

—Slug:.....COMM-0841.arts.nxtstge\_aftertalk  
—Contributor.....  
—Contributor email.....  
—For section.....The Arts  
—Format.....News - no byline  
—Dateline.....Putney  
—Article Number:.....42617

[REDACTED]

**Notes from editor (not for publication):**

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HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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1 Next Stage Arts presents 'AfterTalk: A Play by Chard  
2 deNiord'

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5 TEXT BODY:

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6 Next Stage Arts presents *AfterTalk: A Play by Chard*  
7 *deNiord*, a new work of poetic theater that merges ancient  
mythology with contemporary artistry.  
8 Performances will take place Saturday, Nov. 22, at 7:30  
9 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 23, at 2 p.m. at Next Stage Arts, 15  
10 Kimball Hill.

11 AfterTalk is a collaborative theatrical experience that  
12 unites several Vermont artists, including actors Adrienne Major  
13 and David Zucker, with contributions from cellist Eugene Friesen,  
14 visual artist Eric Aho, choreographer Alison Mott, lighting and  
15 sound designer Francesca Bourgault, production manager Jenny  
16 Holan, and director Eric Bass.

17 Written by award-winning poet and former Vermont Poet  
18 Laureate (2015–2019) Chard deNiord, *AfterTalk* unfolds as a  
19 lyrical dialogue between Inanna, Goddess of Fertility, and  
20 Dumuzi, God of Agriculture and Date Palms. Meeting one last  
21 time in the threshold between worlds, the divine lovers revisit the  
22 dimensions of their connection — and the eternal question of  
23 whether their bond will endure or dissolve forever.

24 “The play draws inspiration from an ancient Sumerian  
25 antiphonal poem,” wrote organizers in a news release, “one of  
26 the earliest known love poems, predating the ‘Song of Songs’ —  
27 unearthed in 1947 in the ruins of Nippur.”

28 DeNiord reimagines this 4,000-year-old text within a  
29 modern theatrical framework, weaving together poetry, music,  
30 movement, and projected art to explore themes of love, power,  
31 and memory.

32 “*AfterTalk* invites audiences to experience an ancient  
33 story through the language of modern performance,” Next Stage  
34 Communications Director Heather Ahrenholz said. “It’s a  
35 remarkable convergence of Vermont artists interpreting one of  
36 humanity’s oldest expressions of love.”

37 Tickets are \$20 general admission, \$10 students and are  
38 available at [nextstagearts.org](http://nextstagearts.org).

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Bio/COATTAIL:

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