

THE MARSH SAN FRANCISCO RETURNS
DIRK ALPHIN'S VIVID PLAY
AXIS

5:00pm Sundays, July 7 – 28, 2024

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (25 June 2024) — **Dirk Alphin's** vibrant production *Axis* returns to **The Marsh San Francisco** for a limited run in July. Set on July 4, 1976, *Axis* takes place during America's bicentennial with the Fogg family anticipating the last year of fireworks, as they are the last folks in Jessup, a town increasingly swallowed by a nearby open-air copper strip mine that is consuming everything in sight. The play follows Seth, Leora, and Gramps as they navigate Seth's need to come out, his single mother Leora's quest for her "pot o' gold," and his aging grandfather Gramps' urge to remember old Native songs in order to face his personal fireworks. While riding out the desert heat and a crumbling world around them, the Fogg family's lives are excavated, revealing their interwoven fates and their magnetic yet repelling relationships, as well as an unexpected suitor willing to woo more than one of the clan. *Axis*, performed by **Dirk Alphin, Erica Clark, Timothy Flanagan, Dennis Hasty, Anneliese Stauff, and Alan Brown**, will be presented at 5:00 pm on Sundays, July 7 – 28, 2024, at **The Marsh San Francisco Studio**, 1062 Valencia St., San Francisco. For tickets (\$20-\$35 sliding scale, \$50 and \$100 reserved) or more information, the public may visit themarsh.org.

ABOUT THE CAST AND CREATIVES

Dirk Alphin (Playwright/Director/Seth) has lived in San Francisco for over 40 years. He has worked in the theater and in film/video as an actor, director, playwright, producer, and designer. He helped create and manage two landmark performance venues: Valencia Rose Cabaret in the 1980s and Josie's Cabaret & Juice Joint in the 1990s. More recent work includes plays at the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Park Theater in Danville, California, and last year's extended production of his play *Reciprocating Pumps* at The Marsh. He has written and produced several full-length, one-act, and solo performance pieces. He is also a fine arts painter whose work has been featured in galleries and museums, including the de Young in San Francisco.

The cast also includes **Erica Clark** (Leora) and **Timothy Flanagan** (Gramps), both reprising their roles from the April debut of *Axis* at The Marsh. Flanagan was a mainstay in local theater throughout the 1980s and 1990s, appearing in productions at San Francisco Shakespeare in the Park, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, and The Marin Shakespeare Company, as well as in major roles at the Magic Theatre, Aurora Theatre Company, The Z Collective, and Theatre Rhinoceros, where he played Max in its acclaimed production of *Bent* by Martin Sherman. He toured Washington

D.C. during the AIDS crisis in *More Than Names*, a story of the AIDS memorial quilt. He returned to the stage in 2023, acting in the production of *Reciprocating Pumps* at The Marsh, written and directed by Dirk Alphin.

Rounding out the cast are **Dennis Hasty** (Geoffrey), **Anneliese Stauff** (Assistant Director/Opal), and **Alan Brown** (Reverend Harms), all reprising their roles from April's run of *Axis*. Hasty has played lead roles in *Reciprocating Pumps*, *Birdbath*, *The Day the Whores Came Out to Play Tennis*, and *Am I Blue*. He has also appeared onstage at The Alcazar in *The Real Live Brady Bunch* and performed in musicals including *The Apple Tree* and *Starting Here, Starting Now*. Stauff made her debut as Bridget Bishop in History Alive!'s production of *Cry Innocent* and has served as stage manager for numerous Bay Area theater organizations including the Magic Theatre, Intersection for the Arts, Campo Santo, 18 Mighty Mountain Warriors, and the Live Oak Theatre. She regularly performs as Magenta in Barely Legal's shadow cast of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Brown played Agatha Trunchbull in Pied Piper Players' production of *Matilda* as well as the transmutable John in *Naomi in the Living Room* and the dependable butler Foote in *Nina in the Morning*, written by Christopher Durang and directed by Dirk Alphin.

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:

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relationships, as well as an unexpected suitor willing to woo more than one of the clan.

Axis is:

Written and directed by Dirk Alphin

Performed by Dirk Alphin, Erica Clark, Timothy Flanagan, Dennis Hasty, Anneliese Stauff, and Alan Brown

WHEN: July 7 – 28, 2024

SHOWS: 5:00pm Sundays

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

TICKETS: \$20-\$35 sliding scale, \$50 and \$100 reserved

INFO: For information, the public may visit themarsh.org.

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PRESS: Contact Paige D'Encarnacao, Carla Befera & Co.
paige@cb-pr.com | 415-570-2623

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