



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
Roald Dahl's classic tale
The BFG

San José, CA, October 5, 2005 – Renegade Theatre Experiment (RTE) continues its creatively thrilling season with the company's first foray into family entertainment. But fear not! Fun for the whole family need not spell a sacrifice of "renegade" edge...RTE proudly presents *The BFG*, a beloved work by Roald Dahl (Charlie and the Chocolate Factory). The renegade author was defined by his penchant for demented stories aimed not only at adults but also, most enduringly, to an ever-growing growing audience of children.

Dahl's *The BFG*, adapted for the stage by David Wood, exposes children to a world of friendly and not-so-friendly giants. Late one night, a giant snatches young Sophie from her bed, but he's not like the Fleshlumpeater or Bonecruncher giants who like to eat human beans. Luckily for Sophie, this is the Big Friendly Giant, and together they start a magical journey that involves snozzcumpers, whizzpopping, and all things that are scrumdiddlyumptious!

Artistic director Sean Murphy directs *The BFG*, partly to fulfill his long-held desire for a "renegade" children's show. Murphy was particularly attracted to "the wonderfully warped words of Roald Dahl, who creates these vivid worlds where things are not always safe and people are not always nice, but our protagonists always triumph over the grotesque."

Kids and adults alike will respond to Dahl's central theme of wanting to "fit in" to society. As Murphy explains, the story can also be viewed as a socio-political allegory of the culture of fear: "The humans in this play, including Sophie, have a certain arrogance about them. They believe they know everything and when something differs from their reality than it is clearly wrong and should be feared."

Roald Dahl was born in Wales of Norwegian parents. He spent his childhood in England and, at age 18, went to work for the Shell Oil Company in Africa. When World War II broke out, he joined the Royal Air Force and became a fighter pilot. At the age of 26 he moved to Washington, D.C., and it was there he began to write. His first short story, which recounted his adventures in the war, was bought by *The Saturday Evening Post*, and so began a long and illustrious career.

After establishing himself as a writer for adults, Dahl began writing children's stories in the early 1960s while living in England with his family. His first stories



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were written as entertainment for his own children, to whom many of his books are dedicated. Roald Dahl is now considered one of the most beloved storytellers of our time. Although he passed away in 1990, his popularity continues to increase as his fantastic novels, including *James and the Giant Peach*, *Matilda*, *The BFG* and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, delight an ever-growing legion of fans.

RTE's production of *The BFG* previews on November 3, and runs November 4-6, 10-13, 17-20, 25-26. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evening performances begin at 8:00pm. Saturday and Sunday matinees start at 2pm. All performances take place at the historic Hoover Theatre in San José.

Tickets for *The BFG* are \$18.00 General Admission (Thursdays and matinees) and \$20.00 General Admission (Fridays and Saturdays). Students and teachers, seniors, and Theatre Bay Area members qualify for discount tickets (\$13/\$15) with valid ID. Tickets for children 12 years old and under are \$10 at all performances.

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The Renegade Theatre Experiment (RTE) was founded in 2001 to bring edgy and entertaining new shows to the San José theatre community.

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

CONTACT: Whitney Stebbins

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wstebbins@renegadetheatre.com



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AN INVITATION TO THE MEDIA

Renegade Theatre Experiment proudly invites you
to attend our preview performance of
The BFG.

Roald Dahl's *The BFG*
Adapted for the Stage by David Wood
November 3, 2005

Historic Hoover Theatre
1635 Park Avenue
San Jose, CA 95126

8:00 PM

This is a public preview with a paying audience.



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MEDIA RESPONSE TO RTE

Renegade Theatre Experiment:

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

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

"These self-professed renegades bring a new toy to town with some very serious talent in the wings."

[W. Fred Crow, *Milpitas Post*, June 4, 2003]

***Lorca in a Green Dress* by Nilo Cruz (Producer: RTE):**

"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, 7/20/2005]

"Thoughtful, moody and beautiful. [*Lorca in a Green Dress*] juggles emotional tones like intensity, playfulness, wonder and absurdity with a constantly shifting equilibrium...This production is beautifully, arrestingly prismatic, not linear. The more open you can keep mind and senses, the more colors, glints and shadows you'll take in. "

[Marianne Messina, Metro, 7/27/2005]

***Conserving Melissa* by Tom Jacobson (Producer: RTE):**

"The production is renegade funky....funny and quirky, but never silly..."

