

IMPACT THEATRE SEEKS TO ROLL A CRITICAL HIT WITH THE REGIONAL PREMIERE OF CAMERON McNARY'S *OF DICE AND MEN*

The Dungeons & Dragons–themed play opens August 27, 2011

BERKELEY, CA, AUGUST 5, 2011—Impact Theatre is proud to open its not-so-sweet 16th season with the regional premiere of Cameron McNary's *Of Dice and Men*, directed by Impact Artistic Director Melissa Hillman. *Of Dice and Men* previews August 25 & 26 and opens August 27 at Impact Theatre's home, La Val's Subterranean in Berkeley.

In this incisively funny and deeply affecting play, the world of six adult Dungeons & Dragons players is thrown into disarray when one of them reveals a startling decision. Playwright Cameron McNary examines why we game, what it means to grow up, and what true friendship looks like.

McNary himself calls the show "a play for our tribe." He says, "I wanted to write about the kinds of gamers I knew, not the Cheeto-stained, overweight, mom's-basement-living stereotype, but the highly-functional, attractive, fun-to-be-around folks I game with."

Of Dice and Men premiered at the 2010 PAX (Penny Arcade Expo) gaming convention in Seattle last September. More than 500 people lined up for hours to see the play performed in a converted convention room; the show received a standing ovation and was reportedly the talk of the convention the remainder of the weekend.

"The minute I heard about this show, I knew we had to premiere it here—no other Bay Area theatre company has nearly the nerd quotient we have," says Artistic Director Melissa Hillman, herself an avid gamer along with several other Impact company members. "Fortunately, the script lived up to the hype: it's hilarious, touching, and beyond everything else completely authentic, and we've assembled an amazing group of people to bring it to life."

The cast includes Impact favorites Maria Giere, Stacz Sadowski, Jai Sahai, and Seth Thygesen, as well as Impact newcomers Jonathon Brooks and Linda-Ruth Cardozo.

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 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 its 2008 Best of the East Bay issue and always includes Impact shows in its year-end top-ten lists.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS

PRODUCTION: *Of Dice and Men* by Cameron McNary, directed by Melissa Hillman
Previews August 25 & 26 · Opens August 27 · Runs through October 1 · Thu–Sat 8pm

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

ADMISSION: \$10–20

MORE INFO: impacttheatre.com

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