

BOSTON PLAYWRIGHTS' THEATRE

PRESS RELEASE

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Playwrights' Theatre at Boston University
and Boston Center for American Performance
PRESENT

Walking the Volcano

written by Jon Lipsky
directed by Elaine Vaan Hogue

April 15 – May 1

PRESS NIGHT: April 16, Saturday night at 8 pm.

WHERE: Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 949 Commonwealth Avenue.

EMAIL: mdsmith@bu.edu for press tickets.

BOSTON, MA – From Jon Lipsky, acclaimed author of *Dreaming with an AIDS Patient* and *Living in Exile*, comes his latest play *Walking the Volcano*, featuring Boston favorites Gabriel Kuttner* and Paula Langton*. From a meeting in an airplane bathroom over the Pacific to a tryst in a seedy room in Saigon during the Tet Offensive, Lipsky's characters are complex, compelling, and in a search of the truth. If you lived through (or read about) the turbulent '60s, don't be surprised when you recognize these people—we've all walked the volcano.

Directed by Elaine Vaan Hogue, *Walking the Volcano* features Gabriel Kuttner*, Paula Langton*, Jess Moss and Brian Vaughan.

*Actors appear courtesy of Actors' Equity Association

Jon Lipsky (playwright) As a playwright and director, Jon Lipsky's work appeared at the Actors Theater of Louisville's Humana Festival of New Plays, the American Repertory Theater, and other regional theaters. He was playwright-in-residence at the Merrimack Repertory Theatre, TheaterWorks/Boston and Associate Artistic Director at the Vineyard Playhouse on Martha's Vineyard. His work includes: *Living In Exile – a Retelling of the Iliad*, *The Survivor: a Cambodian Odyssey*, and *Maggie's Riff*, an adaptation of Jack Kerouac's *Maggie*

Cassidy. In 2007 he won the Boston Critic's Eliot Norton Award for Best Direction in a small company (Leslie Epstein's *King of the Jews* at Boston Playwrights' Theatre and Stan Strickland's *Coming Up For Air* presented at the Underground Railway Theater in Cambridge and at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival). In the fall of 2008, he published a book about a theater of dreams called *Dreaming Together* (Larson Publications). Jon's full-length dream plays include *Dreaming With an AIDS Patient* and *The Wild Place*. An interconnected progression of short plays, *Walking the Volcano* premiered at the Vineyard Playhouse in 2008. *Living in Exile* was revived in 2010 at the Under The Radar Festival in New York's La Mama and in a separate production at the Actors' Shakespeare Projects' Winter Festival in March 2011. Jon was Professor of Acting and Playwriting at Boston University's School of Theater. Jon passed away at his Martha's Vineyard home on March 19, 2011.

Elaine Vaan Hogue (director) is a director, actor, and teacher. Most recently she played the role of Miss Helen in the Boston Center for American Performance production of Athol Fugard's *The Road to Mecca*. She lives on a 12-acre farm in central Massachusetts where she has founded the Theatre of Ecology and Healing Arts. Elaine's work in the theatre embraces the devising of original work in which she has performed. These projects include *Creation: Mythic Weavings* (Women on Top Festival), *When Jennie Goes Marching* (Olney Theatre Center), *The Future of Ice*. She has directed many plays on both the west and east coasts. Favorite directorial work includes *Radium Girls*, *The Trestle At Pope Lick Creek*, *Lizzie Stranton*, *Crave*, *Thin Air: Tales From A Revolution*, *Angels in America*, *Infinity's House*, *The Other Shore*, *'Tis A Pity She's A Whore*, *Marisol*, *Polaroid Stories*, *Three Sisters*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *Fen*, *Cloud Nine*, *How I Learned To Drive*, *Pains of Youth*, *Buried Child*. Elaine is passionately involved in The Magdalena Project, an international network of women in contemporary theatre and often travels abroad to work with international groups. She is also Program Head of Theatre Arts at Boston University where she teaches directing and acting. Elaine is honored to be collaborating with Jon Lipsky on this production of *Walking the Volcano*.

**Playwrights' Theatre at Boston University
and the Boston Center for American Performance present
Walking the Volcano by Jon Lipsky
directed by Elaine Vaan Hogue
April 15 – May 1**

**For tickets call 866.811.4111 or visit bostonplaywrights.org
\$30/Reserved Admission - \$25/Seniors (62+) - \$10/Students (with valid ID)**

Special Ground Floor Talk Back to follow the April 16 evening performance.

**Friday, April 15 at 8:00pm
Saturday, April 16 at 8:00pm
Sunday, April 17 at 2:00pm**

**Friday, April 22 at 8:00pm
Saturday, April 23 at 8:00pm
Sunday, April 24 at 2:00pm**

**Friday, April 29 at 8:00pm
Saturday, April 30 at 8:00pm
Sunday, May 1 at 2:00pm**

VENUE INFORMATION

**Boston Playwrights' Theatre
949 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215**

Green Line "B" to Pleasant Street, 57 Bus from Kenmore and Watertown.

Some street parking is available. Patrons are welcome to park in the lot beneath Harry Agganis Arena next door. Parking is just \$1 an hour on most days but may be as much as \$25 during concert events. Please visit agganisarena.com for parking rates.