



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Rising Sun Performance Company  
in association with  
Planet Connections Theatre Festival  
Presents  
*THE FIREBIRD***

*Pride, Lust and Memory make a cocktail the mean streets of Brooklyn ain't never seen. Watch your back.*

**By Tim Errickson  
Directed by Brian Gillespie  
Assistant Director NJ Agwuna  
Producer: Akia**

at the Planet Connections Theatre Festivity  
June 25<sup>th</sup> thru July 11<sup>th</sup> 2015  
@ Paradise Factory Theatre

Coming off their critically acclaimed, award winning production of DONKEY at Planet Connections Theatre Festival last year, frequent collaborators Rising Sun Performance Company & Tim Errickson return with the world premiere of Errickson's latest work "THE FIREBIRD". Originally developed through readings with Boomerang Theatre Company, Brian Gillespie continues on with the project as director.

Rising Sun Performance Company is pleased to announce that they will be presenting the world premiere of "**THE FIREBIRD**" By Tim Errickson, to take place at the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Planet Connections Theatre Festival. The Festival will take place June 15<sup>th</sup> through July 12<sup>th</sup> at the Paradise Factory.

This is Rising Sun Performance Company's 2nd consecutive year at Planet Connections, last year RSP produced "DONKEY" which was published by Indie Theatre Now, Next Stage Press & Smith and Kraus Anthologies, and received 12 Award Nominations from PCTF and taking home 4 awards. Most recently RSP produced "ERIK" at the FRIGID NY Festival with sold out houses and an extended performance.

The Firebird centers around Dan, who returns home to the Brooklyn neighborhood of his youth with a mission: to stop his best friend Ricky from destroying himself. Ricky thinks he's the prince of the block, despite a looming debt and a

[www.risingsunnyc.com](http://www.risingsunnyc.com)

**What the Critics Have to Say about Rising Sun**

"Intense and out-there, and just never lets up".. [NYtheatre.com](http://NYtheatre.com)

"Well worth the audience's time and money" & "Deeply Honest" ... [Oobr.com](http://Oobr.com)

"A little gem hidden in the dark Under St. Mark's".. [L Magazine](http://L Magazine)

"If the unusual is what you crave head down to UNDER St. Mark's for the ride of your life!".. [NYcool.com](http://NYcool.com)

"A number of excellent performances" – [Deborah Greenhut](http://Deborah Greenhut)

".. ridiculously talented ensemble" -[MetroMix](http://MetroMix)

**The Online Entertainment Guide** calls Rising Sun the most popular Off-Off-Broadway performance company!!

creeping sense of danger all around. Pride, love, lust, and memory challenge whether either of them can outrun the fate coming to them.

The Firebird will feature the talents of RSP's critically acclaimed ensemble and guest artists: Jacqueline Sydney\*, R. Paul Hamilton\*, Michael Romeo Ruocco\*, Gabriel Wright\*, James T. Ware & Andrea Cordaro. The Creative Team of The Firebird includes Jak Prince who received rave reviews for his design of the 2010 smash hit "Last Supper" and won Outstanding Set Design for "DONKEY" at The 2014 Planet Connections Theatre Festival, Sound Design by Ian Wehrle (BUG, ERIK & Fool for Love w/ RSP), and Costume Design by RSP Newcomer Oona Tibbetts. (\*Appears Courtesy of Actors Equity Association)

**THE FIREBIRD Plays the following Performance Schedule as a part of Planet Connections Theatre Festival:**

Thursday June 25th at 7pm, Thursday, July 2nd at 5pm, Sunday July 5th at 2:30pm  
Monday July 6th at 5pm, Wednesday July 8th at 8:15pm & Saturday July 11th at 2pm

Tickets are \$18 and available online at [www.planetconnections.org](http://www.planetconnections.org) or at the Door.  
Additional information can be found online at [www.risingsunnyc.com](http://www.risingsunnyc.com)

All performances will be at the The Paradise Factory 64 E 4th St, Btw 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave & Bowery  
Close to the 6 Train -Bleeker St Stop, N,R to Broadway/8<sup>th</sup> St, or F Train to 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue

Run Time: 120 Minutes

Categories/Themes: Social Status, Gentrification, New York City, and Family Relationships

Content: Adult language, Some Adult Content & Situations, Mild Violence, and Recommended for 16 and older

**Rising Sun Performance Company** is a vital part of the Off-Off Broadway landscape; being one of the longest running ensemble companies at our producing level in NYC. Founded in September of 2001, RISING SUN PERFORMANCE COMPANY (RSP) is dedicated to producing ensemble-based work. It is run by artists for artists to allow them to create their own opportunities instead of their opportunities creating them. RSP is the full time artistic home for a wide range of theatre artists, including actors, writers, directors, designers, singers, and dancers. 2015 marks the beginning of RSP's 14th producing season, culminating in 75 plus productions and events. This includes the development of countless NYC and World debut plays, over 70 One Act Plays as part our annual series, 3 musical cabaret series, free outdoor performances, children's theatre, immersive themed theatrical experiences and its trademark revivals, including sold out critically acclaimed hits: Goodnight Lovin' Trail, The Shape of Things, An Adult Evening of Shel Silverstein, Hellcab The Last Supper, Fool For Love, Bug and Brilliant Traces. RSP has been Artist in Residence at Horse TRADE Theater Group, The Field's Far Space, Hostelng International and Space on White. RSP has received 6 New York Innovative Theatre Award Nominations, 12 PCTF Nominations and 4 Awards from Planet Connections Theatre Festival and is a 3 time FRIGID NY Festival Award Winner. Check out our website [www.risingsunnyc.com](http://www.risingsunnyc.com) for more information about us.

