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THE THEATER OFFENSIVE ANNOUNCES
OUT ON THE EDGE
17th Annual Festival Of Queer Theater
October 18 - November 8, 2008

BOSTON, MA - Since 1992, The Theater Offensive's OUT ON THE EDGE has developed and presented the talents of queer thinkers and artists from around the world. Abe Rybeck, Artistic Director, and Eve Alpern, Producing Director announce the 17th Annual Festival of Queer Theater including Plays At Work staged readings and mainstage performances. For more detail go online to www.thetheateroffensive.org.

PLAYS AT WORK - STAGE READINGS

Saturday October 18 at 4pm and Sunday October 19 at 1pm.

BIRDS DO IT

A play at work by David Valdes Greenwood

Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts, 527 Tremont Street, Boston. General admission: with \$10 suggested donation. Tickets are available on day of show at the box office only. No advance reservations available. *Artist discussion following each performance.*

If gay marriage is a hot issue, then Fernando & Aubrey really feel the burn! After 10 happy years together, a proposal may be the one thing that could tear them apart. Then add a sexy coworker, a husband-scorched mom, and an ex-gay penguin to fan the flames! This timely romantic comedy probes the distinction between gay marriage and *my* marriage.

Saturday October 18 at 8pm and Sunday October 19 at 4pm.

BLUE FIRE ON THE WATER

A play at work by Artist in Residence Renita Martin, a National Performance Network Creation Fund Project.

Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts, 527 Tremont Street, Boston. General admission with \$10 suggested donation. Tickets are available on day of show at the box office only. No advance reservations available. *Artist discussion following each performance.*

The Boston Herald says (Martin has) "Poetic lyricism with great storytelling". As Katrina floods Jo's home, the aging New Orleans jazz stalwart is also inundated by his stolen dreams, his lost loves, and his

tightly bound secrets. Jo rejects one rescuer after another, committed to stick with the comfort of his main squeeze—his beloved piano named “Red”. As the muddy waters rise, can truth float to the surface?

MAINSTAGE PERFORMANCES

October 22-26

NUT/CRACKED (*Press Performance Wednesday October 22, 2008 at 7:30pm*)

Starring David Parker and The Bang Group

Wednesday-Thursday at 7.30; Friday at 8 pm; Saturday at 2pm and 8pm; Sunday at 2pm
Roberts Studio in the Calderwood Pavilion in the Boston Center for the Arts, 527 Tremont Street, Boston. Tickets are \$20 -\$48. For tickets contact the BostonTheatreScene.com box office at 617.933.8600 or order online at www.bostontheatrescene.com. *Moderated artist discussion on Saturday October 25 following 2pm matinee.*

Back for the whole family to see, after selling out in 2007! Exquisite dancing, yes, but this is no saccharine-dripped chestnut! Whether you love or hate the original, you and all your friends will get swept up in this irreverent Tchaikovsky dance extravaganza. It will have you tap dancing in the aisles... and sucking a thumb! With new twists for 2008

October 28-November 1

VARLA JEAN MERMAN LOVES A FOREIGN TONGUE (*Press Performance Tuesday October 28, 2008 at 7:30pm*)

Starring Jeffrey Roberson with Mark Cortale www.varlaonline.com

Includes “Varla’s Dirty Shorts” film festival of her Greatest flicks!

Tuesday -Thursday at 7.30; Friday at 10:15pm, Saturday at 8pm and 10:15pm
Roberts Studio in the Calderwood Pavilion in the Boston Center for the Arts, 527 Tremont Street, Boston. Tickets are \$20 - \$48. For tickets contact the BostonTheatreScene.com box office at 617.933.8600 or order online at www.bostontheatrescene.com

According to the *Los Angeles Times*, (Varla is) “An indisputable force of nature...the dazzling force of a cyclone touching down in a sequin factory.” Varla has charmed sold-out houses with her stunningly great voice and spectacularly bad taste, from Provincetown to Sydney (that’s in Austria...lia). Now, after conquering the rest of the world, the purported love-child of Ethel Merman and Ernest Borgnine, tries to lick Boston! You’ll be left speechless in any language.

New England Premiere!

October 31 – November 2 (*Press Performance Friday October 31, 2008 at 8:00pm*)

MISS AMERICA

Split Britches - starring Peggy Shaw and Lois Weaver

Friday at 8pm; Saturday at 2pm and Sunday at 7pm.

Roberts Studio in the Calderwood Pavilion in the Boston Center for the Arts, 527 Tremont Street, Boston. Tickets are \$20 -\$48. For tickets contact the BostonTheatreScene.com box office at 617.933.8600 or order online at www.bostontheatrescene.com

The legendary, Obie-award winning playwright/performers return to Boston with their most timely show ever. Peggy and Lois expose what we have lost as America still clings to desperate triumphalism. Don’t miss this beautiful and heady twister of the American Dream, or what’s left of it.

New England Premiere!

November 5-8

WAKE THE FK UP AMERICA** (*Press Performance Wednesday November 5, 2008 at 7:30pm*)

Starring The Kinsey Sicks

Wednesday - Thursday at 7.30; Friday at 8 pm; Saturday at 5pm and 8pm.

Roberts Studio in the Calderwood Pavilion in the Boston Center for the Arts, 527 Tremont Street, Boston. Tickets are \$20 - \$48. For tickets contact the BostonTheatreScene.com box office at 617.933.8600 or order online at www.bostontheatrescene.com

The *San Francisco Chronicle* raves "gut-busting parodies and raucous shtick...astonishing!" Best way to celebrate an election victory? Hilarious queer performance with a political twist! In fact, that'll work if we lose too. TV's "America's Most Talented" a capella drag queens finally storm Boston! This critically acclaimed ensemble serves it up a sassy, hysterical, perfectly harmonized satire of TV Morning News.

The Theater Offensive

Founded in 1989 by Artistic Director Abe Rybeck, The Theater Offensive has driven its ambitious programming to the cutting edge of queer culture and politics. Grounded in the commitment to build an activist-based artistic forum, the groundbreaking programming has become a vital arena for the unique voice of queer cultures, and has led to lasting coalitions between the varied communities within the queer umbrella. We accomplish this work through meaningful ongoing relationships with a range of arts and organizing initiatives locally and throughout the country, and by using any and all cultural tools to make a difference in the minds, hearts, and libidos of the queer and straight communities. Nationally recognized community programs include *A Street Theater Named Desire*, *True Colors Out Youth Theater*, and the *Out on The Edge Festival of Queer Theater*.

Since 1992, the Out on The Edge Festival has "hooked in" the Boston community with leading queer thinkers and artists from around the world. Jackie Hoffman, Jeff Roberson (aka Varla Jean Merman), Alec Mapa, Brian Freeman, Mike Albo, Peggy Shaw, Luis Alfaro, Lea DeLaria, Carmelita Tropicana, Marga Gomez, Paul Zaloom, David Parker Holly Hughes, Pomo Afro Homos, Split Britches, Quentin Crisp, Tim Miller, The 5 Lesbian Brothers, Bloopers, Mike Albo, Hanifah Walidah, Daniel Alexander Jones, Pamela Sneed, Kate Bornstein, Craig Hickman and 4 Big Girls are among the national and international performers who have worked with us on past festivals.