



RENEGADE THEATRE EXPERIMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RENEGADE THEATRE EXPERIMENT

presents

TITUS ANDRONICUS

San José, CA, January 10, 2007 – Out of the shadowy underworld of Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs rides the Romans' greatest warrior! Mighty ***TITUS ANDRONICUS*** comes roaring to the stage in Renegade Theatre Experiment's production of Shakespeare's darkest and goriest play. Though first performed 415 years ago, *TITUS ANDRONICUS* is often thought of as Shakespeare's "Tarantino" play, a youthful, populist gore-fest delighting in shock value. But it also remains a searing tragedy of the wages of sin. With a startling modern-dress production, RTE suggests that *TITUS ANDRONICUS* can, and perhaps does, happen today in biker clubhouses.

TITUS director and RTE founding member Peter Canavese describes "a tale of the unpleasant extremities of human conduct: the surprising lengths to which we will go to protect pride, honor, and family; the bottomless capacity for cruelty and violence; and, in our production, the seductive and horrible possibilities of a willfully immoral lifestyle." At first Canavese wasn't sure about setting the play in the world of Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs. "When it comes to Shakespeare, I'm basically a traditionalist, and believe conceptual meddling should be held to well-reasoned, strongly justified visions. So when artistic director Sean Murphy approached me with the concept of doing *TITUS ANDRONICUS* with bikers, I was skeptical. But I agreed to think about it, and soon agreed to direct the play in this vein. Arguably, the world of OMGs (Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs) is the only realistic modern North American idiom in which to place Shakespeare's most outrageous play."

Citing the 2006 expose *ANGELS OF DEATH: INSIDE THE BIKER GANGS' CRIME EMPIRE*, Canavese draws direct lines between Shakespeare's action and documented biker crimes: "Gang, racial, and domestic violence (including rape) are commonplace, and the rigid, proud hierarchy of OMGs dare not be questioned. The gangs are fiercely territorial, and each club has a sergeant-at-arms. Two seemingly outlandish crimes in Shakespeare's text—beheadings and tongue severings—have been carried out by avenging Hell's Angels."

The hogs will roar and the blood will flow when *TITUS ANDRONICUS* previews on January 25th, and runs January 26th through February 10th at the Historic Hoover Theater in San Jose. Performances begin at 8:00pm, except Sunday matinees which are at 2pm. Tickets for *TITUS ANDRONICUS* 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.

THEATRE THAT AMUSES THE MIND



AND FEEDS THE SOUL

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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

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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

TITUS ANDRONICUS
Written by William Shakespeare

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

January 26th, 27th, or 28th

**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
TITUS ANDRONICUS
Written by William Shakespeare

WHO: Renegade Theatre Experiment - San José-based theatre company with Bay Area cast, featuring: Ranjita Chakravarty, Timothy L. Fullerton, Manfred B. Hayes, WM. Hunter, Eric Lyness, Alec Page, Drew Raboy, Letha Remmington, Gabriel A. Ross, Jonny Scott, Alika Spencer, Jack Starr, Sara Trupski, George M. Tyler, Michael Jerome West, and A. Zell Williams.

WHAT: Shakespeare's darkest and goriest play as you have never seen it before!

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

WHEN: January 25th (Preview). January 26th – February 10th. 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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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 2006/2007 season with the World Premiere of Matt Casarino's campy, satirical cautionary tale, *THE PORNOZOMBIES*. Find out what happens when a mad scientist's plan to bring love and happiness to us all involves reanimating the dead to make films of...well...an adult nature. This is followed by the West Coast Premiere of *BILL OF (W)RIGHTS* by nine of America's hottest playwrights: Janet Allard, Rebecca Gilman, Jeffrey Hatcher, Syl Jones, Gavin Lawrence, Melanie Marnich, Jane Martin, Kelly Stuart, and Elizabeth Wong. *BILL OF (W)RIGHTS* is a political funhouse examining the Constitution's first ten amendments in a post 9/11 world where self-censorship abounds and the populace is increasingly governed by fear. In November, RTE presents the Renegade family show with Louis Sachar's twisted tale *SIDEWAYS STORIES FROM WAYSIDE SCHOOL*, about a school that was supposed to be 30 classrooms, one story high; but by mistake it was built straight up 30 stories. And that's not all that's funny here. This bizarre building is home to cows, rats, a ghost and a teacher that turns her students into apples. This show's quirky humor will appeal to children of all ages. The season finishes strongly with the Shakespeare's darkest, goriest, and most grotesque play, *TITUS ANDRONICUS*. Once again we bring our warped sensibilities to the Bard and the results will be truly awesome!

www.renegadetheatre.com