

ADAM STRAUSS' HIT SHOW
“THE MUSHROOM CURE”
RETURNS TO THE MARSH SAN FRANCISCO
IN REPERTORY WITH UNSCRIPTED COMEDIC SOLO SHOW
“ADAM STRAUSS IS NOT UNHAPPY”

April 29 – June 17, 2023

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (26 April 2023) —Adam Strauss’s hit solo show, *The Mushroom Cure*, will return to **The Marsh San Francisco** for a limited run, performing select Saturday nights (April 29 – June 17). It will run in repertory with his spontaneous comedic show, *Adam Strauss is Not Unhappy*, performing Fridays (May 12 – June 16). *The Mushroom Cure* was inspired by a scientific study showing that hallucinogenic mushrooms may cure obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), which launched Strauss on a program of vigilante psychopharmacology. The true tale of Strauss’s hilarious, harrowing, and heartrending attempts to treat his debilitating OCD with psychedelics, developed with and directed by Jonathan Libman, was an Off-Broadway hit, where it was named Critics’ Pick by *Time Out New York* and hailed by *The New York Times* as “mining a great deal of laughter from disabling pain” before moving to San Francisco for an extended run. It then moved to Chicago, where the *Chicago Tribune* praised it as “arrestingly honest and howlingly funny.” Audiences can also catch Strauss’s unscripted comedic solo show, *Adam Strauss is Not Unhappy*, in which the actor/playwright describes as a mostly extempore, entirely unguarded exploration of heartbreak, addiction, obsession, loneliness, and other hilarious things. *The Mushroom Cure* will be presented **April 29 – June 17, 2023** with performances at 7:30pm Saturdays, while *Adam Strauss is Not Unhappy* will be presented **May 12 – June 16, 2023** with performances at 7:30pm Fridays. All performances will be held at **The Marsh San Francisco**, 1062 Valencia St., San Francisco. For information or to order tickets (\$15-\$35 sliding scale *Adam Strauss is Not Unhappy*, \$25-\$35 sliding scale *The Mushroom Cure*, and \$50 and \$100 for reserved seats to either show) the public may visit

www.themarsh.org.

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WITH “ADAM STRAUSS IS NOT UNHAPPY”

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ABOUT THE MUSHROOM CURE

The Mushroom Cure, written and performed by Adam Strauss and developed with and directed by Jonathan Libman, received its West Coast Premiere in April 2017 at The Marsh San Francisco to critical acclaim and resulted in an extended 11-week run. *Talkin’ Broadway* praised *The Mushroom Cure* as “a miracle of a show and a must-see,” and called Strauss “a one-person tour de force.” *Theatrius* declared it “a hilarious ride through OCD” and “a fabulous, perceptive trip,” while Michael Pollan hailed it “brilliant, hilarious, and moving.” *SF Theater Blog* applauded Strauss’s performance, calling him “one extremely talented comedian.” The show first ran in the Edinburgh Festival Fringe garnering widespread acclaim. Critics called the show “hugely intelligent and incredibly engaging,” (*The Scotsman*) “outstanding,” (*Edinburgh Festivals Magazine*) and “a revelation” (*Broadway Baby*). Strauss’ riotous tale appeared next in the New York International Fringe Festival, winning the Fringe’s Overall Excellence Award for Solo Performance. It then was given its Off-Broadway premiere at New York’s Cherry Lane Theatre, where it had a sold-out, extended run. *The Mushroom Cure* was remounted in December 2017 at Off-Broadway’s Theatre 80 St. Marks, where it ran continuously for over a year before closing in January 2019. The show then enjoyed a hit run in Chicago, where the Chicago Tribune called it “arrestingly honest and howlingly funny” and awarded the show 3.5 out of 4 stars. This run of the acclaimed solo show is sponsored by The Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS), the leading psychedelic research and advocacy organization.

ABOUT ADAM STRAUSS IS NOT UNHAPPY

Adam Strauss is Not Unhappy is Adam Strauss’s newest project, in which the performer takes flight in a mostly unscripted evening that explores Strauss’ up-to-the-minute challenges and triumphs around OCD, love, loneliness and, quite possibly, finding parking in San Francisco on a Saturday night, offered up with Strauss’ expert comedic skills and singular worldview. His two previous solo works include *The Mushroom Cure* and *The Uncertainty Principle*, which were both greeted with warm audience response and critical acclaim, with media calling Strauss “Riveting” (*Time Out NY*), “A master storyteller” (*Talkin’ Broadway*), and “Brilliant” (*SF TheatreBlog*).

