



Overview

Press Packet &
Introduction to L'Enfant Terrible

May 24, 2011



L'Enfant Terrible is a French term often used for a child or adolescent who speaks in such a candid way that they reveal terrifyingly shocking truths about the adult world and humanity.



Event Details

Who: L'Enfant Terrible is the name of a young theater company in Los Angeles making bold and exciting work for children and adults. The Bootleg Theater is a venue well known among fans of independent music and theater. The artists associated with the Fun Family Festival of Tragedy include a costume designer whose work just finished a run on Broadway (Pee Wee Herman Show), an award winning scenic designer, a graphic designer who moonlights with the H.P. Lovecraft Historical Society, a director whose plays have premiered from California to Louisiana, an emerging female playwright who has been writing plays for All Ages throughout her young career, and professional union stage actors.

What: Fun Family Festival of Tragedy is a series of four All Ages adaptations of Shakespearean plays. L'ET Discovery Happen is our supporting educational program providing background information and arts education opportunities for families and young people.

When: Each show will play in repertory every weekend June 4-July 31, 2011. Performances are on Saturdays and Sundays at 12:00PM and 2:00PM. *See back page for full schedule.*

Where: The Bootleg Theater is located in Echo Park at 2220 Beverly Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90057. There is street parking throughout the neighborhood. The theater is conveniently located near the 101 and the 110 freeways and is on the 14 bus route.

How Much: Adult tickets range from \$10-\$17 and Student tickets range from \$5-\$10. We have flexible subscription passes that allow families to see all the plays and save up to 50%.

www.lenfantterrible.org



Overview

Last spring L'Enfant Terrible premiered our first show– **Hamlet, Prince of Puddles**. We wanted to make it accessible for all audiences so we set tickets at the affordable price of \$9.99 for adults and \$5.00 for kids. Our presenting venue, The Bootleg Theater, is in the east side of Los Angeles, on the southern edge of a neighborhood called Echo Park. In the half mile surrounding the theater 30% of the population is below poverty level. Last spring, we invited neighboring Rosemont Elementary School to see a performance for free. At the school 87% of students receive free lunches or partially paid lunches. In our minds, cost = access and we want to keep the prices down. Our marketing was focused on the neighborhood. Bilingual marketing collateral, low prices, and a persistent street marketing campaign targeting parks, community centers, churches, and farmer's markets brought in exactly the crowd we were hoping.

Something really special began to happen throughout the run of Hamlet - word spread. We received excellent reviews from theater critics of the city's top newspapers. Online reviews played a big part and most importantly parenting bloggers responded very positively. This brought families from across the city to our theater and created a diverse crowd. Additionally our work with other non profit organizations like CoachArt - a group committed to providing cultural activities to children with chronic and life threatening illnesses- further diversified the audience. The L'Enfant Terrible group formed because of our love of storytelling and the belief that amazing, entertaining and subversive theater doesn't have to live in the realm of Adult's Only theater—the true universality of storytelling appeals to all ages and all communities.

Riding on the popular and critical attention we want to take a giant step forward and create something epic. This June L'Enfant Terrible and the Bootleg Theater are presenting the

Fun Family Festival of Tragedy.

It is a whole series of Shakespearean tragedies turned into comedies for the entire family to enjoy. We have four amazing shows and with our unique blend of fun family foolery and theater magic they become unforgettable events. It will be LA's first Shakespeare festival for All Ages! The summer series includes adaptations of:

Hamlet, Prince of Puddles
Titus the Clownicus
King O'Leary
and the world premiere of
Macbeth and the Monster



In support of the festival we are developing innovative ways to add value for our key customers - families. This summer we are introducing **L'ET Discovery Happen, Know the Show, and Gather With Us**. Fit together these programs provide education opportunities, deeper connections with our audience, and a lasting impression for all who come to the theater.

