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CONTACT: Penobscot Theatre
Scott R.C. Levy, Producing Artistic Director
(207) 942-3333
info@penobscottheatre.org

BANGOR FESTIVAL FEATURES PLAY ABOUT EVOLUTION

An orange rolls across the stage.

So begins *Apricot Supernovas* by playwright Krista Knight, in which an obese boy constructs a model of the cosmos made of fruit. Asked why he chose fruit as his medium, the fat character - played by a thin actor - tells his babysitter, "It decays." With productions at Goshen College in 2007 and in Seattle's "Live Girls! Quickies Short Play Festival" in May 2008, *Apricot Supernovas* has already entered the canon of new American plays. It's one of 14 scripts listed on the resume of young, New-York based playwright Krista Knight.

Like all the offerings in Penobscot Theatre's 2nd Annual "Northern Writes New Play Festival," Ms. Knight's *Filling* is a script in development. *Filling* has received a staged reading by Page 73 Productions of New York, NY, in June 2007, followed by their Equity Workshop production in December 2007. During 2008 the script became a finalist in the "Bay Area Playwrights Festival" as well as a "Northern Writes" winner. *Filling* is among 23 plays chosen by Penobscot Theatre out of over 500 submissions from 35 states and 4 countries. *Filling* puts science on stage in a way that a Bangor audience will find both jarring and familiar: insects in the throes of puberty.

Protagonist Nolan is 13, excitable and "a larval insect bloating without his exoskeleton." Love interest Lily is described as "molting. 14." Nolan, who has come (legally?) from Mexico to live with his randy grandmother in California, begins the play hiding under her porch. We cringe when Nolan agrees to emerge so gang-member Bern can "wail on him" in exchange for critical social information. The beating does occur at center stage, except that "Bern is small and sticky and Nolan is large and squishy. The blows barely bruise him." Replete with fecund sexual imagery, the play constantly surprises as Nolan, the alien outcast, imagines and executes his own flawed plan to impact nature and society.

A California native, Ms. Knight graduated from Brown University in 2006 with a double concentration in Theatre and English. She resides in New York City, where she received her MA in Performance Studies from the Tisch Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at

NYU in May 2008. She is currently a playwright in residence at YADDO in Saratoga Springs, NY, for the months of May and June. She plans to travel to Bangor for her reading. Ms. Knight especially looks forward to the facilitated audience discussion, which will be led by Penobscot Theatre's Producing Artistic Director Scott R.C. Levy.

Most of the presentations in the 2-week Bangor Festival are staged readings. However, *Filling* will be presented as a workshop production, along with *Lessons and Carols* by Demetra Kareman of Brooklyn, New York. That script was the overall winner of the 2008 Dylan Days writing competition. Workshop productions include an abbreviated rehearsal process, and simple blocking and effects as actors hold scripts in hand.

Tickets for the Friday, June 6 evening program are \$5.00. Curtain is at 8 P.M. A two week Festival pass costs \$30.00. Season ticket holders are entitled to attend all Festival events at no charge. For additional information the full schedule, and tickets, contact Penobscot Theatre's box office at 131 Main Street, Bangor ME, 04401, call (207) 942-3333 or visit www.penobscottheatre.org.