



RENEGADE THEATRE EXPERIMENT

1346 THE ALAMEDA, SUITE 7-265
SAN JOSE, CA 95126
408.351.4440
RTE@RENEGADETHEATRE.COM
WWW.RENEGADETHEATRE.COM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RENEGADE THEATRE EXPERIMENT
presents
The West Coast Premiere of
AMERICANA ABSURDUM

San José, CA, August 30, 2007 – What do you get when you have a funeral home, a high school prom, a tragic plane crash, clowns, and a mother with a morphine habit? You get a show that The Guardian (UK) said is “like a sick episode of **The Simpsons** played at double speed.” You get the West Coast Premiere of Brian Parks’ dark comedy, *AMERICANA ABSURDUM*.

VOMIT AND ROSES and *WOLVERINE DREAM*, the two respective halves of *AMERICANA ABSURDUM*, celebrate the comic, vertiginous thrill of America in its many, fun-house mirror guises. In *VOMIT AND ROSES*, a family-run funeral home business fights back a hostile corporate take-over while the two children of the family face the perils of the Senior Prom. *WOLVERINE DREAM* takes us into the high-stakes courtroom arena as poet/airline president Wallace Stevens is slapped with a wrongful death suit when one of his pilots intentionally crashes an airplane into The Rocky Mountains, killing just about everyone on board, including a famous golfer. Stevens and his attorney must take on Irish lawyers, leprechauns, and the sole surviving, star witness, a talking wolverine, in this frenetic comedic work.

Winner of both The New York International Fringe Festival’s Outstanding Writing award and the Edinburgh Festival Fringe First award, *AMERICANA ABSURDUM* was also selected the Critics Choice of Time Out London.

AMERICANA ABSURDUM runs September 7th through 22nd at the Historic Hoover Theater in San Jose. Performances begin at 8:00pm, except Sunday matinees which are at 2pm. Tickets for *AMERICANA ABSURDUM* are \$18.00 General Admission (Thursdays and Sundays) and \$20.00 General Admission (Fridays and Saturdays). Students and teachers, seniors, and Theatre Bay Area members qualify for discount tickets (\$13.00 Thu/Sun & \$15.00 Fri/Sat) with valid ID. Tickets and season subscriptions are on sale at www.renegadetheatre.com.

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The Renegade Theatre Experiment (RTE), founded in 2001, is the South Bay’s voice for alternative theatre.

PUBLICITY PHOTOS: <http://www.renegadetheatre.com/press>

CONTACT: Elizabeth Arnsdorf Patterson

(408) 351-4440

press@renegadetheatre.com

THEATRE THAT AMUSES THE MIND



AND FEEDS THE SOUL

AN INVITATION TO THE MEDIA

Renegade Theatre Experiment proudly invites you
to attend any of our opening weekend performances for

**The West Coast Premiere of
AMERICANA ADBSURDUM
Written by Brian Parks**

**Historic Hoover Theater
1635 Park Avenue
San José, CA 95126.**

September 7th, 8th, and 9th

**Friday and Saturday evening performances begin at 8:00 PM
Sunday matinee begins at 2:00 PM**



WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT Renegade Theatre Experiment:

"They do make it a point to sort of reach out to alternative voices and stories that aren't necessarily told...they're wanting to do the same thing that I'm wanting to do—challenging people to think when they're seeing a show, not shying away from topics that would be taboo. It's a bold company."

[Playwright Erica Hemenway, quoted in *The Salinas Californian*, February 29, 2006]

"A South Bay company that's already received notice from the press for its bold, unconventional productions."

[Karen McKeivitt, *Theatre Bay Area Magazine*, August 1, 2004]

PAST PRODUCTIONS:

***BILL OF (W)RIGHTS* by Janet Allard, Rebecca Gilman, Jeffrey Hatcher, Syl Jones, Gavin Lawrence, Melanie Marnich, Jane Martin, Kelly Stuart, and Elizabeth Wong (West Coast Premiere)**

"*Bill of (W)Rights* [is] a prickly production by Renegade Theatre Experiment at its best...Have no doubt, Renegade's bold production makes waves...Unlike some experimental theater that is so invasive you want to slap it, this production leaves enough space for a truly active and enlightening experience."

[Marianne Messina, *Metro*, September 13, 2006]

***WAITING TO DANCE* by Erica Hemenway (World Premiere)**

"AT LAST, a play centered on women that doesn't feel as if half the character potentialities have been dropped from the conversation. Engaging, unpredictable, sometimes warm, sometimes brutal, Renegade Theatre Experiment's world-premiere *WAITING TO DANCE* keeps the company's brand of errant sophistication going to unexpected places."

[Marianne Messina, *Metro*, February 8, 2006]

***LORCA IN A GREEN DRESS* by Nilo Cruz (California Premiere)**

"RTE certainly lives up to its name with "*Lorca*," making its mark as a little theater company willing to chase the high of new and difficult work."

[Karen D'Souza, *San Jose Mercury News*; July 20, 2005]

THEATRE THAT AMUSES THE MIND



FACT SHEET

RENEGADE THEATRE EXPERIMENT
presents
The West Coast Premiere of
AMERICANA ABSURDUM

WHO: Renegade Theatre Experiment - San José-based theatre company with Bay Area cast, featuring: Violet Ash, Ken Boswell, Molly Gazay, Blythe Murphy, Matt Sameck, Christine Schisano, Charlie Shoemaker, Jack Starr, and Michael Jerome West. Directed by Nichole Y. Hamilton.

WHAT: A frenetic, dark comedy that will make your head spin and your sides ache with laughter.

WHY: Share the magic of live theatre with a Renegade edge.

WHEN: September 7th-22nd. Thursday through Saturday evening performances will begin at 8:00 PM. Sunday matinee performances will begin at 2:00pm.

WHERE: Historic Hoover Theater, 1635 Park Avenue, San José, CA 95126. General Seating.

PRICE: Ticket Prices:

Thurs & Sun: \$18.00 General Admission

\$13.00 Student/Educator/Senior/TBA Discount Admission

Fri & Sat: \$20.00 General Admission

\$15.00 Student/Educator/Senior/TBA Discount Admission

Tickets available online (www.renegadetheatre.com) and at the door.

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