**The Planet Connections Theatre Festivity** is New York's premiere eco-friendly/socially conscious not-for-profit arts festival. Fostering a diverse cross-section of performances and events, the Planet Connections Theatre Festivity seeks to inspire artists and audiences both creatively and fundamentally, in a festive atmosphere forming a community of like-minded artists. At the heart of the Festivity are like-minded individuals striving to create professional, meaningful theatre, music and film, while supporting organizations which give back to the community at large.

**Our Charity Cause:** Is the Wounded Warrior Project- an organization to whose mission is to honor and empower Wounded Warriors, while fostering the most successful, well-adjusted generation of wounded service members in our nation's history. Rising Sun will be collecting financial donations at every show and volunteering for their programs.

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## A PENDING Actors Equity showcase Production

**Actors' Equity Association (AEA)**, founded in 1913, represents more than 45,000 actors and stage managers in the United States. Equity seeks to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions, providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO, and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. The Equity emblem is our mark of excellence. [www.actorsequity.org](http://www.actorsequity.org)

**Tim Errickson (Playwright)** is the Artistic Director of Boomerang Theatre Company. His play *Endless Summer Nights* premiered with Boomerang in September 2010, and was a "Pick of the Week" by [nytheatre.com](http://nytheatre.com). Other plays include *Lies and Romance*, *Warm Roses*, *MEGA*, and *The Firebird*. He is a member of Lather Rinse Repeat Playwrights Collective and The Playwrights Center. His short plays have been produced in the United States and the United Kingdom. Tim has previously developed projects with John Pielmeier, Bill C. Davis and Mike Folie, including the treatment for the feature film script "Places". During his time as Artistic Director of Boomerang, Tim has produced 55 full productions (including 17 outdoor Shakespeare productions) and produced development workshops and readings for over 40 new plays. Boomerang was awarded the 2008 Caffè Cino Fellowship for Excellence in Off-Off Broadway, and has reinvented the rotating repertory model for the Off-Off/Indie theatre. In addition to Boomerang, Tim has been on staff at Lincoln Center Theater and New Dramatists. Tim studied at Hofstra University's New College, The University of London, Circle Rep, Labyrinth and ESPA at Primary Stages. He serves on the Honorary Awards Committee for the New York Innovative Theatre Awards and is the current president of the Off-Off Broadway Community Dish, a service organization for the Off-Off/Indie Theatre Community. Special Note: Tim Errickson directed *DONKEY* in the 2014 Planet Connections Theatre Festival which garnered 12 Festival Award Nominations and received 3 Awards.

**Brian Gillespie (Director)** is the Artistic Director for Pull Together Productions and his directing credits with the company include: *Twelve Nights* by Sean Graney, *Wonder of the World* by David Lindsay-Abair, and *Virus Attacks Heart* by Shannon Murdoch (Planet Connections, 2014). He has also directed in New York City for *Hamlet Isn't Dead (Richard III)*, Primary Stages, Boomerang Theatre Co., *Ego Actus*, New York Musical Theatre Festival, The Samuel French Short Play Festival, AMIOS, Distilled Theatre Co., The Internationalists, CAPS LOCK Theatre, and Anthem Theatre Co. Brian is a member of Directors Lab Chicago, Directors Lab North, and the League of Independent Theater. He holds an MFA from the University of Washington and was also a 2-day champion on the game show, *Jeopardy!* [briangillespie.com](http://briangillespie.com)

**Akia, Producer & Founding Artistic Director** is an active member of the flourishing Off-Off/Indie & Off Broadway theatre communities having produced, directed, and performed with numerous NYC companies for over 18 years. She is the Company Manager for the international sensation, *Blue Man Group* at the Astor Place Theater. She has received critical praise for her direction of RSP long running hits such as "Hellcab", "Goodnight Lovin' Trail" and "The Last Supper", "Crapshoot" and "Bug". She served as an advisory Board Member for The Paul Butterfield Fund & Society, and is the Company Manager & Producer for The New York Innovative Theatre Awards & Foundation, where she serves on their honorary awards committee as Sub-Committee Chairman and as an At-Large Judge. Past notable credits include working on staff at Horse Trade Theatre Group, serving as General Manager for FRIGID New York's inaugural year, and returning as Volunteer Coordinator in 2009, and House Manager for subsequent years since. She also served as Production Coordinator for nationally acclaimed Puerto Rican Traveling Theatre, overseeing the playwrights unit and INSIGHT 13 production series. She is a recipient of the New York Innovative Theatre Awards "Founders Award" for her contributions to the organization and Off Off Broadway Community. Recently she was awarded the Congeniality Award at the 2014 Planet Connections Theatre Festival for their production of *DONKEY*.

"Rising Sun Performance Company is a youthful, enthusiastic company and I look forward to seeing more from them." **William Coyle, Off Off Online**

"It's worth the price of admission to see the Rising Sun Performance Company's aspiring talent."

**Jennifer Rathbone, Theater Online**

"Ridiculously talented ensemble."

**MetroMix**

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