



SPIRIT

NATURE

ART

**For Immediate Release:**  
July 26, 2010

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**What:** *Nature*

A world premiere walking play brings its audience on a journey through the natural world, telling the story of friends Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau. Created by Emerson's great, great, great grandson.

Created by Tyson Forbes, Artistic Director TigerLion Arts  
Directed by Markell Kiefer, Artistic Director TigerLion Arts

**When:** August 19 – September 5, 2010  
Thursday/Friday at 6pm  
Saturday/Sunday at 3 and 6pm

**Where:** Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

(Minneapolis, MN)—Minneapolis based production company, TigerLion Arts, following its recent success of *The Buddha Prince* ([www.buddhaprince.org](http://www.buddhaprince.org)), presents *Nature*, a mythic telling of Emerson and Thoreau's mutual love affair with the natural world. Grounded in the story of their friendship and set in a playful theatrical style woven together with music and song, *Nature* offers a perspective of their lives that is strikingly relevant, richly complex, and yet utterly simple.

*Nature* will be performed outdoors as a 'walking play,' taking the audience on a journey through the Johanna Frerichs Garden for Wildlife at the University of Minnesota's Landscape Arboretum. This family-friendly story stems from the great American legacy of transcendentalism featuring poignant excerpts from the writings of Emerson and Thoreau. As scenes unfold and grow into bold expressions of their essential and revolutionary philosophies, the experience will transport the audience to another time and become a catalyst for each to consider their own relationship with nature.

*Nature* is a collaborative creation led by local actor **Tyson Forbes** (TigerLion Arts), a direct descendent of Ralph Waldo Emerson, who Forbes plays in the production. Forbes has performed

in regional theaters nation wide and in numerous roles at the Guthrie, most notably Thomas Jefferson in *1776*. He has always felt a deep connection to Emerson and therefore to Thoreau, Emerson's fellow author, student and friend. To Forbes, "They were both radicals of their time, calling on their peers to think for themselves and be agents of change. I believe their words and ideas are as necessary now as they were then."

Playing the role of Thoreau is co-creator and best friend of Forbes, **Sam Elmore** from Boulder, CO. Like Emerson and Thoreau, the two share a profound love of nature and the belief that one should be guided by their passions and dreams in life. *Nature* is their expression of this.

Director, co-creator, and wife of Forbes **Markell Kiefer** (TigerLion Arts) has a passion and gift for staging outdoor walking theatre, and Music Director **Dick Hensold** has been called "a master piper with an exquisite touch." His Northumbrian bagpipes, flutes and recorders will join the glorious voice and violin of musician **Elena Orsack**.

Body specialist, **Shannon Cristie** wants the audience to *feel* the play more than simply see it. As the movement consultant, she worked with the cast to be sure the essence of the piece is rooted in the very nature that it explores. The production team also includes Guthrie Costume Designer **Christine Richardson**, theater artist **Jon Ferguson**, and writer **Andrew Schelling**, a Thoreau Scholar and Professor at Naropa University in Boulder, CO.

**TigerLion Arts**, with it's mission to celebrate human wisdom and the spirit of Nature through creative works that awaken, inform, and delight, presents *Nature* in collaboration with the **Life Science Foundation, University of Minnesota's Center for Spirituality & Healing, Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, and Lily Springs Farm**.

*Nature* is intended to tour to cities throughout the US, incorporating community members and local musicians into each production, and providing resources and curriculum aimed at reconnecting individuals to their natural environment.

Photos and more information on *Nature* available at [www.tigerlion.org/nature](http://www.tigerlion.org/nature)

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**Nature** previewed on June 2, 2010 at the Arboretum as part of the annual “Ways of Knowing symposium” organized by the Center for Spirituality and Healing and Life Science Foundation. The following are comments from those who attended the performance.

#### AUDIENCE RESPONSE

“**Nature** is brilliant! Tyson Forbes seems to channel Ralph Waldo Emerson. The portrayal of Emerson’s friendship and conflicts with Thoreau brings out the luminosity of their ideas and shows us why they are still relevant today. The experience of watching **Nature** in a natural setting adds a physical dimension to the experience, one that will entertain and delight. I was transported to another time and place and enjoyed every second of it.”

-Alan Briskin

*Ph.D. and co-author of “The Power of Collective Wisdom”*

“I loved the smell of grass that we were invited to sit in. It was brilliant, touching, funny, and deeply moving.”

“The music was so suited for this space. It was like the earth was singing.”

“I loved being in nature; the energy, the dynamic nature of the production made my heart sing. Wow! So playful.”

#### TICKET INFORMATION

**Nature** is FREE with admission to the Arboretum.

Admission Fees:

Non-members: \$9

Children (15 and Under): Free

Members: Free

University of Minnesota Students: Free

Special Offers:

Thursday, August 19th Preview: Free after 4:30 p.m.

All other Thursdays: 2 for 1 admission after 4:30 p.m.

#### WEATHER NOTIFICATION

Updates due to weather will appear on our homepage at [www.tigerlion.org/nature](http://www.tigerlion.org/nature)