

THE MARSH BERKELEY EXTENDS  
WORLD PREMIERE WORK OF  
ALGIIN FORD'S  
**TOBACCO, ZIGZAGS & GUM**  
7:30pm Fridays, now through May 24, 2024

BERKELEY, CA (8 April 2024) — Due to high demand for tickets, **The Marsh Berkeley** has extended the world premiere of *Tobacco, Zigzags & Gum*, a new work by film, television, and stage actor/writer **Algiin Ford**, developed and directed by **David Ford**. This compelling autobiographical solo show follows Algiin through his harrowing journey from the urban nightmare of addiction, incarceration, and despair. Heart-wrenching and captivating, *Tobacco, Zigzags & Gum* honors the timely and unlikely heroes and events that shaped Algiin's path from pain to redemption, offering a must-see experience to anyone who has experienced a dark night of the soul or questioned their own future. *Tobacco, Zigzags & Gum* will play Fridays at 7:30pm, now through May 24, 2024, with performances at **The Marsh Berkeley**, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. For information or to order tickets (\$20-\$35 adult general admission sliding scale; \$50-\$100 reserved), the public may visit [themarsh.org](http://themarsh.org).

Created by Algiin through the Formerly Incarcerated Peoples Performance Project (FIPPP) and developed in The Marsh Rising series, *Tobacco, Zigzags & Gum* made its world premiere at The Marsh Berkeley in March 2024. Praising Algiin's performance, *The Daily Californian* called him "a masterful storyteller" and "Ford not only crafts a poignant narrative but also demonstrates an unparalleled sensitivity while addressing intricate, sensitive subjects." *The Daily Californian* also hailed the solo show as "a candid yet hopeful portrayal, drawing from Ford's life to illuminate the resilience of the human spirit."

#### **ABOUT THE CAST AND CREATIVES**

From his childhood in San Francisco's Fillmore District, **Algiin Ford's** (Performer/Playwright) youthful search to find himself took a dark turn through hustling, incarcerations, and addiction, into recovery, where he was introduced to a life in the arts. British movie director Karl Francis gave Ford his first role, in the movie *Murder in Oakland*, launching him on a new career in film, television, and on Bay Area stages, working with theater companies including TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, EXIT Theatre, the San Francisco Playwrights

Festival, and others. He has appeared in the films *What Dreams May Come*, *EDtv*, *Getting Even with Dad*, *Follow Me Home*, *Yours and Mine*, *Consequences*, and *Murder in Oakland* as well as the television series *Underground*. During the pandemic, Algiin discovered writing and solo performing, creating several pieces with David Ford and Formerly Incarcerated People's Performance Project (FIPPP). He resides in Berkeley with his wife and children, and for the past 20 years has been the owner/director of a thriving hot yoga and meditation studio.

### **ABOUT DAVID FORD**

**David Ford** (no relation to Algiin Ford, Director/Developer) has been collaborating on new and unusual theater for three decades and has been associated with The Marsh for most of that time. The San Francisco press has variously called him “the solo performer maven,” “the monologue maestro,” “the dean of solo performance,” and “the solo performer’s best friend.” A week rarely goes by when residents of the Bay Area cannot enjoy one of his productions. Collaborators include Geoff Hoyle, Brian Copeland, Charlie Varon, Echo Brown, Marilyn Pittman, Rebecca Fisher, Wayne Harris, Jill Vice, and Marga Gomez. Ford’s work has been seen regionally at The Public Theater, Second Stage Theater, Theatre at St. Clement’s, Dixon Place, Theatre for the New City (New York), Highways Performance Space (Los Angeles), and Woolly Mammoth Theatre Co. (Washington, D.C.). His work has also been featured in most of the fringe festivals in North America, and at theaters around the Bay Area including Berkeley Repertory Theatre, the Magic Theatre, and Marin Theatre Company. Ford’s directing has garnered several “Best of Fringe” Awards and a Goldie Award.

### **ABOUT THE MARSH**

The Marsh is known as “a breeding ground for new performance.” Launched in 1989 by Founder and Artistic Director Stephanie Weisman, it annually hosts more than 500 performances 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 the 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.” In April 2020, The Marsh launched its digital platform MarshStream and hosted more than 700 live streams which provided 300 performers and its youth class participants a platform to continue discovering, developing, and producing art during the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown. Today, The Marsh presents both in-person live performances and content on its MarshStream, continuing to expand its reach to audiences onsite and around the world. The Marsh believes in the power of people’s storytelling and has several classes for the public to create their own works as well as through its developing work performance series: Monday Night Marsh, Tell It on Tuesday, and Marsh Risings. The theater company also collaborates with over 25 San Francisco public schools providing a year-round youth program serving students at its theater and in the classrooms.

**FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:**

**WHAT:** Due to high demand for tickets, **The Marsh Berkeley** has extended the world premiere of *Tobacco, Zigzags & Gum*, a new work by film, television, and stage actor/writer **Algiin Ford**, developed and directed by **David Ford**. This compelling autobiographical solo show follows Algiin through his harrowing journey from urban nightmare of addiction, incarceration, and despair. Heart-wrenching and captivating, *Tobacco, Zigzags & Gum* honors the timely and unlikely heroes and events that shaped Algiin's path from pain to redemption, offering a must-see experience to anyone who has experienced a dark night of the soul or questioned their own future.

***Tobacco, Zigzags & Gum is:***

Written and Performed by Algiin Ford  
Developed and Directed by David Ford

**WHEN:** Now through May 24, 2024

**SHOWS:** 7:30pm Fridays

**WHERE:** **The Marsh Berkeley, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley**  
*Parking: Allston Way Garage, 2061 Allston Way between Milvia & Shattuck.*  
*BART station (closest): Downtown Berkeley BART*

**TICKETS:** \$20-\$35 adult general admission sliding scale  
\$50-\$100 reserved

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

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**PRESS:** Contact Courtney Heimbeck, Carla Befera & Co.  
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**PHOTOS:** Downloadable high-res photos are available here:  
<http://cbpr.co/press/tobaccozigzagsgum>