

IMPACT THEATRE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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IMPACT THEATRE TAKES OFF WITH *SPLATHOUSE: PLAN 9 FROM OUTER SPACE*

The storied company's final show in its current incarnation opens May 21, 2015

BERKELEY, CA, MAY 11, 2016— Before Impact Theatre “suspends its campaign,” as the presidential contenders say, the 20-year-old company goes out on hiatus with a hell of a bang: *Splathouse: Plan 9 from Outer Space*, a live/film hybrid adaptation of the best worst movie ever made. *Plan 9* previews May 19 and 20 and opens May 21 at Impact Theatre's home, La Val's Subterranean in Berkeley. Sarah Coykendall and PD & the Bug direct the adaptation by Coykendall and Mike Delaney, both longtime Impact company members and veterans of the La Val's stage. Film segments are by PD & the Bug.

The cult hit movie *Plan 9 from Outer Space* is widely regarded as one of the worst movies of all time, a convoluted story of aliens, zombies, and a nefarious — wait for it — plan to wipe out humanity. B-movie auteur Ed Wood's 1959 sci-fi thriller, also Bela Lugosi's final film, features terrible dialogue and acting, shoddy camera work, supremely low-budget sets, and innumerable continuity problems.

And yet, people absolutely love this movie — for its legions of fans, it's the quintessential so-bad-it's-good cinema classic.

Impact company members Sarah Coykendall and Mike Delaney, who ran Impact's occasional Splatter Cinema movie series and adapted a pair of short classic B-movies for 2014's Theatre Bay Area Award-nominated live/stage hybrid *Splathouse Double Feature*, are two such superfans. Along with PD & the Bug, they have lovingly adapted *Plan 9* into the stage event of the season. They've assembled a huge cast of Impact actors past and present (6 on stage, another 14 or so on film), and they've commissioned original music from local indie band For the Ladies.

Unfortunately, *Plan 9* also marks the end of Impact's current incarnation. At the end of June, the company will leave La Val's, its home for the past 13 years, and go on hiatus while company members re-form Impact into a new incarnation to be announced sometime in the future.

“It's a truly bittersweet moment for us,” said Artistic Director Melissa Hillman, who also has a not-to-be-missed moment in *Plan 9*. “We are tremendously sad to have had to make this decision to move on, but I am incredibly proud of not only our 20-year history but also the season we're concluding. It's one of our strongest seasons ever and has epitomized the best of what we do.”

The 2015–16 season began with *The Gun Show*, a powerful solo performance (starring a male actor as the female playwright, E.M. Lewis) that turned the gun debate on its ear and introduced an important rising playwright to Bay Area audiences. After an unfortunate break in which the company lost the second show of the season, it returned in February with one of its most successful Shakespeare productions of all time, Hillman's *Looney Tunes*-inspired *Comedy of Errors*. Both shows received thunderous praise from critics and raves from audience members, who gave standing ovations and returned for repeat viewings. Now the company returns to its roots, in a way, with the upcoming *Plan 9*.

“Sarah and Mike's homegrown adaptation is actually a wonderful coda for us as a company,” said Hillman, noting that many of Impact's earliest productions were created by company members. “We've come full-circle and reclaimed part of what made Impact so special in the first place.”

For press photos and more information about the show, visit impacttheatre.com.

ABOUT IMPACT THEATRE

Since 1996 Impact Theatre has spoken to a new generation of theatregoers and longtime enthusiasts alike who want to see something fresh and fearless on stage. Our audience ranges from students to professionals to seniors, all of whom share a taste for exciting, unpretentious theatre that doesn't conform to traditional assumptions of what constitutes high

culture. Impact ensures the continued strength of American theatre by featuring new plays by emerging playwrights as well as vital, contemporary spins on classic drama; engaging new audiences; and fostering the development of Bay Area theatremakers. Impact shows compel, provoke, and inspire, at prices everyone can afford.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS

PRODUCTION: *Plan 9 from Outer Space* adapted by Sarah Coykendall and Mike Delaney
Directed by Sarah Coykendall and PD & the Bug
Film segments by PD & the Bug
Previews May 19 & 20 · Opens May 21 · Runs through June 18
Thu–Sat 8pm

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

ADMISSION: \$10–25

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