



**CZECH
& MATES!
2009
LIT MOON
WORLD
THEATER
FESTIVAL**

PRESS RELEASE

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**CZECH & MATES:
LIT MOON WORLD THEATRE FESTIVAL 2009
INVENTIVE THEATRE FROM THE CZECH REPUBLIC & U.S.**

- **October 13 through 18, Center Stage Theater, Santa Barbara**
- **Four Czech and Two U.S. Companies; Two World Premieres**
- **All Performances in English**
- **Tickets Available at Center Stage Theatre Box Office**

Santa Barbara, CA, September 26, 2009 – Inventive theatre takes center stage at Center Stage Theater for six days in October with the Lit Moon World Shakespeare Festival 2009, entitled Czech & Mates.

Emotionally-powered, movement-inspired plays, from the tragic to the comedic, are showcased. Santa Barbara's Lit Moon Theatre Company is joined by four companies from the Czech Republic and another from San Francisco – with a Czech connection. All performances, which include two world premieres, are in English.

“We wanted to make a festival that returned to the physical roots that began Lit Moon and to show work that is incredibly inventive, extremely physical,” said John Blondell, Lit Moon Artistic Director and Festival Producer, “These play have an exuberance and liveliness and eccentricity and extravagance that audiences of all ages will be delighted by.”

Czech & Mates, the 2009 Lit Moon World Theater Festival, productions from the Czech Republic and U.S, is from October 13 through 18, 2009, at the Center Stage Theater in Santa Barbara, California.

Tickets are \$20 general admission, \$15 for students. Subscription packages are available: all six shows for \$100 (\$75 for students); 5 to 7 shows at \$18 per ticket (\$13.50 for students). On sale now at the Center Stage Theatre Box Office, (805) 963-0408 or www.centerstagetheater.org.

A New International Cross Cultural Consortium

This Festival is the first project under the auspices of interACT, a new international consortium of theatre companies and festivals, developed to support and present new, progressive theatre through inter-cultural residencies, artistic barter, and festival participation.

“InterACT connects progressive theatres, institutions, and festivals in Europe, North America, and Asia,” said Blondell, who is interACT’s founding president. “It provides sources of inspiration, artistic possibility, travel, and networking opportunities.”

InterACT will create, develop, and sustain artistic co-productions between member theatres, and use theatre as an active agent in cultural transformation and renewal. Lit Moon Theatre Company (Santa Barbara) and HoME Theatre (Prague) are founding members of the network.

Festival Inspiration from Two Master Teachers of Physical Theatre

The inspiration for this festival grew out of mutual cooperation and long-term impact of the artists, clowns, and directors connected with two master teachers of physical theatre: Ctibor Turba in the Czech Republic and James Donlon in the U.S.

“All the works performed can be traced to these two teachers,” notes Blondell. “Performers are either students of one or both, or the result of their collaborations.”

Circus Sacra’s Stevo Capko (*Brick Cirk*) was a student of Turba’s, as was Vojta Švejda of Adriatic Presents (*Polaris*). In 2007, Švejda invited Donlon to Prague to direct *Albert’s Fear* and the successful collaboration has since won awards at festivals in the Czech Republic and abroad. It has its U.S. premiere at this Festival.

Donlon has also directed and acts in *Flush*, which has its world premiere at this Festival, the result of a collaboration between Donlon’s San Francisco Flying Actor Studio and HoME, a Prague alternative theater company founded by Howard Lotker, a student of Donlon’s who has lived and worked in Prague theater for ten years.

In fact, Lit Moon was originally founded by Blondell, Colleen Hennen, and two of Donlon’s students, Matt Taviani (now with BOXTALES) and Dave Clements.

“The emphasis of movement, significance of physicality was infused by James into both Dave and Matt, which helped develop our orientation,” adds Blondell. “Early on, we were exclusively mask-based, with an interest in movement and live music. All this was inspired by James; his method of work is groundwater of our company, which has since morphed and changed.”

A package of *Flush*, *Brick Cirk*, *Albert’s Fear*, and *Polaris*, along with lectures comparing the contemporary Czech and American physical theater scenes, will be offered to theaters throughout the Czech Republic and Central Europe later this year.



FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

WORLD PREMIERE!

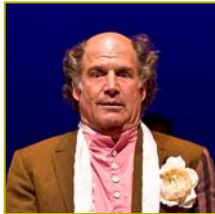
THE TRAGEDY OF TRAGEDIES, OR THE LIFE AND DEATH OF TOM THUMB THE GREAT

Lit Moon Theatre Company

Tuesday, October 13, 7 p.m. – Festival Opening Night

Friday, October 16, 9 p.m.

Sunday, October 18, 5 p.m.



A side-splitting, hilarious spoof on tragedy, based on a play by Henry Fielding. Death and has never been so fun...

“We have taken this marvelous send-up of classical tragedy and translated into a highly intense physical piece. We also poke fun at some of the serious productions we’ve done recently.” – John Blondell

BRICK CIRCK

Circus Sacra, Prague

Tuesday, October 13, 9 p.m.

Sunday, October 18, 3 p.m.



Classic clowning from the rich Prague tradition: a green clown with bricks everywhere. Kids and adults alike will take delight.

