

IMPACT THEATRE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

P.O. BOX 12666 · BERKELEY, CA 94712-3666 · 510 224-5744 · IMPACTTHEATRE.COM
PRESS CONTACTS: MELISSA HILLMAN / CHESHIRE ISAACS · 510 224-5744 · INFO@IMPACTTHEATRE.COM

WORKING FOR THE MOUSE ROARS AGAIN!

Impact Theatre and Black Box Theatre revive Trevor Allen's hit solo show June 23–July 8

BERKELEY, CA, MAY 25, 2011—Impact Theatre is thrilled to welcome local theatre luminary Trevor Allen back to its stage with a revival of Allen's hit solo show *Working for the Mouse*, directed by Nancy Carlin (the original production was directed by Kent Nicholson). *Working for the Mouse*, a very special limited event co-produced by Black Box Theatre, begins June 23 (press night is June 24) at Impact Theatre's home, La Val's Subterranean in Berkeley.

Working for the Mouse premiered at Impact in 2002, an expansion of Trevor Allen's short "Character!" which was voted Best of the San Francisco Fringe in 1996. **Allen delighted audiences and critics alike with his hilariously sordid memoir of playing a costumed character at Disneyland.** Effortlessly shifting between several characters, Allen wove a unique coming-of-age tale that revealed just what goes on at The Happiest Place on Earth: sex (yes, on rides), drugs, kicks to the crotch, and a social hierarchy among characters in which the lowest people are actually forbidden to speak.

The reviews were unanimous in their praise for the show and Allen's talent: "Allen shows off his great vocal chops... he shares his Disneyland experience with warmth, style, and tremendous humor," wrote the *East Bay Express*; the *San Francisco Examiner* raved, "[Allen's] got more than a magic bag full of fun anecdotes, and the charisma of Peter Pan to pull off telling them"; "Allen has strong solo-performer chops and a keen sense of the pathos underlying the Happiest Place on Earth," the *SF Weekly* observed; and the *SF Bay Guardian* called the show "amusing, skillful, and contagiously warmhearted." **The audience's enthusiasm for *Mouse* was similarly strong: the original production played to sold-out houses and extended, transferring from Berkeley to San Francisco.**

Since then, Allen has continued to make a name for himself as a rising local playwright with successes such as *The Creature*, *Lolita Roadtrip*, *Tenders in the Fog*, and more. He has won numerous awards, grants, and commissions, including *Valley of Sand*, which he is currently developing for San Jose Repertory Theatre. But *Mouse* has remained close to his heart: in addition to this revival (which is expected to go on to play more dates elsewhere later in the year), Allen is also working on a book adaptation of the show.

For more information about the show, including video, visit <http://workingforthemouse.com>. For press photos and more information about Impact Theatre, visit <http://impacttheatre.com/press>.



Press photos are available for download at impacttheatre.com/press

ARTIST BIOS

Trevor Allen is an award-winning Bay Area playwright. Productions include *Lolita Roadtrip* and *Tenders in the Fog* (both at San Jose Stage Company; Dean Goodman Award for best script), *The Creature* (Black Box Theatre, nominated for five Bay Area Critics Circle Awards, including best script), *Working for the Mouse* (Impact Theatre), *49 Miles* (Crowded Fire Theater Company), and *Chain Reactions* (Theatre of Yugen, CAFÉ, and The Cutting Ball). Some of Trevor's other plays include *Zoo Logic*, which received a San Francisco Arts Commission grant and was presented as part of the Magic Theatre's Z/Magic Monday series, and *One Stone: Einstein*, which was developed through the Playwrights Foundation's "Incubator" and "In the Rough" programs. He's received two "Best of" awards from the San Francisco Fringe Festival and won American Conservatory Theater's "Write like David Mamet" contest. Trevor also received PlayGround's Emerging Playwright Award, Playwriting Fellowship, and four full-length play commissions, including *Lolita Roadtrip*, *Tenders in the Fog*, *Golden Gate Fair*, and his newest play, *Valley of Sand*, which he is currently working on for San Jose Repertory Theatre. He was a Playwright in Residence at the Djerassi Resident Artists Program in Woodside, and holds a BA in Theatre from UCLA and an MFA in Creative Writing from SFSU. Trevor is an Active Member of the Dramatists Guild of America.

Nancy Carlin has directed for the Aurora Theatre, Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival, Foothill Theatre Company, B Street Theatre, S.F. Playhouse, The Jewish Theatre S.F., A.C.T.'s MFA program, and Center Rep, where she'll be directing *Arms and the Man* this winter. A former company member of the American Conservatory Theater, Nancy is an associate artist of the California Shakespeare Theatre and a member of PlayGround. She is co-author of a new musical, *Max Understood*, which was developed at the O'Neill National Music Theatre Conference and the New York Musical Theater Festival. She has performed with such theatres as A.C.T., Berkeley Rep, San Jose Rep, TheatreWorks, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and California Shakespeare Theatre. Nancy co-produced the feature film *Haiku Tunnel* and has appeared in a number of films. Ms. Carlin is a member of SDC, AEA, SAG, AFTRA, and the Dramatists Guild. She holds a BA in comparative literature from Brown University and an MFA in acting from A.C.T.

ABOUT IMPACT THEATRE

Since 1996 Impact Theatre has spoken to a new generation of theatregoers and enthusiasts alike who want to see something fresh and bold on stage. Impact's audience ranges from students to professionals to seniors, all of whom share a taste for exciting, unpretentious theatre that doesn't conform to stale assumptions of what constitutes high culture. Impact's primary mission is to directly contribute to the future of American theatre through focusing on new plays by emerging playwrights. Impact has produced dozens of full-length world premieres, many by local playwrights, as well as scores of world-premiere ten-minute plays by burgeoning writers nationwide in the Impact Briefs series. Impact also prides itself on its fast-paced, vital, contemporary spins on classic drama. Impact shows compel, provoke, and inspire, at prices everyone can afford. And nowhere else in the Bay Area can you eat pizza and drink beer while you're watching a play. The *East Bay Express* named Impact "Best Small Theatre Company" in 2008, and the company regularly appears in year-end top-ten lists.

ABOUT BLACK BOX THEATRE

Black Box Theatre, in residence at Intersection for the Arts 5M, is dedicated to exploring modes of new live performance. Its most well-known project is the award-winning production of *The Creature*, Trevor Allen's adaptation of *Frankenstein*, which began life as a series of podcasts recorded live at public staged readings

and offered on blackboxtheatre.com for free. *The Creature* received its full production to sold-out houses in October 2009. Other past projects include a production of Trevor Allen's *Chain Reactions*, a fugue-like science play performed in the former planetarium in Golden Gate Park, and his *49 Miles*, a co-production with Crowded Fire. Its future projects will explore performance in nontraditional physical and web environments. *Working for the Mouse* is a major side project, with a dedicated website featuring a blog, podcasts, and video.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS

PRODUCTION: *Working for the Mouse*
Written and performed by Trevor Allen
Directed by Nancy Carlin
June 23–July 8 · Thu–Sun 8pm

WHERE: La Val's Subterranean, 1834 Euclid Ave, Berkeley, CA 94709

ADMISSION: \$10–20

MORE INFO: impacttheatre.com

BOX OFFICE: impacttheatre.com

PRESS CONTACT: Melissa Hillman or Cheshire Isaacs
510 224-5744 · info@impacttheatre.com

#