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## Political Satire *Blinders* Opens March 31 At Boston Playwrights Theatre

BOSTON, March 14, 2005 – The Boston premiere of *Blinders* by award-winning playwright **Patrick Gabridge** appears for a limited three-week engagement March 31 through April 17 at the Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 949 Commonwealth Avenue.

Previously staged professionally Off-Off-Broadway and in Denver, *Blinders* will be performed Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m.

“With dark comedy and biting satire, *Blinders* catapults us into a looming crisis,” said director **Melissa J. Wentworth**. “Only one reporter can see through the mass delusion sweeping the nation, and she pays for her journalistic integrity by losing her job, her lover, her freedom, and – perhaps – her sanity. Karen Sayer will risk anything to rescue America from a stolen election and a grim future.”

“*Blinders* is exceedingly relevant to our present political climate,” said actor **Karen Woodward Massey**, who portrays Sayer. “In an increasingly complex world, it is tempting to believe in – and propagate – what our leaders and experts say, rather than looking at the cold hard facts. *Blinders* explores this issue in a entertaining and thought-provoking way.”

Wentworth leads an ensemble of seasoned Boston actors in this Actors' Equity showcase. In addition to Woodward Massey, *Blinders* stars **Steve Auger, Rena Baskin, Stephen Cooper, Joshua Feldman, Alisha Jansky, Maureen Keller, and Joseph Zamparelli Jr.**

**March 31-April 17, 2005**, Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 3 p.m.  
**Boston Playwrights' Theatre**, 949 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (Green Line B to Pleasant Street stop)  
**Box Office:** 866-811-4111 or online at [www.ootbtc.com](http://www.ootbtc.com)  
\$20 Adults \$10 Students/Seniors (requested donation)

### PastReviews of *Blinders*

A delightfully wicked satire. A zany, no-holds barred funhouse.  
*Off Off Broadway Review*

Bitingly clever. *Blinders* is a challenging, imaginative piece.  
*Denver Post*

A provocative look at the insanity of television brainwashing and the gullibility of humans. *Blinders* begs for an audience. Let's show them that Americans are not asleep!  
*Rocky Mountain News*

Gabridge explores the price [of thinking] in his humorous, delightful, timely comedy.  
*Quest Magazine*

## About the Producers

*Blinders* is an Actors' Equity Association Members' Project Code Presentation produced in collaboration with Out of the Blue Theater Company, Pulse Media, and Boston Playwrights' Theatre.

An **AEA Members Project Code Presentation** is a special Equity showcase contract. The actors produce it as a means for theater producers and reviewers to see their work. Budget and purchased advertising is contractually limited by the theater union. *Blinders* features a talented cast of professional working actors that have decided to make the Boston area their home.

**Out of the Blue Theater Company** ([www.ootbtc.com](http://www.ootbtc.com)), was founded in 1992 by Melissa J. Wentworth and Karen Woodward Massey. Past *Out of the Blue* world premieres have included *Womb Song* and *The Loved One* by Dorothy Tan, and *Aesop's Fables* by Brian Wolfe-Leonard and Bob Nicoll, which was part of the Boston Center for the Arts residency program.

**Pulse Media** ([Pulse-Media.com](http://Pulse-Media.com)) is a full service production house located in Watertown, MA. *Pulse* works with local, national and global leaders in television, advertising, corporate events, health care, high-tech, and new media, as well as independent producers who are intent on delivering state-of-the-art video production to their clients.

**Boston Playwrights' Theatre** ([www.bu.edu/bpt](http://www.bu.edu/bpt)) is an award-winning dedicated to the writing and production of new works. *BPT* actively promotes the production of new plays through donating rental of their theatre spaces to other companies. This free venue can be crucial in the decision to produce a new work, as it allows theatre companies to take a chance with a piece that has artistic merit, but is unknown to the public.

## About the Playwright

**Patrick Gabridge** ([www.gabridge.com](http://www.gabridge.com)) has been an active participant in the Boston Theatre community since arriving here in 2000. His work has been produced and developed in New England by *Out of the Blue Theatre Company*, *CentaStage*, *Arlington Friends of the Drama*, *Devanaughn Theatre*, *South City Theatre*, *Hit & Run Theatre*, the *Herring Run Arts Festival*, *Yellow Taxi Productions*, and the *Rough and Tumble Theatre*. In June, *Pieces of Whitey*, his comedy about well-meaning white people, will be produced by the *Rough & Tumble Theatre* at the Boston Center for the Arts. The script has been developed with *Rough & Tumble* and also with workshops from Chicago's *Stage Left Theatre* and Baltimore's *Attention Span*.

Past awards include: Colorado Arts Innovation Award • Colorado Council on the Arts Playwriting Fellowship • Market House National Play Competition • Festival of Emerging American Theatre Competition • Director's Grant, Colorado Council on the Arts • COVisions Grant, Colorado Council on the Arts • Summer Shorts Festival Competition, University of Wisconsin • New American Theatre Festival Competition.

Patrick co-founded Boston's Rhombus playwrights' group, as well as the *Chameleon Stage* theatre in Denver and the playwright marketing newsletter, *InSight for Playwrights*. Patrick also sponsors the bi-annual Playwright Submission Binge, an on-line collective marketing effort that brings together scores of playwrights from around the world.

Patrick's relationship to the material in *Blinders* runs deep. After growing up in a family of scientists, he attended MIT, initially to study computer science. It was at MIT that he first started writing plays. Much of his work has dealt with issues of science and identity,

including the full-length plays *In A Glass Cage*, *The Split*, *Reading the Mind of God*, and the award-winning screenplay of *The Carrier*. Patrick's experience as a TV news cameraman also gave him an inside look at the world of mass media.

