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\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\*

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***Provocative, Cutting Edge & Topical: Voices Features International Dance & Theater at Merseles Studios***

*Voices: International Theater Festival* presents back-to-back productions from Central/Eastern Europe next week at Merseles Studios.

Jersey City Theater Center (JCTC) presents two international companies, from Slovakia and Poland, when *Voices: International Theater Festival* returns to Merseles Studios. The upcoming shows are *Watch Now* (Thursday/Sept. 26) and *The Truth* (Friday/Sept. 27) at Merseles Studios, 339 Newark Avenue, Jersey City, NJ 07302.

The shows are free of charge, but seating is limited and audiences are encouraged to RSVP at [www.JCTCenter.org](http://www.JCTCenter.org)

The first annual *Voices: International Theater Festival*—believed to be the first international theater festival in the state of New Jersey – is a series both global and eclectic – not only have the performers toured internationally, but the festival features a wide array of performances, including music, dance, and a range of theatrical productions.

*Watch Now* and *The Truth* are cutting edge productions, in part selected because that in keeping with JCTC’s programming, grapple with issues literally global in scope, yet relevant to individuals in any community.

*Watch Now* – an avant-garde dance performance accompanied by live music – explores issues of identity, privacy and loneliness in our contemporary, high-tech global society as the narrative follows a couple undergoing a difficult time in their relationship. It is never clear whether their movements are affectionate or manipulative, as they both gently touch then refuse contact. (September 26)

*The Truth* – is an internationally acclaimed production by Studium Teatralne, one of Poland’s leading theatre-makers – explores the dichotomies of the secular and sacred in contemporary life, combing such diverse texts as the Gospels and Dostoyevsky’s “*Brothers Karamazov*,” *The Truth* asks us to consider the question, if life is devoid of any mystery or purpose, where do you find meaning? English subtitles accompany this Polish Language production. (September 27).

“*Watch Now* and *The Truth* are edgy and engaging theatre that deals with issues relevant around the world,” said Olga Levina, Artistic Director, JCTC. “With the first annual *Voices*:

*International Theater Festival*, JCTC is incorporating international programming in a more substantial way than ever before. The arts and theater scene in Jersey City is continually evolving. It is a very natural progression for a city as diverse as Jersey City to be recognized as an international cultural destination.”

JCTC is presenting *Watch Now* and *The Truth* in partnership with *Rehearsal for Truth*, a theater festival presented in New York City by the Vaclav Havel Library Foundation, a nonprofit organization established in the United States to honor, preserve, and build upon the legacy of playwright, dissident, and former President of Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic, Vaclav Havel.

“A commitment to social and political theater is something we have in common with JCTC,” said Pavla Niklova, Executive Director, Vaclav Havel Library Foundation. “Both of our organizations want to present theater from Eastern and Central Europe, which is very difficult to see in the New York/New Jersey area. *Voices: International Theater Festival* is a wonderful chance to share resources and bring this work to new audiences.”

*Voices: International Theater Festival* began in August, with *Jazz Italiano*, an “Italian Jazz” concert featuring *IDR\_Italian Doc Remix*. The series concludes with *La Caja* (December 10 & 11), a multimedia, physical theater production by *Los Escultores del Aire*, an internationally acclaimed touring theater company based in Spain. All *Voices* performances are held at Merseles Studios.

**WATCH NOW**

**Thursday/September 26  
Doors: 7:30/ Show: 8:00**

**THE TRUTH**

**Friday/September 27  
Doors: 7:30/ Show: 8:00**

**Admission is free, but seating is on a first-come, first-serve basis. It is highly recommended that audiences reserve seats at [www.JCTCenter.org](http://www.JCTCenter.org)**

**Jersey City Theater Center  
Merseles Studios  
339 Newark Avenue  
Jersey City, NJ 07302  
(201) 795-5386**

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**Voices: International Theater Festival**

**WATCH NOW / September 26**

Cutting edge, international dance performance from Slovakia delves into issues of identity and privacy in our contemporary, high-tech global society. Accompanied by live music, Watch Now follows a couple undergoing a difficult time in their relationship, where it is never clear whether their movements are affectionate or manipulative, as they both gently touch then refuse contact.

**THE TRUTH / September 27**

This internationally acclaimed production by some of Poland's leading theatre-makers – explores the dichotomies of the secular and sacred in contemporary life, combing such diverse texts as the Gospels and Dostoyevsky's "Brothers Karamazov," The Truth asks us to consider what if life is devoid of any mystery or meaning of purpose.

**LA CAJA: December 10 & 11**

Not just a theatre production and performance, La Caja (The Box) is a journey of the senses where through physical theatre, dance and live music audiences will face their fear, their fury, but also their love and hope. A group of doctors and medical assistant try to find a cure for Martinez, who suffers from a rare psychic disorder. La Caja is produced by *Los Escultores del Aire*, an international company based in Barcelona, known for using Corporeal Mime, dance, movement and object manipulation.

**Funding for *Voices: International Theater Festival* was made possible by generous support from the Hudson County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs/Tourism Development, Thomas A. DeGise, Hudson County Executive and the Hudson County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.**

***Voices: International Theater Festival* was also made possible through the generosity of Ben LoPiccolo Development Group, JCTC's Board of Directors, private donors and local Jersey City businesses.**

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***Jersey City Theater Center, Inc. (JCTC) is a nonprofit, 501c3 arts organization committed to inspiring conversations about important issues of our times through the arts.***