

**CUTTING BALL THEATER CONTINUES 12TH SEASON WITH
WORLD PREMIERE OF “TONTLAWALD”
February 17 – March 12, 2012**

Cutting Ball Theater continues its 12th season with the **World Premiere** of **TONTLAWALD**. This original ensemble-based piece commissioned by Cutting Ball weaves evocative a capella harmonies and visceral movement into a multilayered retelling of an ancient Estonian tale. Lona endures her cruel stepmother until she unexpectedly discovers a new friend in the mysterious, forbidden **TONTLAWALD**—the ghost forest. Inspired by the work of Poland’s famed Teatr ZAR, the body and song are used to tell Lona’s story. Written by Cutting Ball’s resident playwright **Eugenie Chan** (*Bone to Pick*) and directed by Associate Artistic Director **Paige Rogers** and **Annie Paladino**, with choreography by **Laura Arrington**, **TONTLAWALD** features **Madeline H.D. Brown, Rebecca Frank, Sam Gibbs, Cindy Im, Marilet Martinez, Wiley Naman Strasser, Meg O’ Connor, and Liz Wand**. Workshopped during Cutting Ball’s 2011 RISK IS THIS... festival, **TONTLAWALD** creates a world that redefines the definitions of theater, dance, and choral music.

Co-founded in 1999 by theater artists Rob Melrose and Paige Rogers, Cutting Ball Theater presents avant-garde works of the past, present, and future by re-envisioning classics, exploring seminal avant-garde texts, and developing new experimental plays. Cutting Ball Theater has partnered with Playwrights Foundation, the Magic Theatre, and Z Space New Plays Initiative to commission new experimental works. The company has produced a number of World Premieres, West Coast Premieres, and re-imagined various classics. Voted “Best Theater Company” in the 2010 *San Francisco Bay Guardian* Best of The Bay issue, Cutting Ball Theater also earned the Best of SF award in 2006 from *SF Weekly*, was selected by *San Francisco Magazine* as Best Classic Theater in 2007, and received the 2008 *San Francisco Bay Guardian* Goldie award for outstanding talent in the performing arts. Cutting Ball Theater was featured in the February 2010 issue of *American Theatre Magazine*.

DATES: Previews: February 17, 18, 8pm; February 19, 5pm
 Opens: February 23, 2012
 (*Press opening: Thurs., February 23, 7:30pm; Gala Opening: Fri., February 24, 8pm*)
 Closes: March 11, 2012
 **All performances Thursday at 7:30pm, Friday-Saturday at 8pm, Saturday at 2pm,
 and Sunday at 5pm**

WHERE: The Cutting Ball Theater in residence at EXIT on Taylor, 277 Taylor St., San Francisco

TICKETS: For tickets (\$10-50) and more information, the public may visit **cuttingball.com** or call
415-525-1205; student discounts available

The Cutting Ball Theater gratefully acknowledges the following for their support: The Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation, Grants for the Arts/San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund, The Kenneth Rainin Foundation, The Mental Insight Foundation, The National Endowment for the Arts, The Phyllis C. Wattis Foundation, San Francisco Arts Commission, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, The San Francisco Foundation, The Zellerbach Family Foundation, and individual donors.