



PRESS RELEASE:

Contact: Manbites Dog Theater at 919-682-3343, manbitesdogtheater.org

'Laundromat Death Baffles Town'- The Washington Post

WASHING MACHINE

By Jason Stuart

Directed by Michael Chamberlin

Featuring Dana Berger

2008 NY Innovative Theater Award Nomination- Outstanding Solo Performance

Manbites Dog Theater

703 Foster Street, Durham, NC 27702

June 18- July 28, Thursday - Saturdays @ 8:15 PM, Sundays @ 3:15 PM

"...keep an eye out for Washing Machine...it is not to be missed." –Off-Off Broadway Review

January 1, 2009 – **Fist In The Pocket Theater** (fistinthe-pocket.org) makes its Durham, NC debut at **Manbites Dog Theater** (manbitesdogtheater.org) with *Washing Machine*, an unexpected new solo theater performance by playwright **Jason Stuart**. Tickets are \$12-\$17 and may be purchased in advance via Manbites Dog Theater at 919-682-3324 or manbitesdogtheater.org.

Directed by Helen Hayes Award nominee **Michael Chamberlin**, *Washing Machine* is a production of Fist In The Pocket Theater, a NYC company which develops and produces plays that shine a light on the foibles of its misfit characters to reveal and explore their humanity. *Washing Machine* is a tragicomic one-woman-show about a five year old girl who mysteriously drowned inside a laundromat washing machine. Inspired by a 2005 Washington Post news article, *Washing Machine*, stars up-and-coming actress **Dana Berger** and expands the girl's final moments of breath as she transforms into eight characters that all play a part in her drowning. This production was a popular and critical success at The Chocolate Factory's Visiting Artists Series in Long Island City and NYC's Sanford Meisner Theater, earning raves from Timeout NY, Theatermania, and Nytheatre.com who, although initially worried about the difficult subject matter, ultimately declared, *"What could easily turn maudlin and unsavory is made mesmerizing by playwright Jason Stuart, director Michael Chamberlin and actress Dana Berger..."* *Washing Machine* features movement by **Brendan McCall**, sets by **Akiko Kosaka**, lights by **Ben Kato**, sound by **Elizabeth Rhodes**, and costumes by **Amanda Bujak**.

Jason Stuart's (Writer) script *Through a Glass Onion* was published by Dramatic Publishing Company and excerpted in a Smith and Krause anthology. His play, *Busker*, was work-shopped at the Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab in July 2005. **Michael Chamberlin** (Director) received a **2005 Helen Hayes Nomination** for 'Outstanding Director' for his production of *Porcelain* at Tsunami Theatre Company in Wash, DC. Other credits include *Chekhov's Mistress* for NJ Rep's Theatre Brut, *A Clockwork Orange*, *Bat Boy: The Musical* (3 Helen Hayes noms.), *Love's Fire @ The Studio Theater 2ndstage*; *The Glory of Living* for Didactic Theatre Company. **Dana Berger** (Actress) received a 2008 Innovative Theater Award nomination for Outstanding Solo Performance for *Washing Machine* in NYC. She has also performed in *Stars in a Dark Sky* for Redfern Theater at NYC Fringe in 2008, *Diversey Harbor* at Frigid Fest '08, Don DeDillo's *Mao II*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *Macbeth & 2006 NYC Fringe's Roadside, MD*. She received training at Yale University's Summer Acting Program, and is a graduate of Duke University and the High School of Performing Arts at Lincoln Center.

FIST IN THE POCKET is proud to present this bold theatrical exploration of solitude and acceptance that had NYtheatre.com saying, *"Washing Machine is a splendid calling card for Fist In The Pocket, and I look forward to seeing more from them in the future."*