[Marianne Messina, *San José Metro*; August 4, 2004]

***Goner* by Brian Parks (Producer: RTE):**

"The Renegade Theatre Experiment hit its stride....Irreverent and impossible, this production, presenting dark, wry, edgy humor, is akin to an over-caffeinated escapee from the local loony bin. This no-intermission offering is satire at its best."

[W. Fred Crow, *Milpitas Post*, June 24, 2004]

***Macbeth* by William Shakespeare (Producer: RTE):**

"[*Macbeth*] offers a rare theatre moment in the form of one hair-raising cross slice that makes you wonder, 'Is he OK?' That's good action"

[Marianne Messina, *San José Metro*, April 28, 2004]



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FACT SHEET

RENEGADE THEATRE EXPERIMENT presents Roald Dahl's classic tale *The BFG*

San José, CA, October 5, 2005

WHO: Renegade Theatre Experiment - San José-based theatre company with Bay Area cast. Cast: Iris Benson, Dean Burgi, Keith C. Marshall, Emily Morrison, Jean Naughton, Britt Ingrid Petzold, Roxanne Rashedi, and Sara Trupski. Directed by Sean C. Murphy.

WHAT: An enchantingly twisted tale of giants, friendship, and all things that are scrumdiddlyumptious!.

WHY: An edgy, renegade show that can be shared with the entire family.

WHEN: November 3rd (Pay-What-You-Can Preview) November 4-6, 10-13, 17-20, 25-26. Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening performances begin at 8:00pm. Saturday and Sunday matinees start at 2pm.

WHERE: Historic Hoover Theatre. 1635 Park Avenue, San Jose, CA 95126. General Seating.

PRICE: Ticket Prices:

Thurs, Sat Matinee, & Sun:

\$18.00 General Admission

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

\$10.00 Children 12 and under

Fri & Sat Evenings:

\$20.00 General Admission

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

\$10.00 Children 12 and under

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

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ABOUT RENEGADE THEATRE

Committed to forward-thinking performance, Renegade Theatre Experiment builds creative partnerships with aspiring and established artists to bring unique, outstanding theatre to the Bay Area. Founded in 2001, when a group of alumni from Santa Clara University joined together to develop as actors, RTE continues to explore the human experience through established and fresh performance works which break with convention. RTE's artistic and critical successes have included *Hear me Roar: Women's Images of Self - an exploration of women's body image and self-worth in American culture*, Avery Crozier's *Eat the Runt*, and Brian Parks' *Goner*. Renegade produced the World Premiere of Tom Jacobson's *Conserving Melissa* and the first North American production of the critically acclaimed show, *The Dice House* by Paul Lucas.

RTE continues in its tradition of bringing exceptional, avant-garde productions to the South Bay by kicking off its 2005/2006 season with the California Premiere of Nilo Cruz's poetic and haunting piece, *Lorca in a Green Dress*. A tragic death is only the beginning of the journey for Federico García Lorca. This is followed by the Bay Area Premiere of *Skyscraper* by David Auburn, a serio-comic piece that explores the impact of six strangers colliding on a rainy Chicago night. In November, RTE brings to the stage its very first Renegade family show with Roald Dahl's *The BFG* (Big Friendly Giant), adapted for the stage by David Wood. Late one night, a giant snatches young Sophie from her orphanage, but don't worry, this giant is not like Fleshlumpeater giant or Bonecruncher giant that like to eat human beans. This giant is the Big Friendly Giant and together they start a magical journey that involves snozzcumbers, whizzpopping, and all things that are scumdidlyumptious! The season finishes strongly with the World Premiere of Erica Hemenway's *Waiting to Dance*. Five women are brought to a room and reluctantly begin to share their tales in the hopes of answering the question of why they are there. Things that once seemed fairly clear suddenly become very complicated....

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