This fall, Behler Publications will release Patrick's first novel, *Tornado Siren* (about a woman scientist). He lives in Roxbury with his wife and two children.

### **Blinders Director and Cast**

**Melissa J. Wentworth** (Director and Dramaturge) received her MFA in Directing from Brooklyn College before co-founding *Out of the Blue Theater Company* (OOTB) with Karen Woodward Massey in 1992. Past productions with OOTB include *The School for Scandal*, *The Elephant Man*, *Twelfth Night*, *Suddenly Last Summer*, *Antigone* (with original music score by Bob Nicoll), *Chekhov Shorts*, and the world premiere of *The Loved One*, by Dorothy Tan. Her directorial work has also been seen at the Boston Theater Marathon for the last three years: *Insomnia* by Patrick Gabridge, *P'Town Christmas '99* by Carl A. Rossi, *Dream Of Jeannie By-The-Door* by David Valdes Greenwood, and *Den Of Iniquity* also by Gabridge. Melissa's work with children and young adults was seen in *The Secret Garden*, a musical adaptation by Miriam Raiken-Kolb, and *Alice In Wonderland*, with original music by Raiken-Kolb. Both productions were co-sponsored by The Somerville Cultural Council and the Somerville Summer Theatre Project.

**Steve Auger** is an Actor/Educator at the Museum Of Science and also tours New England with the Improbable Players. Last year he was seen in *Company One's* Fringe Festival in *CentaStage's* production of *Ballast*.

**Rena Baskin** has performed locally with *Boston Theater Works*, the *Nora Theater Company*, *Wheelock Family Theater*, the *Publick Theater*, and the *Jewish Theater of New England*, and regionally at the *New London Barn Playhouse* and the *Portsmouth Music Hall* in New Hampshire. Rena's club and cabaret work includes *Jacques Brel*, the music of Barber, Weil, Gershwin, and Ellington, as well as multi-cultural folk music, and pop tunes. Rena performed in Pat Gabridge's ten minute plays, *Insomnia*, and *Den of Iniquity* as part of two Boston Theater Marathons at *Boston Playwrights' Theatre*.

**Stephen Cooper** has appeared at Boston Playwrights Theatre in Theresa Rebeck's dark comedy *The Family of Mann*, produced by the *Wellesley Summer Theatre* (where he is a member of the company), as well as in numerous Boston Theatre Marathon offerings. Most recent roles include Nick Flanagan (*The Guys*), Jim Curran (*The Weir*), Ford Madox Ford (*After Mrs. Rochester*), and as the lead in a radio play, Alice Dunbar Nelson's *The Stones of the Village*, produced for NPR. This summer, in Marblehead, he will play Toad in the *Mugford Street Players'* production of Alan Bennett's adaptation of *The Wind in the Willows*.

**Alisha Jansky** has performed in *Two Gentlemen of Verona* for *Out of the Blue theater Company* and in several *Boston Playwrights' Theater* Marathons and productions of *Humpin' Glory Bay* and *The Silver Coast*. She has also performed with *Merrimack Repertory Theatre*, *Lyric West*, *Worcester Forum Theatre*, *SpeakEasy Stage*, *Raven Theatrical*, *CentaStage*, *The Publick Theatre*, and *Delvena Theatre Company*. Her roles have included Berdine in *Psycho Beach Party*, Hypatia in *Misalliance*, Carol in *Orpheus Descending*, Honey in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, Elma in *Bus Stop*, Marta Towers in *Red Scare On Sunset*, and Lydia Languish in *The Rivals*.

**Maureen Keiller** has performed with many Boston theatre companies, including *Boston Theatre Works*, the *Huntington Theatre*, *Wheelock Family Theatre*, *Lyric Stage of Boston*, *Lyric West*, *Speakeasy Stage* and *Raven Theatrical*. She was nominated in 1998 for a best

supporting actress IRNE for her work in *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress* (Wasted Talent Theatre Company) and later won the 2002 IRNE for *Frankie and Johnny in the Clare de Lune* (Lyric West) and *The Wild Party* (Speakeasy Stage). Maureen can be seen in the spring as Viv Belnap in the Farrelly Brothers/20th Century Fox film, *Fever Pitch*, starring Drew Barrymore and Jimmy Fallon.

**Karen Woodward Massey** is co-founder (with **Melissa J. Wentworth**) of *Out of the Blue Theater Company*. She also been seen onstage with *Underground Railway Theater*, *Worcester Foothills Theater*, the *Lyric Stage*, the *Publick Theater*, the *Súgán Theater Company*, *Boston Theater Works* and *Merrimack Repertory Theater*. Karen does frequent on-camera and voiceover work—latest projects include a McDonald's radio commercial and the two short films *The Tinman* and *Bloodsugar*.

**Joseph Zamparelli, Jr.** is an actor, director, and producer who has performed with the *Huntington Theater Co.*, *Vineyard Playhouse*, *Súgán Theater*, *Boston Theater Works*, *N.E. Aquarium*, and is a regular performer with *The Colonial Radio Theatre on the Air*. Most recently Joseph was seen in playwright Gabridge's *Den of Iniquity*. He is co-founder of *Daas Theatricals*, which is currently producing *Barrymore*, William Luce's play on the life of John Barrymore, and is co-directing (with Teja Arboleda) and acting in the film *Imperfectly* for *Entertaining Diversity Films* and co-stars in the just released award-winning animated short *Unspoken* for T-Time Productions.