



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

Tracy Letts'

BUG

San José, CA, August 21, 2009 – At this buggy motel, people check in, but they may not check out. From the brilliant mind of Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winning playwright, Tracy Letts, comes this gritty, darkly comic, psychological thriller. Renegade Theatre Experiment (RTE) kicks off their 8th season with the *BUG* by Tracy Letts, directed by Susannah Greenwood.

Set in a seedy Oklahoma City motel room, the play centers on the meeting between Agnes, a divorced waitress with a fondness for cocaine and isolation, and Peter, a soft-spoken Gulf War drifter introduced to her by her lesbian friend, R.C. Agnes stays at a hotel in hopes of avoiding her physically abusive ex-husband, Jerry, who was just released from prison. At first, she lets Peter sleep platonically on her floor, but not long after she promotes him to the bed. Matters become more complicated as Jerry eagerly returns to the woman he loves to beat her up, expecting to resume their relationship. On top of that, there's a hidden bug infestation problem that has both Agnes and Peter dealing with scathing welts and festering sores-which has Peter believing this is the result of experiments conducted on him during his stay at an army hospital. Their fears soon escalate to paranoia, conspiracy theories and twisted psychological motives.

Tracy Letts first gained notoriety for his trailer-trash dark comedy *Killer Joe*, which was an Off-Broadway hit and has been performed in at least 15 countries in 12 languages. In 2008, Letts won both the Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award for his play, *August: Osage County*, which is currently playing in San Francisco. *BUG* made its World Premiere in 1996 at the Gate Theatre in London, which was followed by the American premiere at A Red Orchid Theatre in Chicago and a wildly successful run Off-Broadway, where it ran 11 months for a total of 384 performances. In addition to *BUG*, Tracy Letts is also the author of the critically acclaimed, Pulitzer Prize finalist *Man from Nebraska*. Mr. Letts is an ensemble member of the Steppenwolf Theatre Company.

Letts wrote *BUG* not long after the Oklahoma City bombing and wanted to explore the specter of conspiracy. "People aren't comfortable with random occurrences. There's a desire to make a connection—the idea that everything

happens for a reason," said Letts. "I'm interested in exploring the theme of people who have slipped out of the matrix. They're alienated and lonely."

RTE Artistic Director, Sean C. Murphy, notes that *BUG* kicks off a season of exploring the issue of invasion of privacy or the perception of privacy being invaded. "We are examining the ramifications and consequences of what happens when our lives are invaded by other people, organizations or expectations," Murphy explains, "We are forced to ask the provocative questions, how are our lives impacted through various forms of invasion? Is the perceived victim always innocent in the invasion and does he/she have a responsibility in allowing it to happen? Ultimately, it is up to the RTE audience to determine what is real and what is not."

BUG runs September 11th through September 26th at the Historic Hoover Theater in San Jose. Performances begin at 8:00pm, except Sunday matinees which are at 2pm. This show is recommended for mature audiences 18 and up. Tickets 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.

#

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: Cameron Fabrick
press@renegadetheatre.com

Fax: (408) 351-4440

FACT SHEET

RENEGADE THEATRE EXPERIMENT presents

BUG

by Tracy Letts

WHO: Renegade Theatre Experiment - San José-based theatre company with Bay Area cast. Cast: Jennifer Jane Parsons, John Vicino, Darcie Lee Grover, Ambera DeLash, and Sean C. Murphy. Directed by Susannah Greenwood.

WHAT: Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winning playwright Tracy Letts's tale of love, paranoia, and government conspiracy is a thought provoking psycho-thriller that mixes terror and laughter at a fever pitch.

WHEN: September 11th-26th. Thursday thru Saturday performances will begin at 8:00 PM. Sunday matinee performances will begin at 2pm.

WHERE: The Historic Hoover Theatre, 1635 Park Avenue, San José, CA 95126.

PRICE: Ticket Prices:

Thurs & Sun: \$18.00 General Admission

\$13.00 Discount Admission for Students, Educators, Seniors 55+ years old, Active & Veteran Military personnel, Law Enforcement personnel, Fire & Rescue personnel, and Members of Theatre Bay Area.

Fri & Sat: \$20.00 General Admission

\$15.00 Discount Admission

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

###

#

AN INVITATION TO THE MEDIA

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

Tracy Letts'
BUG

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

September 11th, 12th, or 13th
Friday and Saturday 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:

***THE BOOK OF LIZ* by Amy Sedaris and David Sedaris**

"Slightly off-beat and gentle, the tale is brought to life through the fine talent of an ensemble of multi-role playing actors...With so many characters and so little space, let me say there were strong performances by all making RTE's production of "The Book of Liz" a must-see. "

[W. Fred Crow, The Milpitas Post; September 12, 2008]

***MR. MARMALADE* by Noah Haidle (Bay Area Premiere)**

"No Hesitation - GO SEE THIS"

[Artsopolis; November 8, 2008]

"It's sick and twisted and displays fits of brilliance...Renegade Theatre pulled this off well."

[W. Fred Crow, The Milpitas Post; November 12, 2008]

***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]

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 the World Premieres of Matt Casarino's *THE PORNOZOMBIES* and Erica Hemenway's *WAITING TO DANCE*, the West Coast Premiere of *BILL OF (W)RIGHTS* by nine of America's hottest playwrights, Roald Dahl's *THE BFG*, the California Premiere of *LORCA IN A GREEN DRESS* by Nilo Cruz, Avery Crozier's *EAT THE RUNT*, Brian Parks' *GONER*, *HEAR ME ROAR: WOMEN'S IMAGES OF SELF*, 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 2009/2010 season with Tracy Letts psychological thriller *BUG*. This is followed by Neil LaBute's savage black comedy *THE SHAPE OF THINGS*, a tale of love, transformation, and betrayal. The season finishes strongly with the World Premiere of the perverse, romantic comedy *RIGHT PLACE, RIGHT TIME* by Lia Romeo and directed by Aldo Billingslea.

www.renegadetheatre.com