

San Francisco Fringe Festival-2008

fresh, exciting theatre for open-minded audiences

September 3- 14, 2008

For Immediate Release

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San Francisco Fringe Festival Adds 15 More Shows, Creating Largest Offering in Years

15 Shows in “Non-Traditional Venues” brings total to 45; New Sites include Grace Cathedral, Center for Sex and Culture, and a 15-passenger Sightseeing Van

San Francisco. May X, 2008. The 2008 San Francisco Fringe Festival has added fifteen new productions for its 17th annual season, running September 3-14, 2008. The 12-day San Francisco Fringe Festival is an open, non-juried, uncensored international theatre festival that draws theatre companies and individual performers from the Bay Area, around the U.S., and across the world.



Crazy Bag, an entry from Denver, is one of 45 shows scheduled for the 17th Annual San Francisco Fringe Festival, Sept. 3-14, 2008 in downtown San Francisco.

The 15 new shows join the roster of 30 productions already chosen in a February lottery at the EXIT Theatre. The lottery is the Fringe’s traditional method for choosing the shows for the Festival’s three “Standard Venue” performance spaces at the EXIT Theatre’s stages at 156 Eddy Street and 277 Taylor Street in downtown San Francisco.

Several of the latest additions will be performing in several site-specific “Non-Traditional Fringe Venues.” San Francisco’s Barbara Michaels, in conjunction with the Clown Conservatory, will perform *The Doormen* in a series of neighborhood doorways. Her audience will follow her around downtown or Nob Hill to catch each of the scenes.

Hugi the Great Productions will perform its *Theatre That Moves* in a 15-passenger van that picks up its audience at the EXIT Theatre, drives them around town while the show goes on inside the van, and drops them back at the EXIT in time for curtain calls.

Two companies from Brooklyn, NY will do their shows about “no-holds-barred sexploration” and “advanced bisexual linguistics” at – where else? – the Center for Sex and Culture at 1519 Mission Street.

Perhaps just to balance with the latter, San Francisco’s Lucy Gray will produce *To Kill For* in the 99-seat chapel in the nave of Grace Cathedral. Playwright Gray’s drama celebrates the 50th anniversary of Alfred Hitchcock’s *Vertigo*, which was shot in many Bay Area locations. “What better place than in a church to explore the ghosts of celebrity?” Gray asks.

The rest of the 15 newly added shows feature companies and artists from Fresno, Santa Cruz, San Francisco, and from Charlottesville, VA, InFluxDance Company, which won “Best Dance Show” in last year’s SF Fringe Festival.

Just added is a performance piece designed for Union Square – more details on that one subsequently.

The 30 companies chosen by lottery in February for this September’s Fringe Festival include 15 from the Bay Area, ten from across the U.S. (including companies and artists from New York, Los Angeles, Denver, Washington, DC, Brooklyn, NY, St. Paul, MN, Boulder, CO, and Ridgefield Park, NJ.) Of the five international performing groups, four are from Canada and one is from Manchester, England. The British entrant is Matt Panesh, an outspoken performer who was a hit with audiences at last year’s Fringe.

Another returning Fringer is playwright Joe Besecker with a new play, *Loving Fathers*. Besecker’s *The Way Light Strikes Filled Mason Jars* won a Best of the S. F. Fringe in 2002. Also back after several years away are Bolinas-based performance artist Sha Sha Higby, and from L.A., Thessaly Lerner (The Ukulady).

Also returning is the wildly popular OPM, the Asian-American comedy troupe from Los Angeles known for skewering the likes of Iron Chefs, geishas, and the upcoming Olympics in Beijing.

The latest companies and individual artists to join the 2008 San Francisco Fringe Festival include the following:

Latest SF Fringe Festival Additions (Non-Traditional Venues)

Show Title	Performer/Company (City)	Venue
<i>To Kill For</i>	Lucy Gray (SF)	Grace Cathedral
<i>The Doormen</i>	Barbara Michaels (SF)	Neighborhood Doorways
<i>Theatre That Moves</i>	Hugi the Great (SF) 1	5-Passenger Van
<i>Peg-Ass-Us</i>	Pack of Others (Brooklyn, NY)	Center for Sex and Culture
<i>Fluid</i>	Erika Kate MacDonald (Brooklyn, NY)	Center for Sex and Culture
<i>There's a Monster in the Well!</i>	Bitter (SF)	Off-Market Theatre
<i>51 & Counting</i>	Mary Ann Boyd (SF)	The Garage
<i>Identity Crisis</i>	InFluxDance (Charlottesville, VA)	The Garage
<i>Along the Path of Larks and Swallows</i>	Mia Paschal (SF)	Phoenix Theatre
<i>Tale End</i>	Theatre Ventoux (Fresno, CA)	Phoenix Theatre
<i>Mitch</i>	CatchyName Prods. (SF)	Phoenix Theatre
<i>After-party</i>	The Physical Comedy Troupe (Santa Cruz)	Boxcar Theatre
<i>Sonderkommando</i>	Pangs Theatre Ensemble (SF)	Boxcar Theatre
<i>Moon Fable</i>	Boxcar Theatre (SF)	Boxcar Theatre

At least five more are “in process,” according to SF Fringe producer Christina Augello, including the performance piece planned for Union Square.

The 12-day festival, which thus far will feature 44 different shows, takes place in three of the EXIT Theatre performance spaces in the Downtown San Francisco Theatre District - the **EXIT Theatre & EXIT Stage Left** (156 Eddy Street) and **EXIT on Taylor** (277 Taylor Street). These three theatres constitute the “Standard Venues” for the festival. Other venues include the Off-Market Theatre, Phoenix Theatre, Boxcar Theatre, and The Garage, in addition to Grace Cathedral, The Center for Sex and Culture, the sightseeing van, and the neighborhood doorways.

The San Francisco Fringe Festival regrets that its long-time haven and most popular non-traditional venue, Original Joe’s Restaurant, which was damaged in a fire in October and will be unavailable this year.

Some Fringe Background

The original Fringe Festival began in Edinburgh, Scotland, more than fifty years ago, and has since become an international phenomenon. Fringe Festivals currently bring cutting-edge theatre to more than twenty cities across the U.S. and Canada, as well as in Europe and Asia. San Francisco’s is the second oldest in the U.S. Traditionally, international performers appear at the San Francisco festival, many of them having appeared at other Fringes, such as Toronto, Edinburgh, and Prague.

About EXIT Theatre

EXIT Theatre celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. It produces the San Francisco Fringe Festival, the second oldest Fringe Festival in the United States and is a member of the Canadian Association of Fringe Festivals (CAFF). 2008 will mark the 17th annual San Francisco Fringe Festival.

Each year, EXIT Theatre presents over 500 performances of some 100 productions by more than 75 companies and is one of San Francisco’s most successful and enduring

centers of alternative performance. At age 25, EXIT continues to commission, develop and produce new work and present independent artists. In addition to the San Francisco Fringe Festival, EXIT produces the annual DIVAfest, dedicated to developing new work by women writers. The EXIT Theatreplex includes EXIT Theatre, EXIT Stage Left, and EXIT Café at 156 Eddy Street, and EXIT on Taylor, around the corner at 277 Taylor Street, all in Downtown San Francisco. Visit the EXIT Theatre web site at www.theexit.org.

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Take BART to the Fringe - Exit Powell Street

