

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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art.party.theater.company presents  
**DUCHESS IN THE DARK**

a dark adaptation of a gory classic

**BELIEVE'T,  
YOUR DARKEST  
ACTIONS,  
NAY, YOUR PRIVAT'ST  
THOUGHTS,  
WILL COME TO LIGHT.**

Ferdinand, Act I, III;  
*The Duchess of Malfi*

**PERFORMANCES AROUND HALLOWEEN**

October 29<sup>th</sup> at 8pm; October 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm & 9:30pm;  
October 31<sup>st</sup> at 7pm at the Flux Factory //

November 4<sup>th</sup> at 8pm; November 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm & 9:30pm;  
November 7<sup>th</sup> at 8pm at the Flamboyant Theater

Secret marriages.  
Incestuous siblings bent on revenge.  
A court run by madmen.  
And the audience is in charge of the lighting.

John Webster's Jacobean tragedy *The Duchess of Malfi* explores a dark underworld of sex, family, politics, and power through the story of the eponymous Duchess who marries beneath her rank, leading to a tortured fate at the hands of her royal brothers.

art.party.theater.company's unique theatrical experience **DUCHESS IN THE DARK** plunges the audience into a world of literal darkness. As the lighting slowly, imperceptibly, fades to black over twenty minutes, it falls to the audience to light the action on stage using flashlights previously distributed to them. With only minimal direction from the performers or external sound cues, the audience will be placed at the center of the story.

While centuries old, the story is as relevant as ever when presented in this inventive, austere, physically aggressive staging—showcasing beauty of the text and the eerie quality of the story. Pulling on the aesthetic influences of Louise Bourgeois, horror films of the 90's, and bowls of peeled grapes, **DUCHESS IN THE DARK** explores the collaborative, interactive exchange between audience and performance that is at the core of art.party's creative mission. Through their individual lights, the collective decides which characters should have focus, what moments deserve attention, and what is interesting about the action on stage.

<b>DUCHESS IN THE DARK</b> At Flux Factory (39-31 29 <sup>th</sup> Street, Long Island City) 7/N/W to Queensboro Plaza; E/V/R to Queens Plaza; F to 21 <sup>st</sup> St October 29 <sup>th</sup> at 8pm October 30 <sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm and 9:30pm October 31 <sup>st</sup> at 7pm // At CSV Flamboyant Theater (107 Suffolk St, Manhattan) November 4 <sup>th</sup> at 8pm November 6 <sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm and 9:30pm November 7 <sup>th</sup> at 8pm Tickets \$12 to \$18, available on <a href="http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/86273">http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/86273</a>	<b>an art.party.theater.company production</b> Director, Mary Birnbaum Producer, Leticia Frazao Associate Artistic Director, Jess Burkle  Featuring: Joe Curnutte*, Kyle Davies, Jody Flader*, Julia Gwynne, Blake Habermann, Levi Morger, April Palasthy, Michael Schoenfeld  *Appearing Courtesy of Actors' Equity Association.
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**ABOUT ART.PARTY.THEATER.COMPANY:**

art.party.theater.company creates surprising, irreverent, physical theater that activates the audience's mind and bodies. In February 2009, art.party's *SCHOOLED: or m. moliere's the learned ladies*, directed by Mary Birnbaum (Artistic Director), was set in the salons of New York City luxury apartments. Audience wandered through rooms of simultaneous action, and an insight into a fictional family's dysfunctional home. Recently, Birnbaum and Jess Burkle (Associate Artistic Director) co-conceived the original *Bryant in the Park* in cooperation with the Bryant Park Corporation. The piece featured a fictional croquet on the lawn with the poetry of the park's namesake, William Cullen Bryant, in a sultry and stirring celebration of summer. In October, art.party's residency at chashama's Times Square storefront presents the daily performance installation *so much depends upon [a red wheel barrow]* based on the celebrated, succinct, and strange poem by William Carlos Williams. To learn more about art.party.theater.company, please visit [www.artpartytheatercompany.com](http://www.artpartytheatercompany.com).