We are encouraging our audience to **L'ET Discovery Happen** at one of our **FREE** family-friendly workshops or events. Events include:

- **Sunday Play Dates** - L'Enfant Terrible theater staff will lead a fun and challenging workshop after every Sunday morning performance in June for **FREE!** These Play Dates are designed to introduce young audiences to various aspects of putting on a play. Workshops will cover different elements of theater including: drama, music, choreography, costume crafts, masks, and more. *During our opening weekend we are partnering again with Coach Art. Act Now is a theater workshop co developed by UCLA, the American Arthritis Association, and Coach Art. We will have twenty kids who suffer from rheumatic disease and cancer watching a play and attending one of our Play Dates. It is one exciting way we are achieving our mission of making theater more accessible.*
- **Backstage Tours** - After every Saturday afternoon performance, our directors, designers, and actors give audience members a behind-the-scenes peek into how shows are put together. Topics covered will include Shakespeare's audience, the life of the actor, the view from the stage, props in their proper place and putting all the toys away.
- **L'Enfant Terrible Red Carpet** - Audience members can meet the cast up close in the lobby after every performance. The actors are still in costume and we encourage parents to bring their cameras and post pictures on Facebook and social media sites.

We feel providing children and adults of all ages an entry point to the work of Shakespeare is a provocative concept. There is a rich cultural history and vibrant language to explore. The tragedies we are retelling are complex and sophisticated. We want to give the audience tools to **Know the Show**. After they have seen a play, we ask for a deeper engagement by inviting kids and adults to respond to what they saw.

- **Access Our Study Guides** - Parents and teachers can enrich their children's theater experience with our Study Guides, prepared with helpful background information for each production. These will be available for download from our website.
- **Review a Performance** - Young people are invited to review our productions and share their thoughts on L'Enfant Terrible and the performances they've seen. They can send us reviews, drawings, collages, or pictures and we'll post it on our News Blog or Facebook Page.



In order to build a sustainable business we need to be rigorous in creating revenue streams. **Gather With Us** is a set of initiatives designed to generate more business and increase the overall enjoyment and connection with the theater.

- **Lunch at Bootleg** - People who are too busy to get lunch before coming to the theater can have it with us!
- **Saturday Morning Pajama Party** - Saturday mornings are the toughest time to bring in audiences. So we have turned that challenge into an opportunity. If families stay dressed in "jammies" tickets are \$2 off. We're going to be tough on this. We're not talking about "sweatpants and a t shirt." We want jammies, bathrobes, onsies, slippers. The whole deal.
- **Celebrate a Birthday** – Parents can make their child's next birthday unforgettable by coming to L'Enfant Terrible's Fun Family Festival. We offer several different birthday celebrations: parties can enjoy backstage tours after any performance or rent facilities for additional time to celebrate.
- **See all four shows** - The most flexible way to see all the shows and save money is to purchase a **Fun Family Festival Pass**. You just tell us when you want to come and L'Enfant Terrible will have a seat for you. Passes come in Couplets, Tripticks, and Quartos- each pass gets you into see two, three, and four shows respectively.

Quarto Gets you in to see all 4 of our shows!

Adults \$40 Students \$20

Almost 50% savings off the single ticket price! Our best value!

Triptick Gets you in to see 3 of our shows

Adults \$35 Students \$15

Come whenever you want!

Couplet Gets you in to see 2 of our shows

Adults \$30 Students \$10

Shakespearean double-header.

L'Enfant Terrible hopes that the economy and cost will not prevent families from exploring the wildly imaginative world of live theater, again and again.



The Line Up



Opens June 5 • 12pm

Hamlet is the Prince of Denmark, but after the untimely death of his kingly father, his mother Gertrude hastily marries his uncle Claudius. When Hamlet learns who is to blame for his father's death, he struggles to take action and becomes known as the **Prince of Puddles!** Find out why in this all-ages adaptation of the Bard's classic. *L'ET Discovery Happen* at a FREE theater workshop for kids after the opening performance!

