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## The New Conservatory Theatre Center Announces A New Work in Progress

By Ed Decker and Robert Leone  
COMING SEPTEMBER 2010  
*Rights of Passage*

San Francisco, May 29, 2008— NCTC Founding Artistic Director, Ed Decker is excited to announce a new work which is set to premiere at NCTC in September of 2010. The play is being developed with guidance from the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission [www.iglhrc.org](http://www.iglhrc.org), along with a host of individuals directly involved in human rights advocacy. *Rights of Passage* will tell the stories of LGBT people and their communities who are subject to discrimination due to their sexual orientation. Decker says of the project: "Through theatre we aim to reframe the discussion by taking on a global perspective in telling several intersecting real-life stories that unmask human rights violations throughout the world."

### ABOUT THE PLAY



Ed Decker (Left) in Toronto with Arsham Parsi,  
Director of Iranian Queer Organization

With gay marriage at the forefront of national political debate, queer voices outside of the United States remain largely silent. *Rights of Passage* seeks to capture these voices and put them on stage in order to illustrate their parallels and deep connections to Americans' struggle for civil liberties. Decker and Leone have launched a new blog for the play, ([rightsofpassage-nctc.blogspot.com](http://rightsofpassage-nctc.blogspot.com)) where individuals can share their stories, follow and contribute to its progress, connect with the playwrights, and post comments. The blog also includes donor opportunities, photo galleries, LGBT human rights news links, and special events.

### PROJECT BACKGROUND

Ed Decker has guided the innovative work of other playwrights, and created commissions for The New Conservatory Theatre Center in San Francisco for over twenty-seven years. Robert Leone, with his experience in the field of Global Health has gained a breadth of understanding surrounding issues and conflicts facing citizens of Uganda, Nepal, Guatemala and other countries struggling with poverty and injustice. Long-time partners, Decker and Leone plan to marry in July 2008 with a request that any gifts be a contribution to the *Rights of Passage* project.

Thus far, research for *Rights of Passage* has included trips to rural Mississippi, New York, Berlin, and beyond. A trip to Africa later this year will also help uncover the little-known stories, which the playwrights have found to be "sobering, horrifying, and inspiring;" all of which will weave together a compelling piece of theatre to heighten awareness and help effect change.

For further information, contact Anne McMurrey at [mcmurrey@nctcsf.org](mailto:mcmurrey@nctcsf.org) or by calling 415/861 - 4914 x 116

Rights of Passage Blog: <http://rightsofpassage-nctc.blogspot.com/>

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