



Press Contact – Linda Baumgardner 208-720-2911

linda@raggedwing.org

To download **digital pictures** of OPEN.

Please visit our PRESS PAGE at:

www.raggedwing.org/press

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – March 14, 2011

Ragged Wing Ensemble presents...

The World Premiere of

OPEN.

It began with a beard

Written and directed by Amy Sass



CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

WHAT:

OPEN. by Amy Sass

Inspired by the tale of *Bluebeard*

WHERE:

Central Stage

5221 Central Ave. (near Costco)

Richmond, CA 94804

BOX OFFICE:

Call 800/ 838 - 3006 or

www.raggedwing.org

WHEN:

May 13 – June 11, 2011

Preview: Thurs. May 12 - 8:00 pm

Opening Night: Fri. May 13 - 8:00 pm

SHOW TIMES:

Thurs., Fri. & Sat. at 8:00 pm

TIX PRICES:

\$20 - \$35 - sliding scale.

Central Stage is wheelchair accessible.

OPEN., A new play written and directed by Amy Sass and inspired by the tale of Bluebeard, is the ninth production by Ragged Wing Ensemble – **May 13 – June 11, 2011** presented at **Central Stage** - 5221 Central Ave. in Richmond, CA 94804. This is the world premiere of the play. Performances are Thurs. - Sat. at 8:00 pm. Preview is May 12th at 8:00 pm. Opening Night is Friday May 13th at 8:00 pm. Tickets are \$35 - \$20 sliding scale, \$15 for students, and are available by calling **800/ 838 - 3006** or by going to our website www.raggedwing.org group discount (5 or more)-\$10 each.

OPEN is a new play inspired by the tale of Bluebeard. A woman is drawn to the edge of a river. She is ferried across to wed a man with a blue beard. The next morning he is gone. What remains is a key and a series of doors all of which she may open and one which she may not. It is the opening of this forbidden door that begins our journey into another world. A world of doors, jars, boxes, and wounds. Each containing some fragment: a truth, a lie, a dismembered bit. It is through these tales of magic and manipulation that we learn how to stitch together that which is broken and begin again.

The actors featured in the production are: Mekayla Blanck, Keith C. Davis, Emlyn Guiney, Lisa Klein, Maria Leigh, Erin Maxon, Cecilia Palmtag, David Stein, Lili Weckler, and Phil Wharton. Music by: Jenny Holland and Tamara Roberts. Lighting Designer: Dan Weierman; Costume Designer: Gray Morris; Props and Puppetry Designer: Dax Tran-Caffee; Stage and Production Manager: Natalia Kaminska-Palarczyk; Assistant Director: Keith C. Davis; Director: Amy Sass; Producer: Linda Baumgardner.

Ragged Wing Ensemble is a collective of artists who create innovative work for the theater, drawing our theatrical vocabulary from physical theater, dance, clowning, mask work and puppetry. We seek to redefine classic stories, folktales and myths by creating original interpretations and placing them in new contexts. Our process is collaborative - from the management of the company to the creation of our pieces, from our educational programs to our commitment to low ticket prices and audience involvement.

Company Bios

KEITH C. DAVIS has been in the Bay Area since 1997 performing with many theater companies including Traveling Jewish Theatre, Shakespeare at Stinson, foolsFury, Last Planet Theatre, Darvag Theatre, Exit Theatre, CuttingBall Theatre, Shotgun Players, Mettle Theatre, and of course, Ragged Wing Ensemble. Keith currently teaches a thriving drama program at Prospect Sierra School (1st-8th). With RWE, Keith performed in *The Serpent*, *Splinters... and Other F-Words*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *The History of the Devil*, *So Many Ways to Kill a Man*, *Handless* and *Persephone's Roots*. He directed RWE's *The Tempest* in 2007.

AMY SASS, a founding member of Ragged Wing Ensemble, grew up in the grassroots theatre scene training in puppetry, mask work, physical theatre, ensemble technique, and all manners of traditional and experimental performance forms. She has directed and choreographed countless productions with actors and artists of all ages. Having taught theater at many bay area institutions, she now runs a thriving drama program at Prospect Sierra School. Company credits include: *Persephone's Roots* (Art Director,) *Handless* (writer/director,) *So Many Ways to Kill a Man* (Writer, Clytemnestra, Chrysothemis,) *Alice in Wonderland* (Director,) *The Tempest* (Choreographer, Ariel) and *The Serpent* (Director).

ANNA SHNEIDERMAN, a Ragged Wing Ensemble founding member, is committed to working at the intersection of theatre, education and social justice. Anna brings her experience with performing, directing, mask-making and puppeteering to Ragged Wing from her work with Bread and Puppet Theatre, the Dell'Arte School of Physical Theatre, Redmoon, Steppenwolf, and other theaters in Chicago, Washington, DC and Massachusetts. For the past four years, she created, directed and grew the theater program at Envision Academy, a public, charter high school in Oakland. With Ragged Wing, Anna has directed *Persephone's Roots*, performed in *The Serpent*, *Splinters and Other F-Words*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *So Many Ways to Kill a Man*, and *Handless*, and has produced *The Tempest*, *The History of the Devil* and *Handless*.

Directions to Central Stage:

DRIVING - From I-80 East, exit at Central Ave. in El Cerrito, take a left on Central going under the highway - stay in the right lane. Go straight through the light - then immediately veer right just before the bridge, going towards the warehouse buildings. Go towards the black iron gate, but before the gate, take a right at the pylon with business names on it. Central Stage is the first building on the corner. Easy street parking.

BART - Take the Richmond line to El Cerrito Plaza, walk 1 block north to Central Ave., go less than 1 mile (8-10 blocks) down Central Ave. After passing under the highway bridge, follow the same directions as above.

A Member of



www.theintersection.org