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"A LITTLE REHEARSAL FOR THE END OF THE WORLD"

Angels Fall is not Lanford Wilson's best-known play. It's certainly not his most acclaimed – *New York Times* critic Frank Rich panned the Broadway debut in 1983. But Ellen Seltz, producer of the current staging by emerging company Theater Forum, thinks it's one of his most resonant and timely. Seltz states: "*Angels Fall* is even more relevant today than when it premiered. Now, New Yorkers know about the fear of unseen dangers, about pretending everything's normal, about being lied to by those who should protect us. We know it because we've lived it."

A Tony nominee for Best Play of 1983, *Angels Fall* strands six diverse characters in a tiny wayside chapel during a nuclear accident on the Navajo reservation in New Mexico. Each of them – in one way or another – is seeking "sanctuary." It's a theme that pervades the production, staged in the sanctuary of Church For All Nations at 417 West 57th Street. The design team transforms the echoing Victorian Gothic church into an intimate black box theater, then again into a bare-bones adobe mission, leading audiences to ask, "what is a sacred space? What do we hope to find there?"

Director Russell Taylor, winner of a 2006 *Backstage* Bistro Award, feels that one of the most sacred spaces is the space between two people. "As a stage director, my artistic medium is empty space, the silences between words. That's where relationships happen – in the space between you and me."

Theater Forum is an outreach of Church for All Nations (CFAN), designed to build caring, nonjudgmental relationships with theater artists. The bridge-building is extended to the audience through the Forum, a series of casual coffeehouses and formal "talkbacks" that allow the audience to question the actors, director and other artists about their creative process and the themes of the play.

Seltz knows firsthand about the power of this so-called "relational ministry" – after acting in Theater Forum's 2001 production *Interference 10.5*, she married the technical director, Andrew Seltz. She states, "One friendship can change your whole life! That's the point of the work we're doing here. We're serving artists by showcasing their talent and making genuine friendships."

Angels Fall features Kathryn Barnhardt*, Jeff Farber*, Frankie Ferrara, June Flanagan*, Tim Moore*, and Andrew Reaves (* member, Actors' Equity Association).

Angels Fall runs April 21-May 7 at 417 West 57th Street in Manhattan. Fridays-Saturdays 8pm, Sundays 3pm, Mondays 7pm. Talkbacks follow the Sunday and Monday performances. Tickets are \$18 (\$15 students/seniors) and may be purchased online at www.theatermania.com, by phone at 212-352-3101, or at the door. For reservations or more information, call 718-907-3470 or visit www.cfan.net.