

CLAP YOUR ERASERS! BY POPULAR DEMAND IMPACT THEATRE EXTENDS ITS REGIONAL PREMIERE OF JOSHUA CONKEL'S *THE CHALK BOY*

The pitch-black comedy must close December 17, 2011

BERKELEY, CA, NOVEMBER 29, 2011—Impact Theatre is thrilled to announce its extension of the regional premiere of Joshua Conkel's *The Chalk Boy*, directed by Ben Randle. *The Chalk Boy* now runs Thursdays-Saturdays at 8pm through December 17 at Impact's home, La Val's Subterranean in Berkeley.

In this pitch-black comedy 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 high-school girls, Penny, Breanna, Lauren, and Trisha, struggle with faith, friendship, sex, and identity as they recount the frightening disappearance of Jeff Chalk, a boy in their class. *The Chalk Boy* is funny, creepy, and surprisingly touching, sometimes all at once.

Impact's production has garnered positive notices from local critics and has been a hit with audiences. The *SF Chronicle* called it "wickedly funny" and praised Ben Randle's direction as well as the performances. The *East Bay Express* echoed that the cast was "simply fantastic" and said of the show, "The execution is brilliant."

Previously, Conkel was praised by critics for his nuanced portrait of the play's teen quartet. 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."

The cast includes Impact favorites Luisa Frasoni (last season's celebrated Juliet) and Maria Giere Marquis (*Of Dice and Men*, *Twelfth Night*) and newcomers Chris Quintos 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-**

ing 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 its 2008 Best of the East Bay issue, and the company regularly appears in year-end top-ten lists.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS

PRODUCTION: *The Chalk Boy* by Joshua Conkel, directed by Ben Randle
EXTENDED! Runs through Dec 17 · Thu-Sat 8pm

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

ADMISSION: \$12-20

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