

## IMPACT THEATRE ANNOUNCES ITS NOT-SO-SWEET SIXTEENTH SEASON

The company's 2011–12 season features three piquant premieres and a bloody classic

**BERKELEY, CA, MAY 2, 2011**—As Impact Theatre prepares to conclude its successful 2010–11 season (the world premiere of the season-closing *Disassembly* opens this week), today the company has announced its 2011–12 not-so-sweet sixteenth season, featuring two Bay Area premieres, an action-packed classic, and a world premiere play by Bay Area rising star Lauren Yee, who penned Impact's monster hit *Ching Chong Chinaman*.

"I wanted a season of new plays that were truly unique, in addition to a challenging classic," says Artistic Director Melissa Hillman. "Each play breaks new ground in its own way." Impact itself continues to defy the status quo of American theatre: each premiere is by a playwright under 35.

The season opens in August with Cameron McNary's play about D&D gamers facing adulthood, *Of Dice and Men*, directed by Artistic Director Melissa Hillman. "*Of Dice and Men* took the Penny Arcade Expo in Seattle by storm. I had the play in my hands ten minutes after I heard about it. Ten minutes after that, I knew we had to do it," says Hillman. After its explosive debut at PAX, *Of Dice and Men* has amassed worldwide renown in the D&D gaming community. Impact is honored to give the show its second professional production.

In November, Impact opens *The Chalk Boy* by Joshua Conkel, author of the 2010–11 critical and audience favorite *MilkMilkLemonade*. In this black comedy helmed by Evren Odcikin (who directed last season's smash hit *The Play About the Naked Guy*), four high school girls re-enact the story of the disappearance of a classmate, Jeff Chalk, from their tiny town of Clear Creek. They struggle with issues of sexuality, faith, the occult, and their friendship in this deathly black comedy that punches as hard as your high-school bully. Hillman says, "Joshua Conkel is quickly becoming one of the most important voices of his generation of playwrights. We're thrilled to be able to stage another one of his works. He's definitely a writer to watch."

The 2011–12 season continues with Impact's annual classic: this time it's *Titus Andronicus*, directed by Melissa Hillman and featuring Impact favorites Reggie White, Mike Delaney, and Sarah Coykendall. "Get ready for some surprises," says Hillman. "Notwithstanding Cal Shakes' upcoming production, *Titus* isn't done very often. But it's been on my mind for the past few years, and I think we have a team that's more than up to the challenge. We already have a few tricks up our sleeves." Shakespeare's bloodiest tragedy gets the Impact treatment opening in February 2012.

Impact closes the season with the world premiere of local rising star Lauren Yee's *Crevice*, directed by Impact Associate Artistic Director Desdemona Chiang (who also directed Yee's smash hit *Ching Chong Chinaman* in 2008). Unemployed, overambitious, and verging on 30, siblings Liz and Rob vow to build

themselves brighter futures. Now if they only knew what that meant. But late one night, they discover something that may just give them the direction they need to finally grow up. **“We were proud to be the company to give Lauren her full-length professional debut with *Ching Chong Chinaman*, and we’re ecstatic to have her back,” says Hillman. “Des and Lauren are a powerhouse together.” *Crevice*—which is partially funded by a grant from PlayGround, where the play originated—opens in May 2012.**

Subscriptions will be available at [impacttheatre.com](http://impacttheatre.com) this summer.

## **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.**

## **FOR CALENDAR EDITORS**

### **PRODUCTIONS:**

*Of Dice and Men* by Cameron McNary, directed by Melissa Hillman, Aug 26–Oct 8, 2011

*The Chalk Boy* by Joshua Conkel, directed by Evren Odcikin, Nov 3–Dec 17, 2011

*Titus Andronicus* by William Shakespeare, directed by Melissa Hillman, Feb 23–Apr 7, 2012

*Crevice* by Lauren Yee, directed by Desdemona Chiang, May 3–Jun 16, 2012

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

**ADMISSION:** \$10–20

**MORE INFO:** [impacttheatre.com](http://impacttheatre.com)

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