



Spalding Gray: Stories Left to Tell

"Heard in this fresh configuration, Spalding Gray's words not only relate the story of his own life, they allow a new group of artists to reflect on what being alive can mean. We see the way joy and pain can fill any moment simultaneously, forcing us to feel both at once. The elegant refashioning of Spalding Gray's work asks us to embrace that paradox by reminding us it's impossible to avoid. A moving piece of theater."

-- Mark Blankenship, Variety

Spalding Gray, one of the most revered and irreverent storytellers of our time, was celebrated for his autobiographical monologues, filled with observations, neuroses, fears and joys that resonate deeply with audiences. *Spalding Gray: Stories Left to Tell* interweaves those well-loved stories and monologues with many of his previously unpublished letters and journal entries in a funny, poignant and life-affirming evening of theater.

Co-conceived by Gray's widow, Kathleen Russo, and director Lucy Sexton, the show is performed by a four-person ensemble composed of nationally acclaimed actors along with a different celebrity guest reader for each performance. Among the pool of actors who comprise the core ensemble are: Ain Gordon, Hazelle Goodman, Kathleen Chalfant, Jonathan Ames, David Cale, Carmelita Tropicana, Frank Wood and Josh Lefkowitz. The guest reader is selected in conjunction with the local presenter, offering a great opportunity for the engagement to have special resonance in each community.

The show appeals to longtime Gray fans as well as newcomers to his work who see the great humanity and deep sense of humility that defined Gray's writing. The piece spans his extraordinary life and career, unfolding chronologically from recollections of childhood swimming trips with his mother and tales of awkward adolescent sexual encounters to the joy he took in being a father himself. Each member of the cast takes on a different "category" of Gray's journey... adventure, love, career, family and private journal entries. The actors bring an intense focus to the words, exploring Gray's singular, and often incredibly humorous, quest for self-understanding.

Spalding Gray: Stories Left to Tell premiered in 2006, enjoyed a six-month Off-Broadway run in 2007 and has played around the country to great acclaim. This tour will coincide with the national release of Steven Soderbergh's documentary film "And Everything is Going Fine" in Spring 2010, and the Knopf publication "Journals of Spalding Gray," edited by Kathleen Russo and Eleanor Casey.

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Words by Spalding Gray : Concept by Kathleen Russo : Directed by Lucy Sexton