



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**WORLD PREMIERE OF *THE DEVIL YOU KNOW*
BY PING CHONG & COMPANY AND PHANTOM LIMB
AT LAMAMA ETC.**

Previews begin Thursday December 30, 2009

Opening Night Wednesday January 6th, 2010

Reviewers Invited beginning January 2nd

New York- Award winning playwright and director Ping Chong joins forces with marionette artist and composer Erik Sanko and set designer Jessica Grindstaff of Phantom Limb Co. to present the world premiere of *THE DEVIL YOU KNOW* in the Ellen Stewart Theatre at La MaMa ETC January 6-24, 2010 as part of the Public Theatre's 2010 Under The Radar Festival.

THE DEVIL YOU KNOW is a modern interpretation of the classic American short story *The Devil and Daniel Webster* about a poor farmer who sells his soul in exchange for financial prosperity. Using marionette and bunraku-style puppets, revolving stages, recorded dialogue and original music and multi-media projections, Ping Chong, Erik Sanko and Jessica Grindstaff will transform this Faustian tale into a hilarious and haunting meditation on lost souls, fool's gold and democracy's eternal promise for renewal. Bessie Award winning designer Maya Ciarrocchi will create the video projections; Benjamin Furiga the sound and Andrew Hill the lighting for this innovative work of theatre. suitable for audiences ages 10 and up.

THE DEVIL YOU KNOW is Ping Chong's fourth puppet theatre work and his first collaboration with adventurous Phantom Limb Company. Dubbed a "theatrical magician" by the *New York Times*, Chong's productions *KWAIDAN*, *OBON: Tales of Rain and Moonlight* and *CATHAY: Three Tales of China* have toured widely and received numerous commendations including the UNIMA-USA Citation of Excellence in the Art of Puppetry. The New York City-based Phantom Limb Company has been critically acclaimed for its reinvention of traditional theatrical forms, such as marionette puppetry, in order to probe issues of contemporary life and modern consciousness. Husband and wife team Erik Sanko and Jessica Grindstaff blend their artistic visions to create lush, beguiling theater and art experiences that include 2006's *THE FORTUNE TELLER*, which premiered at HERE Arts Center. "The craftsmanship of the entire production astounds...[a] grandly satisfying piece of theatre in miniature" (*Backstage*).

THE DEVIL YOU KNOW is produced by Ping Chong and Company in association with Phantom Limb Co. with support from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, the Lila Wallace Theatre Fund at the New York Community Trust, the Leon Levy Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation New York Theatre Program. Ping Chong and Company is a resident theatre at La MaMa ETC, where it has premiered sixteen works by Ping Chong since 1978.

THE DEVIL YOU KNOW is a participant of the Under The Radar Festival 2010, a project of Association of Performing Arts Presenters Annual Members Conference, with major funding by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Ford Foundation. The festival is produced by Mark Russell and The Public Theater.

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PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Previews: Wednesday, Dec. 30 & Saturday, Jan. 2 — 7:30PM
 Sunday, Jan. 3 — 2:30PM & 7:30PM

Performances: January 6 – 24.
 Wednesday-Friday — 7:30PM
 Weekend Matinees: Jan. 10; Jan. 16-17; Jan. 23-24 — 2:30PM
 Weekend Evenings: Jan 9-10; Jan. 16; Jan. 23 — 7:30PM
 Benefit Performance: Thursday, Jan. 14 — 7:30PM

The Ellen Stewart Theatre at
La MaMa ETC, 74A East 4th Street
Box Office: 212 475-7710 / Online ticketing at www.lamama.org
Tickets \$30.00

Ping Chong (writer/director) is an internationally acclaimed theatre director, playwright, video and installation artist. In his 38 year career in the theater, he has been a restless explorer of new possibilities and new directions, always pushing at the boundaries of what theater is and can be. Mr. Chong's work has been presented at major festivals and theatres around the world including: The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Lincoln Center Festival, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Spoleto USA Festival, the Seattle Repertory, the New Victory Theater, the Barbican Centre, Vienna Festival, RomaEuropa Festival, Tokyo International Arts Festival, Singapore Festival of the Arts, and many others. In 1992, Ping Chong created the first work in the *Undesirable Elements* series of community-based oral history projects. Since then there have been over 40 productions around the world. His 2005 puppet theatre production, *Cathay: Three Tales of China*, created with the Shaanxi Folk Art Theater of Xian, China, was chosen as one of the top 10 productions of the 2005 season by NY Theatre Wire, and received 3 Henry Hewes Design Awards by the New York Theatre Wing. Among his many honors and awards, he has received a Guggenheim Fellowship, a USA Artist Fellowship, two BESSIE awards and two OBIE awards, including one for sustained Achievement in 2000. Theatre Communications Group has published two collections of his plays, *The East-West Quartet* in 2006 and *Undesirable Elements* in 2010. His stage adaptation of Akira Kurosawa's *Throne of Blood* premieres next season at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in 2010 with performances in BAM's Next Wave Festival in Fall, 2010.

Phantom Limb is a New York City-based multi-disciplinary aural, visual and performance unit comprised of husband and wife team Jessica Grindstaff (Art Director / Designer / Project Manager) and Erik Sanko (Composer / Designer / Performer / Puppeteer). Past projects include *THE FORTUNE TELLER* with composition by Sanko and Danny Elfman, and narration by Gavin Friday. The work debuted at HERE Arts Center and extended for three sold-out months. *DEAR MDME.* followed as an original composition and marionette play commissioned by Kronos Quartet, premiering at BAM's Next Wave Festival 25th Anniversary Season. PL is currently at work on numerous projects including *69° SOUTH: THE SHACKLETON PROJECT* - a theatrical treatment of the 1914-1917 Trans-Antarctic Expedition of Sir Ernest Shackleton; Ping Chong Company's *The Devil and Daniel Webster*; and a trilogy of new works by Lemony Snicket including *THE COMPOSER IS DEAD*, directed by Tony Taccone and premiering at Berkely Rep. in Fall 2010, and *THE RESTAURANT OF THE TALKING SKULL* with Danny Elfman.

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