Featuring

Angela Berliner as Ophelia . . . Laura Castle as Polonius/Ghost/Gravedigger
Michael Dunn as Claudius * . . . Brian Kimmet as Hamlet *
and Natasha Midgley as Gertrude



World Premier Saturday, June 11 • 12pm

All little Macbeth wants is a bedtime story to help him fall asleep. But when his mom tells him the scary story of **Macbeth and the Monster**, he gets more than he bargained for. Discover who the real Scottish terror is... (Hint: it isn't the Loch Ness Monster!)

Featuring

Brian Allman as Duncan . . . Robert Adler as Banquo *
Angela Berliner as Mrs. Macbeth . . . Laura Castle as Puppeteer
Michael Dunn as Puppeteer * . . . Jessica Hannah as Lady Macbeth
Brian Kimmet as Macbeth * . . . and Josh Zeller as Little Macbeth

* Members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers.



Opens Saturday June 4 • 2pm

Titus the Clownicus, leader of the Red Nose Army, returns home from the Clown Wars after defeating neighboring Queen Tamoraclown and the Green Noses. When Titus wants to paint all green noses red, he sets off a clown war that escalates into madness, mayhem, and pie fights. This silly romp teaches us all that if someone is mean to you, don't be mean back or everyone will just be mean forever and ever. L'Enfant Terrible turns Shakespeare's gory drama into rip-roaring family fare.

Featuring

Robert Adler as Cheer-on * . . . Brian Allman as Sillynius . . . Laura Castle as Laughinia
Michael Dunn as Titus * . . . Jessica Hannah as Tamora Clown
RJ Jones as Aaron the Bore * . . . Natasha Midgley as Dummy-trius
and Josh Zeller as Titus Jr.



Opens Saturday, June 4 • 12pm

King O'Leary is the popular ruler of Boomtown-where the miners mine, and the streets are paved with gold. He's getting old and wants to divide his land amongst his three daughters. His youngest, and most beloved, cannot utter a "peep" to express her love, so she is banished while the other two wreak havoc on Boomtown and oppress the miners. When the mysterious Mad Tom leads a rebellion against the wicked sisters, O'Leary discovers that sometimes love is best expressed in action and not words.

Featuring

Brian Allman as Regan Sue . . . Robert Adler as The Fool *
Angela Berliner as Cordilia Mae . . . Laura Castle as Goneril Ann
Michael Dunn as Miner * . . . RJ Jones as Miner * . . . Brian Kimmet as Eddie Bastino
Robert Williams as O'Leary * . . . and Josh Zeller as The Buffalo



Now imagine...

Really, close your eyes and imagine what this all adds up to:

- A Shakespeare Festival for All Ages... The tragic stories of Hamlet, Macbeth, Lear, and Titus turned into laugh-out-loud comedies told in an outrageous and buoyant style. Lights. Curtains. Bubbles. Confetti.
- A vibrant cultural experience with a diverse audience from around Los Angeles... Innovative. Accessible. Remarkable.
- A chance for families to turn off the computers and engage... Play. Explore. Dance.





Assembled Ensemble





What makes L'Enfant Terrible different?

We're presenting Los Angeles' first ever Shakespeare Festival for All Ages. We have a wide appeal yet our work is edgy and subversive.

Our Young theater group is supporting the national union during a challenging summer by paying actors a contract wage.

Model building: Our fresh take of a repertory festival calendar is a way to rapidly build audiences and raise the bar.

We're bringing families into the theater by adding value. *L'ET Discovery Happen* at the Fun Family Festival of Tragedy performances and youth activities.

Alternative entertainment: Shakespeare's bloodiest tragedies become fodder for family fun.

L'Enfant Programming

We want to make the first experience everyone has with our theater unforgettable. Someday we want to reach audiences across the country—throughout schools, camps, and parks as well as theaters. Our immediate goals are to make theater affordable and interact with communities across Los Angeles.

Our Values

We strive to make work that is excellent and rigorous. We bring the text to life with a being and aliveness that celebrates risk taking and endless discovery. We are searching for meaningful connections with our audience. We execute our storytelling through a stylized framework. We believe the theater is a place for an intersection of diverse communities. L'Enfant respects and honors the time and talent of each artist who have collaborated on the work and we consider every member of our team to be a storyteller. We want our theater to be accessible by all and most importantly provide an unforgettable day of entertainment for young and old.



