

wexner center
for the arts

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**AWARD-WINNING OFF-BROADWAY HIT *CHARLIE VICTOR ROMEO*
DOCUMENTS AIRLINE CRISES FROM BEHIND THE COCKPIT DOOR**

PLAY USED AS FLIGHT TRAINING TOOL FOR PENTAGON AND WEST POINT

“CVR is about the triumph of the human spirit, and calm in the middle of chaos...chillingly realistic.”—*The New York Times*

Charlie Victor Romeo, a riveting documentary play depicting airline emergencies from the cockpit perspective, will be performed seven times **May 29–June 2** in the Wexner Center Performance Space. *Charlie Victor Romeo* is international code for “cockpit voice recorder,” and the text of this award-winning hit (including the 2000 Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Unique Theatrical Experience) is based on actual transcripts of black box recorders from six airplanes that crashed due to accidents or human error. As documentary theater, it offers a fascinating portrait of the psychology of crisis and the will to live, re-creating the tense teamwork of dedicated aviation professionals under duress. This production, performed by New York theater company Collective: Unconscious, has been rescheduled from its previously announced dates last fall.

The cast of *Charlie Victor Romeo* will be available for a **question and answer session** at the conclusion of each performance. A free **panel discussion** with members of the cast, aviation industry personnel, and emergency medical workers will be held Saturday, June 1 at 1 pm in the Wexner Center Film/Video Theater.

ACCLAIM FROM CRITICS, PUBLIC, AVIATION PROFESSIONALS

A sensation since its debut in the fall of 1999 in Collective: Unconscious’s funky East Village theater, *CVR* is respected for its sensitive yet uncolored truthfulness in depicting actual crisis situations. Created by Bob Berger, Patrick Daniels, and Irving Gregory, with sound designer Jamie Mereness—all of Collective: Unconscious—it sold out in an eight-month run in New York. The

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play is credited with two Drama Desk awards in 2000 and the overall excellence award at the New York International Fringe Festival that same year.

The production has been filmed as a training tool by the Pentagon and West Point, and also endorsed by commercial aviation professionals, emergency medical workers, and firefighters for its veracity in depicting crisis situations. *CVR* has been regularly invited to professional conferences by these fields to provide insight into teamwork during emergencies and stimulate dialogue. Audiences and professionals alike leave with vivid insights about the lives and minds of the individuals behind the cockpit door.

PANEL DISCUSSION AND RESIDENCY ACTIVITIES

A **free panel discussion** open to the public will be held **Saturday, June 1 at 1 pm** in the Wexner Center Film/Video Theater. This discussion will examine *Charlie Victor Romeo's* genesis, its depiction of crisis conditions, and its impact on professionals whose duties bring them into such situations. Participants include:

- Ohio State aviation professor and head of Aviation Research Associates Richard Jensen (moderator)
- Medical doctor and University of Cincinnati professor Marta L. Render
- Test pilot Lt. Col. James M. Ratti of the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, who was responsible for the development of the world's most advanced fighter aircraft engine
- OSU professor and co-director of Ohio State's Institute for Ergonomics Philip J. Smith, who is working with airline and FAA officials to develop software that will increase airline safety
- Retired Air Force pilot Paul Jacques
- Bob Berger, a producer and director of *Charlie Victor Romeo*

The actors from *CVR* will also conduct a discussion for students in OSU's Department of Theatre, where they will review their unique approach to documentary theater.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

A dynamic confederation of artists founded in 1995, Collective: Unconscious has produced hundreds of shows at its East Village facility and at other locations in New York, including the

Knitting Factory, Exit Art, and P.S. 122. An experimental company, Collective: Unconscious includes artists working in the visual and performing arts. For further information visit www.charlievictorromeo.com or www.pomegranatearts.com/proj_cvr.html.

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

CALENDAR INFORMATION: *Charlie Victor Romeo*

Description: Riveting documentary play based on actual black-box transcripts from airline emergencies, performed by New York theater company Collective: Unconscious and presented by the Wexner Center.

Seven performances: May 29–31 at 8 pm, June 1 at 3 & 8 pm, June 2 at 3 & 7 pm,

Running time: 75 mins.

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

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

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

Related events: Each performance is followed by a Q&A session; free panel discussion held June 1 at 1 pm.

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

Images of *Charlie Victor Romeo* 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.