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**STAGEStheatre Presents**

**The Orange County Premiere of *All the World’s A Grave: A New Play by William Shakespeare July 27th- August 26th.***

Fullerton, CA—STAGEStheatre is proud to present ***All the World’s a Grave: A New Play by William Shakespeare*** by John Reed, directed by Jill Johnson. Playwright John Reed brings us an epic tragedy of love, war, murder, and madness reimagined from the pages of Shakespeare’s classic plays: Hamlet, Romeo & Juliet, MacBeth, Othello and King Lear. ***All the World’s a Grave: A New Play by William Shakespeare*** takes many of Shakespeare’s classic characters from these plays and assembles them into an entirely new play. The language is Shakespeare’s, but the drama that unfolds is as fresh as the blood on the stage.

In ***All the World’s a Grave: A New Play by William Shakespeare,*** Prince Hamlet goes to war and having captured Juliet, the daughter of Lear, as his bride, he returns home to find his life in utter chaos. His mother, The Queen has murdered his father, Old King Hamlet, and married her new lover, MacBeth. Enter his loyal confidant Iago, who slyly persuades Hamlet to believe that Juliet is having an affair with the General of his army, Romeo. As the Prince goes mad with jealousy, Ghosts and witchcraft abound and the handkerchief is lost then found, all whilst Lears army looms on the horizon ready for the last battle.

“The road to producing this for the stage has been unusual to say the least,” says Amanda DeMaio (a member of the STAGEStheatre Season Selection Committee). “I’d had the book for several years, and always thought it would be great to get it on stage. Last year Jill wanted to direct something out of the ordinary, and this turned out to be just what our season, and Jill, needed.”

“This new version of Shakespeare’s works, not only redefines our preconceived notion of traditional Shakespearean characters, but it also combines many of them to create nuanced characters you’ve never seen before.” says Jill Johnson (one of STAGEStheatre’s Resident Directors). “I’m very excited to direct this piece. It’s an exciting challenge to divorce the audience from what they think they know and are comfortable with. I’ve also been able to gender-bend some of the roles, which I think adds a unique complexity to the show and makes for a richer pool of acting choices for us”.

“What’s interesting,” adds DeMaio “is that if you’ve never seen any of the traditional Shakespeare plays this new play is based on, it doesn’t matter. It’s an interesting study in the power of these characters and the strength of the language that they so easily re-locate to this new adaptation”.

“We have several teachers in this production” says Johnson, “and they agree that for anyone who has read or studied these plays or even seen movies of these plays - they will really enjoy seeing how this play effortlessly weaves a new and accessible tale.”

STAGEStheatre is proud to bring this Orange County premiere to our stage this summer.

Written by celebrated literary artist and social satirist John Reed, who has in previous incarnations ingeniously reconsidered George Orwell's Animal Farm from an opposing political perspective in Snowball's Chance (Roof Books / Melville House) and effectively rendered the palpable absurdities of life in the modern media spotlight The Whole (Simon & Schuster / Pocket / MTV Books). Additional novels & credits include A Still Small Voice  (Delacorte Press / Delta), and Tales of Woe (MTV Press); he’s published in Art in America, the PEN Poetry Series, the Believer, the Daily Beast, Gawker, Slate, the Paris Review, Playboy, the Times Literary Supplement, the Wall Street Journal, Vice, The New York Times, Harpers and many other venues; included in 2015's Best American Essays (Houghton Mifflin).

Starring in ***All the World’s a Grave: a New Play by William Shakespeare*** are:Marcus J. Andrews,Damian Alejandro Arteaga, Christine Cummings, Abel Garcia, Bella Gil, Julie Kirkman, Rose London, Jill Cary Martin, KC Marie Pandell, Cristian Rincon, Scott Smith, and Josh Williams.

Tickets for ***All the World’s a Grave: a New Play by William Shakespeare*** are $22.00, $20.00 for students and seniors.  Performances are July 27th- August 26th, Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m. and Sundays at 2:00 p.m.

To purchase your tickets please visit our website at [www.stagesoc.org](http://www.stagesoc.org)

*About* ***STAGEStheatre****: Celebrating its 26th year in business, STAGEStheatre is one of Orange County’s most innovative community theaters, producing nearly 15 productions annually and showcasing local playwriting, acting and directing talent.  STAGEStheatre is, and will continue to be, dedicated to the development of the artist. It is located at 400 E. Commonwealth in Downtown Fullerton (between Lemon and Balcom).*

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