What's Next?

The Fun Family Festival of Tragedy is opening June 4. Throughout the summer we will be having performances and arts education opportunities for families and other community organizations

Next year we want to tour shows into schools. In the last three years, LAUSD has cut over 2 billion out of its entire budget. Arts funding has been cut 80% just last year alone. We want to find a way to fill these gaps and reach students that might never have the chance to see live professional theater.

The Fun Family Festival of Tragedy has been designed to travel easily. By Summer 2013, we hope to have artistic residencies throughout California and the country. Training and working with actors who can simultaneously go out on tour requires an incredible amount of coordination and professional rigor.

The Second Annual Fun Family Festival will expand our repertoire beyond Shakespeare. We're thinking of picking stories that focus on disenfranchised families; Robin Hood, Oliver Twist, and Jane Eyre are just a few of our ideas.

Our long range goals:

- Create an Inclusion Program that provides full access to young people with disabilities and conditions that make theater experiences difficult.
- Develop an arts education curriculum and professional development tool that builds on national models of literacy and theater-making programs. But we want to add our own signature style of working within a frame. Theater is a vehicle that allows us to stand in other people's shoes. We believe it can be used to encourage decision making that avoids bullying, harassment, and violence.
- Establish a professional advisory board as well as a young people's advisory board.

We will continue to make theater that's affordable, accessible, and unforgettable for all ages.



How can you help?

We aim to sell out all the performances. It will be a challenge. There are thirty-four shows with over 100 seats. Your help is crucial in spreading the word. Our Fun Family Festival Pass is an easy way for people to come see all of our shows. **L'ET Discovery Happen** and our education initiatives provide a wide range of participatory activities for all. Whether it's through a blog, a paper, a website, a business, or just by telling your friends and neighbors to come with their love ones and experience L'Enfant Terrible- we will cherish your support. If you have any ideas about community organizations that are looking for cultural events like this, please let us know. Even better, if you can help us partner with those organizations we're ready.

We're making theater that's affordable, accessible, and unforgettable for all ages. Without an audience theater loses its power and purpose. We want to inspire all who come to the Fun Family Festival of Tragedy. Help us shepherd them in the door.

Media Contact

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Saturday June 4

12pm	King O'Leary
2pm	Titus the Clownicus

Sunday June 5

12pm	Hamlet, Prince of Puddles

Saturday June 11

12pm	Macbeth and the Monster
2pm	King O'Leary

Sunday June 12

12pm	Titus the Clownicus

Saturday June 18

12pm	Hamlet, Prince of Puddles
2pm	Macbeth and the Monster

Sunday June 19

12pm	King O'Leary

Saturday June 25

12pm	Titus the Clownicus
2pm	Hamlet, Prince of Puddles

Sunday June 26

12pm	Macbeth and the Monster



Saturday July 2

12pm	Hamlet, Prince of Puddles
2pm	Macbeth and the Monster

Sunday July 3 (Independence Day)

12pm	Titus the Clownicus
2pm	King O'Leary

Saturday July 9

12pm	Macbeth and the Monster
2pm	Titus the Clownicus

Sunday July 10

12pm	King O'Leary
2pm	Hamlet, Prince of Puddles

Saturday July 16

12pm	Titus the Clownicus
2pm	King O'Leary

Sunday July 17

12pm	Macbeth and the Monster
2pm	Hamlet, Prince of Puddles

Saturday July 23

12pm	Hamlet, Prince of Puddles
2pm	King O'Leary

Sunday July 24

12pm	Macbeth and the Monster
2pm	Titus the Clownicus

Saturday July 30

12pm	King O'Leary
2pm	Macbeth and the Monster

Sunday July 31

10am	Titus the Clownicus
12pm	King O'Leary
2pm	Hamlet, Prince of Puddles
4pm	Macbeth and the Monster