



RENEGADE THEATRE EXPERIMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RENEGADE THEATRE EXPERIMENT

presents

Amy and David Sedaris'

THE BOOK OF LIZ

San José, CA, August 11, 2008 – Renegade Theatre Experiment charges into its 2008/2009 season with *THE BOOK OF LIZ*, a comic treat from America's "Talent Family": Amy and David Sedaris. Best known as Jerri Blank from *Strangers with Candy*, Amy has crafted a weird array of characters, while her brother David is an essayist and humorist favored by NPR and found on discriminating bookshelves. Their collaboration *THE BOOK OF LIZ* capitalizes on Amy's ironic interest in homemaking, entertaining, and baking, particularly the fine art of the cheese ball.

Sister Elizabeth Donderstock (Violet Ash) makes the cheese balls (traditional and smoky) that sustain the existence of the Squeamish, a crypto-Amish religious community housed at Cluster Haven. Feeling unappreciated, Sister Elizabeth decides to try her luck in the outside world, leaving the Squeamish to try in vain to replicate her cheese ball recipe. Meanwhile, Liz lands a job as a waitress in a family restaurant run by recovering alcoholics. Can Liz keep her sweating problem in check and thereby become manager? Can the Squeamish get by without her? What does it all have to do with Cockney-speaking Ukrainians? The answers lie inside *THE BOOK OF LIZ*.

Amy Sedaris describes the play, an off-Broadway hit from 2001, thusly: "It explores the Buddhist principle of idiot compassion. Like when someone's drowning and you try to save them, knowing that you could drown, too." Sit by and watch it all happen, beginning on September 5th.

THE BOOK OF LIZ runs September 5th-20th at the Historic Hoover Theater in San Jose. Performances begin at 8:00pm, except Sunday matinees which are at 2pm. Tickets for *THE BOOK OF LIZ* 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>

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AN INVITATION TO THE MEDIA

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

THE BOOK OF LIZ

Written by David Sedaris & Amy Sedaris

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

September 5th, 6th, and 7th

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:

***NOAH JOHNSON...* by Jon Bastian (Bay Area Premiere)**

"It's a ghoulish story, but an effective reminder of the ghoulish business world we sometimes live in, where we'd prefer not to look too closely at the economic skullduggery that takes place, because its truths are too horrifying and too painful."

[John Angell Grant, *The Palo Alto Daily News*, July 20, 2007]

***AMERICAN ABSURDUM* by Brian Parks (West Coast Premiere)**

"Renegade Theatre Experiment's production of 'Americana Absurdum' is simply and pleasantly illogical!"

[W. Fred Crow, *Milpitas Post*, September 20, 2007]

***THE PORNOZOMBIES* by Matt Casarino (World Premiere)**

"'PornoZombies' fun splashes of bold humor offer a good pep rally for anyone feeling stifled by moralizers."

[Marianne Messina, *Metro*, July 19, 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]

FACT SHEET

RENEGADE THEATRE EXPERIMENT presents
THE BOOK OF LIZ
Written by David Sedaris & Amy Sedaris

WHO: Renegade Theatre Experiment - San José-based theatre company with Bay Area cast, featuring Violet Ash, Evangeline Maynard, Howard Miller, Vic Prosak, and Christine Schisano.

WHAT: An irreverent comedy with all of the style and sophistication of a nice smoky cheese ball.

WHY: The incomparable experience of live theatre...with a Renegade edge.

WHEN: September 12-27th. Thursday through Saturday 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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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 2008/2009 season with Amy and David Sedaris' kitschy, wildly entertaining *THE BOOK OF LIZ*. Find out what happens when a nun gets her act together and takes her cheese ball recipe on the road. This is followed by Noah Haidle's savage black comedy *MR. MARMALADE*, the outrageous tale of a four-year-old girl and her imaginary friend: a coke-addicted porno fiend. The season finishes strongly with Anthony Burgess' brilliant stage adaptation (a play with music!) of his infamous cult novel, *A CLOCKWORK ORANGE*.

www.renegadetheatre.com