



RENEGADE THEATRE EXPERIMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**RENEGADE THEATRE EXPERIMENT**

**presents**

***NOAH JOHNSON...***

**San José, CA, July 2, 2007** – This July, Renegade Theatre Experiment (RTE) kicks off its sixth season with the Bay Area Premiere of John Bastian's award winning play, *NOAH JOHNSON...*, a dark comedy, set during the Civil War, follows three war profiteers and their efforts to scam both the Union and the Confederacy.

*NOAH JOHNSON...* tells the tale of Jeremiah Bentonville, a former flimflam man turned undertaker, and his apprentice, Noah Johnson, contracted by both the Union and Confederate armies to box up their dead. What does it matter if Jeremiah inflates the casualties a little bit? As he says, "The living don't notice the dead. They'll take our word for it." Taking his apprentice under his wing, Jeremiah trains Noah in the art of creating lots of something out of nothing. Everything is moving along swimmingly until Noah discovers a locket with a lewd photo and a beautiful widow arrives in search of her dead husband's body. As Noah conducts his own business with the widow, Jeremiah's suspicions grow. He, more than anyone, should know an illusion when he sees it. Then, the North informs Jeremiah that they suspect he is cheating them. However, they won't hang him, provided he can prove his numbers - -by tomorrow morning at dawn.

Written during the first Gulf War, *NOAH JOHNSON...*'s themes of war, race, and profiteering still resonate today, during the second Gulf War. Bastian's play had its World Premiere at the renowned South Coast Repertory, where it won SCR's California New Plays Prize. Additionally, the production won seven Drama-Logue awards, including playwriting, and was a finalist for the PEN West Literary Award for Drama.

*NOAH JOHNSON...* runs July 13<sup>th</sup> through 28<sup>th</sup> at the Historic Hoover Theater in San Jose. Performances begin at 8:00pm, except Sunday matinees which are at 2pm. Tickets for *NOAH JOHNSON...* 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](http://www.renegadetheatre.com).

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THEATRE THAT AMUSES THE MIND



AND FEEDS THE SOUL

*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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THEATRE THAT AMUSES THE MIND



AN INVITATION TO THE MEDIA

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

***NOAH JOHNSON...***  
**Written by John Bastian**

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

**July 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup>**

**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]

## PAST PRODUCTIONS:

### ***TITUS ANDRONICUS* by William Shakespeare**

"RTE's Titus offers a fat experience ranging from awkward to silly to gripping to nauseating...it is very satisfying"

[Marianne Messina, *Metro*, January 31, 2007]

### ***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]

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## FACT SHEET

### RENEGADE THEATRE EXPERIMENT

presents

**NOAH JOHNSON...**

Written by Jon Bastian

**WHO:** Renegade Theatre Experiment - San José-based theatre company with Bay Area cast, featuring: Manfred B. Hayes, John Baldwin, Arcadia Conrad, and Howard Miller. Directed by Jenn BeVard.

**WHAT:** A Civil War dark comedy about the art of the con and war profiteering.

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

**WHEN:** July 13<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>. 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](http://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 Premiere of *WAITING TO DANCE* by Erica Hemenway, 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 2007/2008 season with the Bay Area of John Bastian's dark Civil War comedy, *NOAH JOHNSON*.... Explore the world of three con artists in the Civil War as they cross and double cross each other in this dark comedy about war, race and the lure of money. This is followed by the West Coast Premiere of *AMERICANA ABSURDUM* by Brian Parks. Americana Absurdum celebrates the dizzying thrill of America in its many, fun-house mirror guises. A family-run funeral home business, a high-stakes courtroom arena, Irish lawyers, leprechauns and a talking wolverine make up this bracing, dark, comic work. In November, RTE presents the Renegade family show with Susan Zeder's *WILEY AND THE HAIRY MAN*, a traditional African American folk tale told through rhyme about a boy and his worst fears of the swamp. This is a tale of personal triumph the whole family can enjoy. The season finishes strongly with the West Coast Premiere of Neil LaBute's bracing work, *THIS IS HOW IT GOES*. Belinda and Cody Phipps appear to be a typical Midwestern couple: teenage sweethearts now married with children and a luxurious home. Typical except that Cody is in almost every respect an outsider - "rich and black and different" in Belinda's words, who finds herself attracted to a (white) former classmate. As the battle for her affections is waged, Belinda and Cody frankly question the foundation of their initial attraction, opening the door wide to bigotry, deception, and betrayal!

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