



Pat Patton Cavorts in Imago's World

Vladimir Vladimir

The Dangerous Half of Magic

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On October 2nd, Imago Theatre premieres an original comedy by Jerry Mouawad titled *Vladimir Vladimir*. Vladimir, a poor Yugoslavian magician, discovers the strangeness of metaphysics, polarized clocks and tumbled worlds in a play that features Mouawad and co-stars Carol Triffle. The surreal comedy will be co-directed by Pat Patton, former Associate Artistic Director of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. This matrix of a play incorporates comedy, drama, an innovative set design and quick costume changes to create a hilarious yet pathetic world that finds Vladimir in unusual confrontations with himself. Science fiction, fantasy and love tangle to conjure intrigue and charm in this highly visual and physically charged performance.

Vladimir Vladimir plays October 2 to 25, at Imago Theatre, 17 S.E. 8th Avenue. The show plays Thursdays @ 7:30 (all seats \$16), Fridays & Saturdays @ 8:00 (general \$24, youth/senior \$19). Tickets available at the door (box office opens one hour before show time) or advance tickets through TicketsWest at 503.224.8499 or online at www.ticketswest.com.

Mouawad co-directs with Pat Patton who has served as the Associate Artistic Director of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and Artistic Director for OSF Portland (the original Portland Center Stage) and most recently as Producing Artistic Director for the Tacoma Actors Guild. Mouawad says, *"I asked Pat to join the project because the piece is story driven and incorporates clown theatre. I thought together we could bring out and enhance the vaudeville, comedy and drama of the work. Imago rarely has guest directors and this is Pat's first co-directing project, so the mix should be revealing."*

Vladimir, a Yugoslavian immigrant, grinds out a meager living performing balloon tricks at birthday parties and is married to Natasia, a closet kleptomaniac. He continually bails his wife out of jail, confronts her endless supply of stolen garden ornaments, is beaten up by neighbors and is frustrated hanging out with his loser friends Ralph and Alice, who only want to play *Twister*: Vladimir dreams of striking it rich as a famous magician, but when he designs an illusion for his "big" show he discovers the wrong side of magic.

Mouawad continues, *"I'm not giving away the secrets or twists of the play – that's half the fun. But I can say it's a play that can be viewed from both sides of a mirror. The idea came to me years ago when I dreamt of this kind of unusual sojourn. The idea returned a few months ago. I was standing in front of the mirror in our living room. I saw our living room like I'd never seen it before. It was like an alien world – something exactly opposite but vaguely familiar. I felt like if I stepped through the mirror, the world of our living room would seem like my own but I would be out of place. I played with the notion of how, as we live our lives, we feel restless displacement. What is this displacement? Where does it come from? We think we know our world, but at any moment it's all so alien."*

Performed by Mouawad as Vladimir, Carol Triffle (Artistic Co-Director of Imago) as Natasia, Megan Skye Hale (*The Dinner*) as Alice, and Ian Karmel (*Hit Me in the Stomach, Not Not Not Not Not Enough Oxygen*) as Ralph. With Sound Design by Katie Griesar, Light Design by Jeff Forbes, Set Design by Mouawad, Costume Design by Triffle, Special Effects by Mark Forrest.

End of document. Photos available upon request.