

THE HEMOPHILIC IMPACT THEATRE TACKLES *TITUS ANDRONICUS*

Shakespeare's bloodiest revenge tale opens February 25, 2012

BERKELEY, CA, JANUARY 30, 2012—Impact Theatre, known as much for its contemporary takes on Shakespeare as it is for its dedication to new playwrights, now sets its sights on the Bard's bloodiest tragedy, *Titus Andronicus*, directed by Artistic

Director Melissa Hillman. *Titus* previews February 23 and 24 and opens February 25 at Impact Theatre's home, La Val's Subterranean in Berkeley.

Titus Andronicus, a Roman general returning home victorious from war, finds himself pursued to succeed the recently deceased emperor. Political intrigue gives way to vengeful murder, rape, and dismemberment, on a scale that makes Tarantino movies look like pillow fights.

"*Titus* is possibly the least-produced script in the canon," Hillman says. "The amount of violence probably scares off most companies, but not us. We're not afraid to get down and dirty, and in our space the audience will feel the danger more viscerally than anywhere else."



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

Indeed, Hillman has proven herself to have a knack for making Shakespeare accessible to today's audiences. Year after year she's received kudos from critics and audiences alike for her contemporary settings of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Othello*, *Henry IV*, *Twelfth Night*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Measure for Measure*, *Hamlet*, and *Macbeth*.

As with previous productions, acclaimed fight director Dave Maier will choreograph the violence. Impact's resident blood technician, Tunuviel Luv, will keep the platelets flowing.

The cast includes Impact favorites and newcomers alike: Sarah Coykendall*, Mike Delaney*, Maro Guevara, Matt Gunnison, Anna Ishida, Joseph Mason, Carlos Martinez, Mark McDonald, Michael McDonald, Jon Nagel*, Vince Rodriguez, Cassie Rosenbrock, Stacz Sadowski, Caitlyn Tella, and Reggie White*. (*Impact company member)

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 the company regularly appears in year-end top-ten lists.**

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS

PRODUCTION: *Titus Andronicus* by William Shakespeare, directed by Melissa Hillman
Previews Feb 23 & 24 · Opens Feb 25 · Runs through Mar 31 · 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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