Stevo Capko received his degree in robotics, but turned his talents to street clowning and performing in theatre and movies in the Czech Republic.

POLARIS

Adriatic Presents, Prague

Wednesday, October 14, 7 p.m.

Friday, October 16, 7 p.m.



Two exhausted polar explorers are confronted with polar bears, seals, migrating birds and more in an unforgiving landscape. “A collection of scattered miracles and a startling meditation on nature.” – *Guardian* (UK)

“Our performance style is based on subtle, precise expression which is born out of motionlessness and the act of waiting... confrontations between the inner movement of thought and the motionless body in surroundings which never cease to move.” -- Jan Beneš-McGadie & Vojta Švejda

THE WEDDING

Lit Moon Theatre Company

Wednesday, October 14, 9 p.m.

Saturday, October 17, 7 p.m.



Lit Moon’s smash pop musical about the perils and pitfalls in taking the plunge. Three brides and one groom in a slightly absurd musical satire. “Jubilant passion... a Santa Barbara version of *Spring Awakening*.” - *Independent*

ALBERT'S FEAR

Theatre Alfred, Prague

Thursday, October 15, 7 p.m.

Saturday, October 17, 4 p.m.



A small boy conquers his timidity and indecisiveness. Bring the family and join in the triumph of this intimate, lovely production.

“James Donlon directed this play and both directed and acts in *Flush*. One of the actors in *Albert's Fear* is also in *Polaris*. What wonderful cross pollination we have in this festival!” -- John Blondell

WORLD PREMIERE!

FLUSH

Czech/U.S. Co-production: Flying Actor Studio, San Francisco/HoME, Prague

Thursday, October 15, 9 p.m.

Saturday, October 17, 9 p.m.



An imprisoned comic actor and his jailer display a surreal friendship. A dynamic, cross-cultural co-production sure to intrigue.

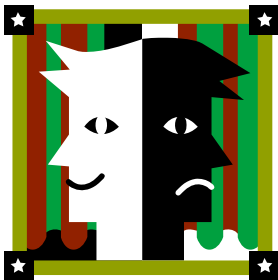
“The set is minimal, with a simple prison toilet center stage, which the actors creatively transform into a dining table, throne, stage, trunk or an escape route. At times, the audiences become the judge and jury, the jailer, and the victim.” –

Howard Lotker, HoME

ONE SHOW ONLY!

CHANCES ARE

Sunday, October 18, 1 p.m.



Festival artists in improvisational show... generated by Chance!

Festival actors will have created short pieces, generated by Chance activities, and rehearsed for only two hours before this event.



The 2009 Lit Moon World Theater Festival is presented by Lit Moon Theatre Company, Flying Actor Studio (San Francisco), HoME Theatre Company (Prague) and interACT.

It is sponsored in part by the Santa Barbara County Arts Commission, Westmont College, the Prague City Council, the Nadace Zivot Umelce Foundation, Santa Barbara Independent, and Santa Barbara News-Press.

	Tue 10/13	Wed 10/14	Thurs 10/15	Fri 10/16	Sat 10/17	Sun 10/18
Tragedies...	7 p.m.			9 p.m.		5 p.m.
Brick Circk	9 p.m.					3 p.m.
Polaris		7 p.m.		7 p.m.		
The Wedding		9 p.m.			7 p.m.	
Albert's Fear			7 p.m.		4 p.m.	
Flush			9 p.m.		9 p.m.	
Chances Are						1 p.m.

CHRONOLOGICAL LISTINGS

All performances are in English. General Admission seating, first-come, first-seated.

Tuesday, October 13

7 p.m. – *Festival Opening Night*
The Tragedy of Tragedies – World Premiere
 Lit Moon Theatre Company

9 p.m.
Brick Circk
 Circus Sacra, Prague

Wednesday, October 14

7 p.m.
Polaris
 Adriatic Presents, Prague

9 p.m.
The Wedding
 Lit Moon Theatre Company

Thursday, October 15

7 p.m.
Albert's Fear
 Theatre Alfred, Prague

9 p.m.
Flush – World Premiere
 Flying Actor Studio, San Francisco/
 HoME, Prague

Friday, October 16

7 p.m.
Polaris
 Adriatic Presents, Prague

9 p.m.
The Tragedy of Tragedies
 Lit Moon Theatre Company

Saturday, October 17

4 p.m.
Albert's Fear
 Theatre Alfred, Prague

7 p.m.
The Wedding
 Lit Moon Theatre Company

9 p.m.
Flush
 Flying Actor Studio, San Francisco/
 HoME, Prague

Sunday, October 18

1 p.m.
Chances Are
 Various Festival Artists

3 p.m.
Brick Circk
 Circus Sacra, Prague

5 p.m.
The Tragedy Of Tragedies
 Lit Moon Theatre Company

Center State Theatre

Upstairs in the Paseo Nuevo Center, at the intersection of Chapala and De la Guerra Streets, Santa Barbara, California

Tickets:

\$20 general admission, \$15 for students.

Subscription Packages

Six shows for \$100, \$75 for students
 5 to 7 shows at \$18 per ticket, \$13.50 for students

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