

wexner center
for the arts

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**ASCENDANT YOUNG WRITER/DIRECTOR RICHARD MAXWELL RETURNS
WITH *DRUMMER WANTED*, A “PERSONAL INJURY LAWSUIT MUSICAL”**

“No American theater artist working today manages to elicit such complex responses from such seemingly simple material.”—*New York Times*

Richard Maxwell and **The New York City Players** return to Columbus for the third time **February 20–23** to perform *Drummer Wanted*, a “personal injury lawsuit musical” that searingly portrays our dysfunctional lives in Maxwell’s distinctive style.

Co-commissioned by the Wexner Center, *Drummer Wanted* is an American musical more attuned to our landscape of failing strip malls than to the illusory romance of Broadway’s bright lights. Punctuated with hilarious power ballads, this two-actor show draws audiences into the claustrophobic, Freudian world of an adult metalhead drummer who still lives at home with his mom. Pete Simpson of The Blue Man Group plays the drummer role to perfection, and Ellen LeCompte brings brittle comic understatement to the long-suffering mother who counters her son’s arrested adolescence with vague support for his floundering nest-leaving schemes.

The latest from one of American’s freshest theatrical minds, Obie Award-winning *Drummer Wanted* reveals new layers of Maxwell’s ultra-deadpan signature style of dark comedy and everyday tragedy.

This production will be presented in the Wexner Center’s intimate Performance Space.

RICHARD MAXWELL

The *New York Times* calls writer-director Richard Maxwell “one of the most innovative and essential artists to emerge from American experimental theater in the past decade.” Columbus audiences have enjoyed *House* and *Boxing 2000* in past seasons, and are anticipating the surprising twists Richard Maxwell is known for in his latest feature. Maxwell is the artistic director of The New York City Players, a producing organization devoted to theatrical works. For more on Richard Maxwell and The New York City Players, visit www.nycplayers.org.

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RESIDENCY ACTIVITIES

While at the Wexner Center, writer/director Richard Maxwell will meet with students at Ohio State's Department of Theatre and discuss the evolution of his work in recent years. At this session, Maxwell will lead an exercise in generating new material that illuminates his methodology in writing and establishing characters.

CALENDAR INFO: Richard Maxwell/The New York City Players: *Drummer Wanted*

Description: Writer-director Richard Maxwell brings his latest theater production to Columbus—the personal-injury lawsuit musical *Drummer Wanted*. Co-commissioned and presented by the Wexner Center.

Dates and times: Thursday–Friday, February 20–21 at 8 pm, Saturday, February 22 at 3 & 8 pm, Sunday, February 23 at 3 pm.

Location: Wexner Center Performance Space, 1871 N. High St.

Running time: Approximately 1 hour.

Tickets: Public \$16, members \$14, OSU students \$10.

Ticket outlets: Wexner Center Ticket Office/Information Desk (614 292-3535) and Ticketmaster outlets (614 431-3600).

Public information: 614 292-3535 or www.wexarts.org/pa.

Images of *Drummer Wanted* available upon request.

SEASON AND EVENT SUPPORT

Major support for the Wexner Center's 2002–03 performing arts season is provided by **Bank One** and the **Doris Duke Charitable Foundation**.

Support for the theater season is provided by **Philip Morris Companies Inc.**

Additional season support is provided by the **Ohio Arts Council** and the **Corporate Annual Fund of the Wexner Center Foundation**.

Presented at the Wexner Center with support from the **National Endowment for the Arts**.

This presentation of **Richard Maxwell** is one of a series of programs designed by the **National Performance Network (NPN)**. NPN is an independent organization begun by **Dance Theater Workshop** and is comprised of arts organizations in 40 cities and 25 states. NPN is made possible through major funding from the **Doris Duke Charitable Foundation** and the **National Endowment for the Arts** (a federal agency). For further information, visit the NPN website at <www.npnweb.org> or write: National Performance Network, P.O. Box 70435, New Orleans, LA 70172.

WEXNER CENTER

The Wexner Center for the Arts is The Ohio State University's multidisciplinary, international laboratory for the exploration and advancement of contemporary art. Through exhibitions, screenings, performances, artist residencies, and educational programs, the Wexner Center acts as a forum where established and emerging artists can test ideas and where diverse audiences can participate in cultural experiences that enhance understanding of the art of our time. In its programs, the Wexner Center balances a commitment to experimentation with a commitment to traditions of innovation and affirms the university's mission of education, research, and community service.

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