

IMPACT THEATRE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CLAP YOUR ERASERS FOR IMPACT THEATRE'S REGIONAL PREMIERE OF JOSHUA CONKEL'S *THE CHALK BOY*

The *MilkMilkLemonade* author's dark satire opens November 5, 2011

BERKELEY, CA, OCTOBER 10, 2011—Impact Theatre is thrilled to follow up its critical and audience hit *Of Dice and Men* with the regional premiere of Joshua Conkel's *The Chalk Boy*, directed by Ben Randle. *The Chalk Boy* previews November 3 and 4 and opens November 5 at Impact Theatre's home, La Val's Subterranean in Berkeley.

In this pitch-black satire by the author of last season's beloved comedy *MilkMilkLemonade*, there's more going on in the tiny town of Clear Creek than the opening of the new Taco Bell. Four of the town's local girls take the audience on a tour of their funny yet brutal reality as they struggle with faith, friendship, sex, the occult, algebra, and the disappearance of Jeff Chalk, a boy in their class. *The Chalk Boy* is a deathly black comedy that punches as hard as your high school bully.

Conkel has been praised by critics for his nuanced portrait of the play's teen quartet: Penny, Breanna, Lauren, and Trisha. Blogcritics.org writes in its rave of the New York production: "The Chalk Boy, perhaps more than any other play in recent memory, treats teenage girls as more than caricatures. Its characters are all human beings with human problems, whose flaws are just as tragic as those of characters from Chekhov, Caryl Churchill, or Ibsen." Variety observes, "Conkel has a keen ear for the often comical, self-absorbed posturing and casual vulgarities of contemporary teen-spiel." Backstage agrees: "Fathoming the minds of teenage girls is no small task, but Conkel has risen to the challenge."

"So few plays have substantial roles for young women," says Artistic Director Melissa Hillman, noting that several Impact company members represent that demographic. "It was incredibly refreshing to encounter this script—from a playwright we love, no less—and I think we have the perfect cast to bring it to life."

The cast includes Impact favorites Luisa Frascioni (last season's celebrated Juliet) and Maria Giere Marquis (*Of Dice and Men*, *Twelfth Night*) and newcomers Chris Quinto and Caitlyn Tella.

For press photos and more information about the show, visit <http://impacttheatre.com/press>.

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 18 full-length world premieres, including 12 by local playwrights, as well as dozens of world-premiere ten-minute plays by burgeon-**

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