

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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You Killed Hamlet, or Guilty Creatures Sitting At A Play

Plays the Edmonton Fringe Festival

at Yardbird Suite (Venue #7)

San Francisco's 2012 Best of the Fringe Winner, Naked Empire Bouffon Company ignores death so much better than you.

You Killed Hamlet, or Guilty Creatures Sitting At A Play. Naked Empire Bouffon Company makes their Edmonton Fringe debut with their outrageously original hit show and the festival's only bouffon offering. The profound pranksters, Shreds & Patches, become a funhouse mirror of your discomfort with death for an hour of high impact satirical sport.

Where: Yardbird Suite. 11 Tommy Banks Way NW, Edmonton

When: SHOW #1: 8/16 @ 11:00pm SHOW #3: 8/21 @ 8:30pm SHOW #5: 8/23 @ 6:15pm
SHOW #2: 8/20 @ 3:00pm SHOW #4: 8/22 @ 2:15pm SHOW #6: 8/25 @ 12:30pm

More info and photos: <http://nakedempirebouffon.org/2012/08/18/press-page/>

San Francisco, June 23, 2013. Naked Empire Bouffon Company proudly presents, **You Killed Hamlet, or Guilty Creatures Sitting At A Play** at the Edmonton Fringe Festival. In this original production, two prophetic pranksters play disturbingly hilarious games inspired by Hamlet's central theme: Coping with death. **You Killed Hamlet** is performed in the comically aggressive physical theatre form of bouffon and features Ross Travis as Shreds and Nathaniel Justiniano as Patches. Shreds and Patches, a grotesquely emaciated freak and a 350-pound jiggling juggernaut linked by a state of infinite jest, interweave ecstatic ritual, parody, poetry, song, and extreme physical comedy into a fun-house mirror of the audience. Guerrilla/gorilla warfare, convalescent homes, school shootings, crying mothers, theatre audiences, religion, anti-depressants, avant-garde performance, medical research, and yes, Shakespeare's Hamlet all get skewered in this evening of high-impact satirical sport. No prior knowledge of Shakespeare's Hamlet necessary. Simply bring your deep discomfort with dying and prepare for a 60-minute death match.

"Naked Empire Bouffon Company deliver the goods in unexpected ways. It's vile and provocative, but it's also a very sly, smart commentary on a culture busily amusing itself as it slides off this mortal coil, too afraid to talk about serious things, and too busy dumbing itself down."

You Killed Hamlet premiered at the 2012 San Francisco Fringe Festival and was honored with two sold-out awards, a Best of the Fringe award, and an encore performance. We were then invited to the 2013 Toronto Festival of Clowns where we earned this accolade:

"It is a rare and needed opportunity to experience a bouffon duo with such incredible complicity and virtuosity. You Killed Hamlet is a joy ride of vice and provocation. These two tricksters dare their audience to go unscathed. We are revealed and called out while we howl with pleasure. A must see!" -Adam Lazarus, Artistic Director TFoC

Naked Empire Bouffon Company is a performance ensemble dedicated to researching, practicing, and popularizing bouffon through training and performance both locally and internationally. Awarded the SF Bay Guardian's Best of the Bay Award for Best Romp With Your Inner Psychopath, the company aims to undermine apathy and inspire discourse. "We hate didacticism, judgment, and seriousness," says Artistic Director, Nathaniel Justiniano. "Instead, we celebrate shame and play irreverently with difficult truths. We distill human nastiness into moments of grotesque and prophetic physical poetry designed to be both painful and hilarious. We invite spectators to join us in cutting through our collective B.S. and to have a blast at the same time."

The original production, generously funded in part by the San Francisco Arts Commission Cultural Equity Grant, marked the company's most ambitious project to date. The two co-creators/performers used Shakespeare's most famous play and their personal experience (both performers have tragically lost a parent in recent years) as a springboard for seven months of research on the complex relationship contemporary society has with mortality. Content for the show was then developed through extensive improvisations where the bouffons were given free rein to exploit and exaggerate our darkest and most dysfunctional habits when we are confronted with death.

"...the excellence of the piece lies in the Bouffons' ability to bring the high falutin subject matter down to its knees, only to raise it up again, somehow more reverently than ever before." -Stuart Bousel, Co-founder of San Francisco Theater Pub

"Must see." -San Francisco Bay Guardian

"An hour's worth of mirth and mayhem. Highly recommended." -Huffington Post

"Creates controversy wherever it performs." -Torontoist

"Hilarious." - My Gay Toronto

For More Information Contact:

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For downloadable high and low resolution photos and a PDF version of this press release please click here: <http://nakedempirebouffon.org/2012/08/18/press-page/>

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