

wexner center
for the arts

For Immediate Release

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**RAUCOUS OFF-BROADWAY HIT *LIPSTICK TRACES* TAKES ON PUNK
AND ANARCHY AT WEXNER CENTER IN FIRST STOP ON U.S. TOUR**

AUTHOR GREIL MARCUS MAKES APPEARANCE AT CENTER

***"Lipstick Traces is loud, defiant, informative, funny, literate, physical and quick...fun theater with a unique rock & roll edge."*—Austin Chronicle**

After a successful Off-Broadway run, young Texan theater troupe **Rude Mechanicals** performs the riotous *Lipstick Traces: a secret history of the 20th century* in the Wexner Center Performance Space **January 10–13**. This award-winning show adapts music critic Greil Marcus's book of the same title, a heady journey through the ages exploring how anarchic impulses have informed avant-garde art, culminating in the apotheosis of punk. *The New York Times* calls Rude Mechanicals' theater adaptation "75 minutes of meticulously organized mayhem," with "moments that pulse with verve and ingenuity."

Greil Marcus will give a **free reading** from *Lipstick Traces* and discuss his work's adaptation for the stage on **Wednesday, January 9 at 7 pm** in the Wexner Center's Film/Video Theater. A booksigning will follow.

In his cult-classic book, Marcus traces the circuitous evolution of cultural radicalism from the medieval heretics ("Work is a sin") to the notorious nihilism of Johnny Rotten and the Sex Pistols ("No future!"). Signposts along the way include the Dada movement and the Situationists, who sparked the birth of punk rock.

The stage version, conceived by Rude Mechanicals in 1999 and premiered off-Broadway in early 2001, makes its first stop on its U.S. tour at the Wexner Center with five performances. *The Austin Chronicle* calls the show, performed by a six-member cast, "a rock concert for your head...full of theatrical explosiveness, compelling and contentious connections of history and thought, a pounding soundtrack with blazing lights."

news release

THE COMPANY

Founded in 1995, **Rude Mechanicals** (a.k.a. Rude Mechs) is an ensemble company committed to the collaborative creation of brave new work for the stage, the development of new voices in the theater, and the presentation of work by nationally recognized theater artists and companies. Rude Mechs—based at The Off Center, a multi-arts warehouse space in Austin, Texas—look to perennial Wexner Center favorite Anne Bogart’s SITI Company as a source of inspiration.

Rude Mechs garnered critical acclaim and national attention for *Lipstick Traces*, which tours this winter and spring. Also this year, Rude Mechs will be creating a new piece tentatively titled *The Marfa Project*, exploring the idea of “The West” through road movies, Western pulp novels, supernatural phenomena, and James Dean. Over the next two years Rude Mechs will produce the world premiere of David Hancock’s *Ordering Seconds*, and world premiere adaptations of James Kelman’s Booker Prize-winning Scottish novel *How Late it Was, How Late* and Ann Bannon’s classic lesbian pulp fiction series *Beebo Brinker*.

For more information about Rude Mechs, visit www.lipsticktraces.org or www.rudemechs.com.

GREIL MARCUS

Renowned music critic and San Francisco native Greil Marcus writes regular columns for *Interview* and *salon.com*, and contributes often to *Bookforum*, *Threepenny Review*, *Rolling Stone*, and *The New York Times*. Besides *Lipstick Traces*, published in 1989, he is the author of *Mystery Train: Images of America in Rock 'n' Roll*; *Dead Elvis: A Chronicle of Cultural Obsession*; *In the Fascist Bathroom: Punk in Pop Music 1977–1992*; *The Dustbin of History*; *The Old, Weird America: The World of Bob Dylan’s Basement Tapes*; and, most recently, *Double Trouble: Bill Clinton and Elvis Presley in a Land of No Alternatives*.

RESIDENCY ACTIVITIES

Rude Mechanicals will meet with students in Ohio State’s Department of Theatre to discuss the creation of *Lipstick Traces*, the ideas that influence the work, and their experiences as a young company that produces and tours original work.

EVENT SUPPORT

Lead season support for the Wexner Center's 2001–02 performing arts season is provided by **AT&T** and **the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation**.

Major season support is provided by **Philip Morris Companies Inc.**

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

The Wexner Center is a member of the **National Performance Network** comprised of arts organizations located throughout the United States. The NPN and this presentation of *Rude Mechanicals* have been made possible with major funding from the **Doris Duke Charitable Foundation** and the **National Endowment for the Arts** (a federal agency).

Promotional support provided by **WCBE, 90.5 FM**.

CALENDAR INFORMATION

Rude Mechanicals: *Lipstick Traces*

Description: Riotous stage adaptation of Greil Marcus's book tracing the history of anarchy and punk. Marcus gives a reading in conjunction with the show.

Dates and times: Thursday & Friday, January 10 & 11 at 8 pm; Saturday, January 12 at 3 & 8 pm; Sunday, January 13 at 3 pm.

Location: Wexner Center Performance Space, 1871 N. High St. at 15th Avenue.

Tickets: \$16 general public, \$14 Wexner Center members and OSU students.

Reading and booksigning: By *Lipstick Traces* author Greil Marcus: Wednesday, January 9 at 7 pm in the Wexner Center Film/Video Theater. Admission is free.

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

Public information: 614 292-3535 and www.wexarts.org.

Images of *Lipstick Traces* available upon request.

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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