ABOUT ADAM STRAUSS

Based in New York City, **Adam Strauss** (Playwright/Performer) has won the Leffe Craft Your Character Storytelling Competition, the New York Fringe Festival’s Overall Excellence Award for Solo Performance, and The Eddy Award for Best Solo Show in San Francisco. He is currently penning a memoir based on *The Mushroom Cure*. Strauss is also a stand-up comedian, appearing nightly at many New York comedy clubs. He received his B.A. in Psychology from Brown University.

ABOUT JONATHAN LIBMAN

Jonathan Libman (Director/Co-Developer of *The Mushroom Cure*) is a writer/director born and raised in New York. As a member of the Actor’s Studio Playwrights/Directors Unit, he specializes in new work that includes directing Chazz Palminteri (*A Bronx Tale*), NEA recipient David Libman, Guggenheim Fellow Christina Masciotti, and Dramatist Guild Fellow Nicole Pandolfo, among others. Libman recently won a scholarship to write and direct at Tony

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Spiridakis’ Manhattan Film Institute and has directed for The Collective NY, Nylon Fusion, and Ripple Effect Artists. His full-length plays include *Accidents Waiting to Happen* (Rattlestick Theater Jam, Kitchen Dog Theater Finalist) and *Please Leave the Light On* (Bay Area Playwright’s Semi-Finalist). Libman has also developed work with the original cast members of Broadway’s hit musical *Hamilton* and LAByrinth Theater Company. He is a graduate of NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts Dramatic Writing Program and a union member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.

ABOUT THE MARSH

The Marsh is known as “a breeding ground for new performance.” It was launched in 1989 by Founder and Artistic Director Stephanie Weisman, and pre-COVID hosted 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.” Since its launch in April 2020, the theatre’s digital platform MarshStream has garnered more than 100,000 viewers. Notable MarshStream moments include the debut of MarshStream International Solo Fest 1 and 2, The Marsh’s first-ever digital festivals, and the U.S. premiere of *The Invisible Line*, a new documentary about one of the world’s most famous social experiments gone wrong. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic MarshStream has hosted over 700 LIVE streams, providing some 300 performers a platform to continue developing and producing art. The Marsh will continue to offer digital content on MarshStream, as well as in-person performances.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHAT: Adam Strauss’s hit solo show, *The Mushroom Cure*, will return to **The Marsh San Francisco** for a limited run, performing select Saturday nights (April 29 – June 17). It will run in repertory with his spontaneous comedic show, *Adam Strauss is Not Unhappy*, performing Fridays (May 12 – June 16). *The Mushroom Cure* was inspired by a scientific study that hallucinogenic mushrooms may cure obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), which launched Strauss on a program of vigilante psychopharmacology. The true tale of Strauss’s hilarious, harrowing, and heartrending attempts to treat his debilitating OCD with psychedelics, developed with and directed by Jonathan Libman, was an Off-Broadway hit, where it was named Critics’ Pick by *Time Out New York* and hailed by *The New York Times* as “mining a great deal of laughter from disabling pain” before moving to San Francisco for an extended run. It then moved to Chicago, where the *Chicago Tribune* praised it as “arrestingly honest and howlingly funny.” Audiences at The Marsh will also be given an opportunity to catch Strauss’s unscripted comedic solo show *Adam Strauss is Not Unhappy*, which the actor/playwright describes as a mostly unscripted, entirely unguarded

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SHOWS: *The Mushroom Cure*
April 29 – June 17

7:30pm Saturdays

Dark Nights:

May 6 & 20

June 3 & 10

Adam Strauss is Not Unhappy
May 12 – June 16

7:30pm Fridays

Dark Nights:

May 19

June 9

WHERE: **The Marsh San Francisco**, 1062 Valencia St., San Francisco (between 21st & 22nd St)

Parking is available at New Mission Bartlett Garage

(21st St between Mission & Valencia)

Bart Station (closest): Mission & 24th St

TICKETS: \$15-\$35 sliding scale *Adam Strauss is Not Unhappy*, \$25-\$35 sliding scale *The Mushroom Cure*, \$50 and \$100 reserved

INFO: For information or to order tickets visit themarsh.org or call (415) 282-3055 (Monday through Friday, 1:00pm-4:00pm).

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PRESS: Contact Sydney Albin, Carla Befera & Co.
sydney@cb-pr.com

PHOTOS: Downloadable high-res photos are available here:
<http://cbpr.co/press/adamstrauss>