

Solo Performance Stars  
**Brian Copeland & Charlie Varon**  
perform new works on  
life in the age of Trump  
in  
**THE GREAT AMERICAN SH\*T SHOW**



One night only!  
**The Marsh San Francisco**

**Saturday, August 31, 2019 (8:30pm)**

[www.CharlieVaron.com](http://www.CharlieVaron.com)

Castro Valley, CA – Solo performance legends **Brian Copeland** and **Charlie Varon** join forces to present new monologues on life in the Age of Trump in ***THE GREAT AMERICAN SH\*T SHOW***. After a successful and highly-praised San Rafael show in April, they're bringing it to **The Marsh San Francisco** on **Saturday, August 31, 2019 (8:30pm)**.

Copeland and Varon are legends in the Bay Area's solo performance scene. Brian Copeland is known for his hit solo shows ***Not a Genuine Black Man*** and ***The Waiting Period***. Charlie Varon's best-known works include ***Rush Limbaugh in Night School***

and **Rabbi Sam**. All of Copeland and Varon's monologues in the **SH\*T SHOW** were developed with and directed by noted solo performance director **David Ford**.

The two performers conceived **THE GREAT AMERICAN SH\*T SHOW** as an evening of laughing, but more importantly, an evening of thinking. The four monologues in the show (two by Copeland and two by Varon) cover topics including how to deal with a family member who's all in for the Donald when you're not, trying to turn red congressional seats blue in the Central Valley, #MeToo and more. Audiences are calling the show "a therapy session for progressives quietly going insane."

The show originated when Varon saw Copeland perform a 15-minute monologue last fall at The Marsh in San Francisco. The monologue begins the day after the 2016 Presidential election. Brian is driving from the East Bay to San Francisco; at the Bay Bridge approach he is honked at by a driver in his blind spot. Then the motorist, a bearded white man driving a Prius, pulls up, rolls down his window, looks at Brian and yells, "N----r!"

"I haven't been called that word in a long time," Brian says. "Years actually. But today, the day after Donald Trump is elected president, it's almost like the Prius driver was granted permission."

Varon says: "Brian's monologue was equal parts truth, pain, and comedy. I left the theater disturbed and invigorated. A few days later, I called Brian and suggested we do a show together. He said yes, and we got busy writing."

Copeland and Varon have been performing the show once a month to sold-out houses at The Marsh, with material evolving as political events unfold.

Audience response has been electric. One audience member described the show as "much needed catharsis. Finally, someone saying all the things we have been feeling during the sh\*t show."

## **Media Quotes from April 25, 2019 at The Marin Center:**

“Smart, funny, provocative and at times, unexpectedly deeply moving, this is theater as a welcome dash of hope in dark times and a much-needed call to arms. GASS packs a lot of bracing punch into a highly entertaining 90 minutes. Created by three of the most accomplished solo theater artists in the Bay Area -- exceptional playwright-performers Brian Copeland ("Not a Genuine Black Man," "The Waiting Period") and Charlie Varon ("Rush Limbaugh in Night School," "Rabbi Sam") and their director/co-developer David Ford -- GASS is four beautifully crafted and oh-so-timely monologues that run the gamut from responding to the rising tide of racism and cult-like denials of facts to psychiatrists coping with Trump-induced nightmares to the perils of canvassing for a Democratic congressional candidate in a dark cul-de-sac in Modesto. This may be the perfect piece of theater for our times.”

By **Robert Hurwitt** - Longtime Chronicle Theater Critic

“Brian Copeland and Charlie Varon spellbind the audience with personal monologues and razor-sharp delivery. Incredible story-tellers!”

By **Cari Lynn Pace** – Marinscope Newspapers

“Funny and provocative stories, told with skill by a pair of masterful tale-spinners.”

By **George Powell** – ForAllEvents

“...their power is in showing members of America’s disenfranchised majority that they’re not alone.”

By **Julie Motz** – KWMR Arts Desire

## **From GASS show at The Marsh**

"The Great American S— Show,' in Chronicle, and is the brainchild of two outstanding monologists, Charlie Varon and Brian Copeland. The two, who usually do solo shows, came up with a tag-team presentation, doing two monologues each.

