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CONTACT: Jocelyne Liu
Streetlamp Studio
408-439-6337
Jocelyne@Streetlampstudio.com

Streetlamp Studio Premieres Original Production *Catch* on Manhood and Responsibility During Father's Day Weekend

***Catch* opens with *Sideline*, a one-act written by Jenny Vaughn Hall, and *Catch*, written by award-winning writer Lisa Sharon Harper and features accomplished director Naisa Wong**

LOS ANGELES, CA (May 16, 2010) – The unofficial journey into manhood through father-son relationships is the focus of Streetlamp Studio's original production of *Catch*, opening on Friday, June 18, 2010, at the Art Share in downtown Los Angeles. Featuring a nearly all-male cast, the production is made up of two one-acts, *Sideline* and *Catch*, and is based on stories collected from men who grew up, went to school and live in South Central Los Angeles. Naisa Wong directs both productions. *Sideline* is written by Jenny Vaughn Hall and *Catch*, the production's namesake and main act of the evening, is written by award-winning playwright, Lisa Sharon Harper. The entire performance is set in the backdrop of the warehouse-turned-arts studio in the heart of downtown's Arts District and will run the last two weekends in June.

The first part of the evening is *Sideline*, an ensemble piece that follows James, a teenager who resents his stepfather. A broad range of characters is woven into the act, from a boy with Southern roots to an African from Sierra Leone who now resides in South Los Angeles, all while exploring the male rite of passage in a funny, unexpected and moving way.

The tone of the production becomes more intimate in *Catch*, a deep and gritty look into reconciliation amongst three generations of men. Audience members become privy to a conversation between fathers and sons behind the doors of a prison hospice ward and the hard issues of race, identity and family are addressed. Nevertheless, the men choose to engage with one another despite the brokenness in the relationships and the result is something none of them ever expected.

"The production as a whole is both a celebration of fathers and a call to action," notes Artistic Director Jenny Vaughn Hall, "as both pieces reveal the power a father has to help a boy know that he matters in the world." At the same time, both *Sideline* and *Catch* "pertain to the universal human experience and speaks to the active verb of 'choice,'" Director Naisa Wong adds, "to choose to be present, accountable, available and invested— not just in someone else's life, but also in their own lives."

A timely message for Father's Day weekend, tickets are on sale for \$20 and are available online at www.streetlampstudio.com or in person 30 minutes prior to the performance at the Art Share box office. The Art Share is located at 801 East 4th Place, Los Angeles, CA 90013.

CATCH

Sideline written by Jenny Vaughn Hall

Catch written by Lisa Sharon Harper

Directed by Naisa Wong

Performances:

Friday, June 18, 2010 at 8 PM	Saturday, June 19, 2010 at 8 PM	Sunday, June 20, 2010 at 7 PM*
Friday, June 25, 2010 at 8 PM	Saturday, June 26, 2010 at 8 PM	Sunday, June 27, 2010 at 7 PM*

*Please note the earlier performance time on Sundays

Press performances: June 18-19, 2010

Talk-back sessions: June 19, 2010 and June 26, 2010

Location: Art Share (801 East 4th Place, Los Angeles, CA 90013)

Running Time: 1 hour and 25 minutes (15 minute intermission)

Sideline Actors (in alphabetical order): Donald Henderson, Jamal Hopes, Justin Key, Aaron Levi, Justin Wiley

Catch Actors (in alphabetical order): Damion Horsley, Tanya Mironowski, Donnell Safford, Kabin Thomas

BIOGRAPHIES

Naisa Wong (Director)

Naisa Wong is a Los Angeles-based director and producer. She is the Resident Director/Artistic Advisor for Streetlamp Studio. She worked as the Production Manager and Associate Director for several television productions including *Everybody Loves Raymond*, *Becker* and *Girlfriends*. Her most recent theatrical credits include the reading series of *Wicked Lit* (Nom de Guerre Theatre Company/Theatre 40), *Within/Out* for the WECSOR Regional and Claremont University's School of Religion & Philosophy and *Next Door* (Streetlamp Studio). Her professional theatre credits include Company Manager for the Pasadena Playhouse and Literary Manager and Dramaturge for Ebony Repertory Theatre in Los Angeles. She was an invited director and lecturer for Lincoln Center's Director's Lab in 2005. Earlier this year, Naisa produced a documentary with Blair Underwood, Tommy Morgan Jr. and Wren T. Brown in association with Associated Television International. She is fresh off of her Directing Fellowship with Broadway Director Leigh Silverman on the production of *The Wake* at the Kirk Douglas Theatre (CTG/Berkeley Rep. production), which was written by Tony-nominated playwright, Lisa Kron. *The Wake* will open at the Public Theatre in NY this fall (2010). Naisa is a proud member of the Director's Guild of America and an associate member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC).

Lisa Sharon Harper (*Catch* Writer)

Lisa Sharon Harper is a speaker, activist, author, playwright and poet in New York City and currently serves as the Executive Director of the NY Justice & Faith organization. An MFA Playwriting graduate of the USC School of Theatre, her thesis play, *An' Push da Wind Down*, won the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival "Michael Kanin National Student Playwriting Award" in 1996 and has been published through Samuel French. With an expertise in racial reconciliation, human rights and religion, she is the author of the book, *Evangelical Does Not Equal Republican ... Or Democrat* (The New Press) and is the editor-at-large for the magazine *Sojourners*. She was the recipient of *Sojourners'* inaugural Organizers Award and the Harlem "Sisters of Wisdom" Award.

Jenny Vaughn Hall (*Sideline* Writer, Artistic Director)

Jenny Vaughn Hall is the Artistic Director and founding member of Streetlamp Studio. An actor and advocate, she has performed and taught internationally for thousands of people interested in the intersection of justice and civic theatre. She is co-author of a book on the subject, *The Drama Team Handbook* (InterVarsity Press). Jenny also wrote and starred in Streetlamp's most recent full length play, *Next Door*, which was inspired by her personal experience living in South Central Los Angeles. She is a Community Advocate for Cornerstone Theatre Company and enjoyed the role of Emily Daily in their production, *For All Time*. This fall (2010) she will perform in Cape Town, South Africa for global leaders in spiritual formation and social justice at the historic Lausanne Congress.

About Streetlamp Studio

Streetlamp Studio is an ensemble-based, non-profit theater company founded in 2006. The organization gathers artists who collaborate with members in South Los Angeles to make theatre that inspires creativity and community engagement. Streetlamp has produced three original productions and eight youth productions to date and has performed for sold out audiences.

For additional information, please contact Jocelyne Liu at 408-439-6337 or e-mail Jocelyne@Streetlampstudio.com