & 11; 7:00pm June 7 & June 12; and a late show at 9:30pm on June 12. Admission is \$10 on Thursday. Admission is \$15 on Fridays-Sundays. Running time will be approximately 65 minutes with no intermission. Tickets go on sale on May 10. For further information, theatregoers can visit www.myspace.com/bothhandstheatre. For reservations, call the both hands box office at 919.226.2002.

For more information about both hands theatre company and **the abundance project**, please contact artistic directors Cheryl Chamblee and Tamara Kissane at 919.280.9040 (mobile), 919.493.7972 (mobile), or 919.226.2002 (voicemail). Photos are available.

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