"At the Marsh, both in the Mission and in Berkeley, they drew plentiful laughs based on Donald Trump. Easier said than done."

By **Ben Fong-Torres**

**BIOS:**

**Brian Copeland** has been in show business since age 18. Soon he was headlining comedy clubs and concerts across the country and opening for Smokey Robinson, The Temptations, Ringo Starr, and Aretha Franklin, in venues across the U.S. Then Copeland branched off into TV, appearing in comedy programs on NBC, A&E and MTV. He spent five years as co-host of SF FOX affiliate KTVU program Mornings on 2 and two-years hosting SF ABC affiliate KGO's Emmy Award winning afternoon talker 7Live. (who later premiered **THE BRIAN COPELAND SHOW**). Copeland moved into theatre in 2004 with his first solo play, **NOT A GENUINE BLACK MAN**. This critically acclaimed exploration of race and identity created an audience-pleasing blend of laughter, tears and sociology that led to the show becoming the longest running solo play in SF theatrical history. Successful runs in LA and Off Broadway and a bestselling book adaptation followed. Other current solo shows include **THE WAITING PERIOD, GRANDMA & ME, THE JEWELRY BOX** and **SCION**.

**Charlie Varon** was credited by the San Francisco Chronicle with "redefining the art form of solo performance." Varon has been an artist-in-residence at The Marsh Theater in San Francisco since 1991. His award-winning hit shows – all created in collaboration with David Ford –include **RUSH LIMBAUGH IN NIGHT SCHOOL** (1994), **THE PEOPLE'S VIOLIN** (2000), and **RABBI SAM** (2009). Varon has also directed and collaborated with Dan Hoyle on his numerous hit solo shows, including **TINGS DEY HAPPEN, THE REAL AMERICANS** and the current **BORDER PEOPLE**.

**David Ford** (collaborator and director) is the one of the nation's leading directors of solo theater. He has collaborated with Charlie Varon for 28 years, with Brian Copeland

for 15 years, and with dozens of other performers, including Geoff Hoyle, Marilyn Pittman and Echo Brown.

**The Marsh** is known as “a breeding ground for new performance.” It was launched in 1989 by Founder and Artistic Director Stephanie Weisman, and now annually hosts more than 600 performances of 175 shows across the company’s two venues in San Francisco and Berkeley. A leading outlet for solo performers, The Marsh’s specialty has been hailed by the *San Francisco Chronicle* as “solo performances that celebrate the power of storytelling at its simplest and purest.” The *East Bay Times* named The Marsh one of Bay Area’s best intimate theaters, calling it “one of the most thriving solo theaters in the nation. The live theatrical energy is simply irresistible.”

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#### **FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:**

**WHAT: *THE GREAT AMERICAN SH\*T SHOW***  
with **Brian Copeland** and **Charlie Varon**

**BLURB: *THE GREAT AMERICAN SH\*T SHOW*.** Monologues on life in the age of Trump. Solo performance stars **Brian Copeland** and **Charlie Varon** join forces to present new monologues on the life in the Age of Trump. An evening of laughing and thinking, covering topics including how to deal with a family member who’s all in for the Donald when you’re not, trying to turn red congressional seats blue, #MeToo and more. If you like Trump, you’ll hate this show! **Saturday, August 31 (8:30pm)** at **The Marsh SF**. For more information and other GASS dates and locations, visit: [www.charlievaron.com](http://www.charlievaron.com)

**WHEN: Saturday, August 31, 2019 (8:30pm)**

**WHERE: The Marsh San Francisco**, 1062 Valencia St., San Francisco  
(between 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> Streets)  
*Parking is available at New Mission Bartlett Garage  
(21<sup>st</sup> St between Mission & Valencia)  
Bart Station (closest): Mission & 24<sup>th</sup> Street*

**TICKETS: \$35 / \$55 and \$100 Reserved Seating**

**INFO:** For information or to order tickets visit **themarsh.org** or call **(415) 282-3055** (Monday through Friday, 1pm-4pm).

**PHOTOS:** Contact **Karin Conn PR** for high-res photos  
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